

Chapter 6 - Personnel

Recruitment and Selection

600.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides a framework for employee recruiting efforts and identifying job-related standards for the selection process. This policy supplements other city rules governing employment practices.

600.2 POLICY

In accordance with applicable federal, state, and local law, the City provides equal opportunities for applicants and employees, regardless of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law. The City does not show partiality or grant any special status to any applicant, employee, or group of employees unless otherwise required by law.

The City will recruit and hire only those individuals who demonstrate a commitment to service and who possess the traits and characteristics that reflect personal integrity and high ethical standards.

600.3 RECRUITMENT

The City Administrator should employ a comprehensive recruitment and selection strategy to recruit and select employees from a qualified and diverse pool of candidates.

The strategy should include:

- (a) Identification of racially and culturally diverse target markets.
- (b) Use of marketing strategies to target diverse applicant pools.
- (c) Expanded use of technology and maintenance of a strong internet presence. This may include an interactive city website and the use of city-managed social networking sites, if resources permit.
- (d) Expanded outreach through partnerships with media, community groups, local colleges, universities, and the military.
- (e) Posting and outreach within the City for internal candidates, when applicable and/or required.
- (f) Use of local, state, or national professional organizations (e.g., National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, American Society for Public Administration).

The City should avoid advertising, recruiting, and screening practices that tend to stereotype, focus on homogeneous applicant pools, or screen applicants in a discriminatory manner.

The City strives to facilitate and expedite the interview and selection process, and should periodically inform candidates of their status in the recruiting process.

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600.4 SELECTION PROCESS

The City should actively strive to identify a diverse group of candidates who have in some manner distinguished themselves as being outstanding prospects. Minimally, the City should employ a comprehensive screening, background investigation, and selection process that assesses the candidates' aptitude for the position and includes review and verification of the following:

- (a) A comprehensive application for employment (including previous employment, references, current and prior addresses, education, and military record)
- (b) Driving record (if applicable to the position)
- (c) Reference checks
- (d) Employment eligibility, including U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and acceptable identity and employment authorization documents. This required documentation should not be requested until a candidate is hired. This does not prohibit obtaining documents required for other purposes
- (e) Information obtained from public internet sites
- (f) Financial history consistent with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) (15 USC § 1681 et seq.)
- (g) Local, state, and federal criminal history record checks
- (h) Medical and/or psychological examination, as applicable and legally permissible (may only be given after a conditional offer of employment)
- (i) Review board or selection committee assessment

600.4.1 VETERAN PREFERENCE

The City will provide any veteran preference required by law.

600.5 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION

Every candidate shall undergo a background investigation to verify the candidate's application information and ability to perform duties relevant to the position.

600.5.1 NOTICES

Background investigators should ensure that investigations are conducted and notices provided in accordance with the requirements of the FCRA and applicable state law (15 USC § 1681d).

600.5.2 REVIEW OF SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

Due to the potential for accessing unsubstantiated, private, or protected information, the City should not require candidates to provide passwords, account information, or access to password-protected social media accounts.

The City should consider utilizing the services of an appropriately trained and experienced third party to conduct open source, internet-based searches and/or review information from social media sites to ensure that:

- (a) The legal rights of candidates are protected.

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- (b) Material and information to be considered are verified, accurate, and validated.
- (c) The City fully complies with applicable privacy protections and local, state, and federal law.

Regardless of whether a third party is used, the City Administrator or the authorized designee should ensure that potentially impermissible information is not available to any person involved in the candidate selection process.

600.5.3 RECORDS RETENTION

The background report and all supporting documentation should be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

600.5.4 DOCUMENTING AND REPORTING

The background investigator should summarize the results of the background investigation in a report that includes sufficient information to allow the reviewing authority to decide whether to extend a conditional offer of employment. The report should not include any information that is prohibited from use, including that from social media sites, in making employment decisions. The report and all supporting documentation should be included in the candidate's background investigation file.

600.6 EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS

All candidates shall meet any minimum standards required by state and local law. Candidates will be evaluated based on merit, ability, competence, and experience, in accordance with the high standards of integrity and ethics valued by the City and the community.

Validated, job-related, and nondiscriminatory employment standards should be established and maintained for each job classification and should minimally identify the training, abilities, knowledge, and skills required to perform the position's essential duties in a satisfactory manner. Each standard should include performance indicators for candidate evaluation.

600.7 JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should maintain a current job description for each position in the City.

600.8 PROBATIONARY PERIODS

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should coordinate with supervisors to identify positions subject to probationary periods and procedures for:

- (a) Appraising performance during probation.
- (b) Assessing the level of performance required to complete probation.
- (c) Extending probation.
- (d) Documenting successful or unsuccessful completion of probation.

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600.9 APPLICATION

All internal and external candidates for employment must file an approved employment application form with the Payroll Department. The form and its contents are established by the City Administrator. Additional information such as a resume, cover letter, supplemental questionnaire, transcripts, copies of applicable licenses/certifications, and/or proof of good driving record may be requested of applicants.

600.10 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process may consist of recognized testing techniques such as achievement tests, aptitude tests, and performance through personal interviews, examination of work samples, physical ability tests, written tests, and investigations of personal background and references.

Selection techniques are fair and impartial and relate to those areas that, in the opinion of those involved in the selection process, fairly show the candidate's qualifications and abilities to execute the duties and responsibilities of the position to which the candidate seeks appointment.

Upon completion of an impartial selection process, based on the results of testing and other relative considerations, the Mayor makes an appointment from the final candidates. An appointment is usually made upon the recommendation of the Department Director of the department in which the new appointee is assigned. An appointment becomes effective only after all necessary documents have been signed by the proper City officials.

600.11 PRE EMPLOYMENT TESTING

Prior to their appointment, the City shall require a conditionally selected candidate for appointment to safety sensitive positions to undergo and pass a pre-employment drug screening examination at City expense. The City may also require a candidate to pass a physical examination and/or psychological examination and/or driver's license check after a conditional offer of employment has been made and prior to the candidate's appointment. Negative information obtained from a background investigation may be cause for rejection of an applicant.

600.12 METHOD FOR FILLING VACANCIES INTERNALLY

All vacancies in City service filled by transfer, demotion, promotion, or appointment follow the selection process outlined in the Personnel Procedures Manual. A temporary appointment not exceeding six (6) months in duration may be made under the provisions of this Policy if there are no eligible applicants. Departments may also utilize a personal service contract with a temporary employment firm to backfill a position on a short-term basis.

600.13 CLASSES OF APPOINTMENTS

Employment in the City is divided into the classes of Regular Full-Time, Regular Part-Time, Temporary, and Emergency, as defined in this policy manual.

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Temporary Appointments. Whenever a City department requires help because of a special project, a temporary increase in workload, or the absence of a regular full-time employee or regular part-time employee on leave with or without pay, or on extended sick or vacation leave, temporary appointments may be made for the duration of such work. The period of this service is not counted as part of the trial service period if the employee is later appointed to another position unless such time served is acceptable to the Department Director concerned.

Temporary Re-Assignments. During an emergency or period of unusual workloads, the City Administrator or a Department Director may temporarily reassign City personnel within the Department Director's department for a period not to exceed six (6) months. City personnel may be temporarily reassigned from one department to another within the City. Interdepartmental reassignments are administered as follows:

- (a) Requests for personnel are approved by both the Department Director for the department to which the employee had been assigned before the reassignment and the Department Director to which the employee is reassigned; if different;
- (b) An employee who has been temporarily reassigned receives their normal rate of pay and benefits unless assigned to a higher classification for a period in excess of one workweek, after which they are paid at that classification's range and step, similar to the employee's current step; or, alternately the Department Director may recommend the temporarily reassigned employee receive either a five (5) or ten (10) percent out-of-position pay supplement depending on the duration of the assignment and FLSA status. Should the employee be unavailable to perform the higher level duties for three (3) or more days at a time during the temporary reassignment period due to planned or unplanned leave, the employee shall be compensated at their regular position's classification pay range/step for those days; and
- (c) Department Directors control and coordinate programs for training City employees to assure the maximum use of employees during periods of temporary reassignment.

600.14 EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES

The City believes that it is in the best interests of the City and the employees to keep business and professional relationships separate from personal and family relationships. Accordingly, the City usually will not employ close relatives, spouses, or two individuals involved in a dating or cohabitating relationship, except under circumstances where (1) neither employee will supervise, appoint, remove or discipline the other; (2) neither party will evaluate the work of the other; and (3) the working relationship will not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of favoritism in the opinion of management. If two employees who work in the same department or supervise each other have or develop a dating,

familial, or other close or intimate relationship during employment, they must notify their supervisor or Department Director within forty-five (45) days or before taking any action with respect to each other that could be perceived as a conflict of interest, whichever is sooner, and one of the two may be transferred or, if no suitable position is available, terminated. The decision as to which employee

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will have his or her employment terminated generally will be left to the employees involved, unless business necessity requires the City to make the decision.

The City also reserves the right not to employ close relatives of officers or other high-level employees of our customers, competitors, or others with whom the City deals, where such a restriction is necessary to avoid the actuality or appearance of conflict of interest, or to protect confidential information.

For purposes of this policy, close relatives include: spouse, children (biological, step-, adopted or foster), siblings (biological, half-, step-, in-laws, adopted and foster), parents (biological, step-, and in-laws), aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, first cousins, grandparents, grandchildren, and the spouses of the above, as well as people living in the same household.

Performance Evaluations

601.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the City performance evaluation system.

601.2 POLICY

The City shall use a performance evaluation system to measure, document, and recognize work performance. The performance evaluation will serve as an objective guide for the recognition of good work and the development of a process for improvement.

The City evaluates employees in a nondiscriminatory manner based upon job-related factors specific to the employee's position, without regard to actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

601.3 TYPES OF EVALUATIONS

The City shall use the following types of evaluations:

Regular - An evaluation completed at regular intervals by the employee's immediate supervisor, minimally, on the anniversary of the date of hire or the last promotion.

When an employee transfers to a different assignment in the middle of an evaluation period and less than six months has transpired since the transfer, the evaluation should be completed by the current supervisor with input from the previous supervisor.

Special - An evaluation that may be completed at any time the supervisor and City Administrator or the authorized designee determine an evaluation is necessary to address less than standard performance. The evaluation may include a plan for follow-up action (e.g., performance improvement plan (PIP), remedial training, retraining).

601.3.1 RATINGS

When completing an evaluation, the supervisor will identify the rating category that best describes the employee's performance. The definition of each rating category is as follows:

Outstanding - Performance is well beyond that required for the position. It is exceptional performance, definitely superior or extraordinary.

Exceeds standards - Performance is better than demonstrated by a competent employee. It is performance superior to what is required, but is not of such nature to warrant a rating of outstanding.

Meets standards - Performance of a competent employee. It is satisfactory performance that meets the standards required of the position.

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Needs improvement - Performance is less than the standards required of the position. A needs improvement rating shall be thoroughly discussed with the employee.

Unsatisfactory - Performance is inferior to the standards required of the position. It is inadequate or undesirable performance that cannot be allowed to continue.

Supervisor comments may be included in the evaluation to document the employee's strengths, weaknesses, and requirements for improvement. Any job dimension rating marked as unsatisfactory or outstanding shall be substantiated with supervisor comments.

601.3.2 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Employees who receive an unsatisfactory rating may be subject to a PIP. The PIP shall delineate areas that need improvement, any improvement measures, and a timetable in which to demonstrate improvement. The issuing supervisor shall meet with the employee to review the employee's performance and the status of the PIP at least monthly.

601.4 EVALUATION PROCESS

Supervisors should meet with the employees they supervise at the beginning of the evaluation period to discuss expectations and establish performance standards. Each supervisor should discuss the tasks of the position, standards of expected performance, and the evaluation criteria with each employee.

Performance evaluations cover a specific period and should be based upon documented performance dimensions that are applicable to the duties and authorities granted to the employee during that period. Evaluations should be completed by each employee's immediate supervisor. Other supervisors directly familiar with the employee's performance during the rating period should be consulted by the evaluating supervisor for input.

Assessment of an employee's job performance is an ongoing process. Continued coaching and feedback provides supervisors and employees with opportunities to correct performance issues as they arise and to acknowledge good work. Periodic discussions with the employee during the course of the evaluation period are encouraged. Supervisors should document all discussions in the prescribed manner.

Non-probationary employees demonstrating substandard performance shall be notified in writing as soon as possible in order to have an opportunity to remediate the issues. Such notification should occur at the earliest opportunity, with the goal being a minimum of 90 days' written notice prior to the end of the evaluation period.

All supervisors shall receive training on performance evaluations within one year of a supervisory appointment.

601.5 EVALUATION FREQUENCY

Supervisors shall evaluate all employees they supervise at least once every year on the anniversary of the employee's date of appointment or hire.

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Those employees who are required to successfully complete a probationary period should be evaluated monthly.

601.6 EVALUATION INTERVIEW

When the supervisor has completed an evaluation, a private discussion of the evaluation should be scheduled with the employee. The supervisor should discuss the evaluation ratings and respond to any questions the employee may have. The supervisor should provide relevant counseling regarding advancement, specialty positions, and training opportunities. Any performance areas in need of improvement and goals for reaching the expected level of performance should be identified and discussed. If the employee has reasonable objections to any of the ratings, the supervisor may make appropriate adjustments to the evaluation. The reason for such adjustments shall be documented.

Employees may write comments in an identified section of the evaluation. The supervisor and employee will sign and date the evaluation.

601.6.1 DISCRIMINATORY HARASSMENT FORM

At the time of each employee's annual evaluation, the supervisor shall provide access to and require the employee to read the City Discriminatory Harassment Policy. The supervisor shall give the employee a form to be completed and returned that acknowledges the following:

- (a) The employee understands the policy.
- (b) The employee has had all questions regarding the policy sufficiently addressed.
- (c) The employee knows how to report alleged harassment and discrimination policy violations.
- (d) Whether the employee has been the subject of, or witness to, any unreported conduct that may violate the policy.

The completed form should be returned to the supervisor (or other authorized individual if the employee is uncomfortable returning the form to the presenting supervisor) within one week. If the employee has expressed any questions or concerns, the receiving supervisor or other authorized individual shall ensure that appropriate follow-up action is taken.

601.7 APPEAL

An employee who disagrees with an evaluation may provide a formal written response that will be attached to the evaluation, or may request an appeal.

To request an appeal, the employee shall forward a written memorandum within three days to the City Administrator or the authorized designee. The memorandum shall identify the specific basis for the appeal and include any relevant information for the reviewer to consider.

601.8 CHAIN OF REVIEW

The signed performance evaluation and any employee attachment should be forwarded to the City Administrator or the authorized designee. The City Administrator or the authorized designee shall

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review the evaluation for fairness, impartiality, uniformity, and consistency, and shall consider any written response or appeal made by the employee.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should evaluate the supervisor on the quality of ratings given.

601.9 RETENTION AND DISTRIBUTION

The original performance evaluation and any original correspondence related to an appeal shall be maintained in accordance with the Personnel Records Policy.

A copy of the evaluation and any documentation of a related appeal shall be provided to the employee.

Discriminatory Harassment

602.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent city employees from being subjected to discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. Nothing in this policy is intended to create a legal or employment right or duty that is not created by law.

602.2 POLICY

The City is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to creating and maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment and retaliation. The City will not tolerate discrimination against an employee in hiring, promotion, discharge, compensation, fringe benefits, and other privileges of employment. The City will take preventive and corrective action to address any behavior that violates this policy or the rights and privileges it is designed to protect.

The nondiscrimination policies of the City may be more comprehensive than state or federal law. Conduct that violates this policy may not violate state or federal law but still could subject an employee to discipline.

602.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

602.3.1 DISCRIMINATION

The City prohibits all forms of discrimination, including any employment-related action by an employee that adversely affects an applicant or employee and is based on actual or perceived race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, pregnancy, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and any other classification or status protected by law.

Discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, is verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual based upon that individual's protected class. It has the effect of interfering with an individual's work performance or creating a hostile or abusive work environment.

Conduct that may, under certain circumstances, constitute discriminatory harassment can include making derogatory comments; making crude and offensive statements or remarks; making slurs or off-color jokes; stereotyping; engaging in threatening acts; making indecent gestures, pictures, cartoons, posters, or material; making inappropriate physical contact; or using written material or city equipment and/or systems to transmit or receive offensive material, statements, or pictures. Such conduct is contrary to city policy and to a work environment that is free of discrimination.

602.3.2 RETALIATION

Retaliation is treating a person differently or engaging in acts of reprisal or intimidation against the person because the person has engaged in protected activity, filed a charge of discrimination,

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participated in an investigation, or opposed a discriminatory practice. Retaliation will not be tolerated.

602.3.3 SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The City prohibits all forms of discrimination and discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment. It is unlawful to harass an applicant or an employee because of that person's sex.

Sexual harassment includes but is not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- (a) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly as a term or condition of employment, position, or compensation.
- (b) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting the employee.
- (c) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an employee's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

602.3.4 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discrimination and discriminatory harassment do not include actions that are in accordance with established rules, principles, or standards, including:

- (a) Acts or omission of acts based solely upon bona fide occupational qualifications under the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and any related state agency guidelines.
- (b) Bona fide requests or demands by a supervisor that an employee improve work quality or output, that the employee report to the job site on time, that the employee comply with City or department rules or regulations, or any other appropriate work-related communication between supervisor and employee.

602.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all city employees, who shall follow the intent of these guidelines in a manner that reflects city policy, professional standards, and the best interest of the City and its mission.

Employees are encouraged to promptly report any discriminatory, retaliatory, or harassing conduct or known violations of this policy to a supervisor. Any employee who is not comfortable with reporting violations of this policy to an immediate supervisor may make the report to a higher-ranking supervisor or manager. Complaints may also be filed with the City Administrator.

Any employee who believes, in good faith, that the employee has been discriminated against, harassed, or subjected to retaliation, or who has observed harassment, discrimination, or retaliation, is encouraged to promptly report such conduct in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy.

Supervisors and managers receiving information regarding alleged violations of this policy shall determine if there is any basis for the allegation and shall proceed with a resolution as stated below.

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602.4.1 QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATION

Employees with questions regarding what constitutes discrimination, sexual harassment, or retaliation are encouraged to contact a supervisor, a manager, or the City Administrator for further information, direction, or clarification.

602.4.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors and managers shall include but are not limited to:

- (a) Continually monitoring the work environment and striving to ensure that it is free from all types of unlawful discrimination, including harassment or retaliation.
- (b) Taking prompt, appropriate action within their work units to avoid and minimize the incidence of any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.
- (c) Ensuring that their subordinates understand their responsibilities under this policy.
- (d) Ensuring that employees who make complaints or who oppose any unlawful employment practices are protected from retaliation and that such matters are kept confidential to the extent possible.
- (e) Making a timely determination regarding the substance of any allegation based upon all available facts.
- (f) Notifying the City Administrator in writing of the circumstances surrounding any reported allegations or observed acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation no later than the next business day.

602.4.3 SUPERVISOR'S ROLE

Supervisors and managers shall be aware of the following:

- (a) Behavior of supervisors and managers should represent the values of the City and professional standards.
- (b) False or mistaken accusations of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation can have negative effects on the careers of innocent employees.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent supervisors or managers from discharging supervisory or management responsibilities, such as determining assignments, evaluating or counseling employees, or issuing discipline in a manner that is consistent with established procedures.

602.5 INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS

Various methods of resolution exist. During the pendency of any such investigation, the supervisor of the involved employee should take prompt and reasonable steps to mitigate or eliminate any continuing abusive or hostile work environment. All complaints of discrimination, retaliation, or harassment should be fully documented and promptly and thoroughly investigated.

602.5.1 SUPERVISORY RESOLUTION

Employees who believe they are experiencing discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should be encouraged to inform the individual that the behavior is unwelcome, offensive, unprofessional,

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or inappropriate. However, if the employee feels uncomfortable or threatened or has difficulty expressing the employee's concern, or if this does not resolve the concern, assistance should be sought from a supervisor or manager who is a rank higher than the alleged transgressor.

602.5.2 FORMAL INVESTIGATION

If the complaint cannot be satisfactorily resolved through the supervisory resolution process, a formal investigation will be conducted.

The person assigned to investigate the complaint will have full authority to investigate all aspects of the complaint. Investigative authority includes access to records and the cooperation of any employees involved. No influence will be used to suppress any complaint and no employee will be subject to retaliation or reprisal for filing a complaint, encouraging others to file a complaint, or for offering testimony or evidence in any investigation.

Formal investigation of the complaint will be confidential to the extent possible and will include but is not limited to details of the specific incident, frequency and dates of occurrences, and names of any witnesses. Witnesses will be advised regarding the prohibition against retaliation, and that a disciplinary process, up to and including termination, may result if retaliation occurs.

Employees who believe they have been discriminated against, harassed, or retaliated against because of their protected status are encouraged to file a complaint with their immediate supervisor but may also file a complaint directly with the City Administrator.

602.5.3 ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCESS

No provision of this policy shall be construed to prevent any employee from seeking legal redress outside the City. Employees who believe that they have been harassed, discriminated, or retaliated against are entitled to bring complaints of employment discrimination to federal, state, and/or local agencies responsible for investigating such allegations. Specific time limitations apply to the filing of such charges. Employees are advised that proceeding with complaints under the provisions of this policy does not in any way affect those filing requirements.

602.6 DOCUMENTATION OF COMPLAINTS

All complaints or allegations shall be thoroughly documented on the appropriate forms and in a manner designated by the City Administrator. The outcome of all reports shall be:

- (a) Approved by the City Administrator.
- (b) Maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

602.6.1 NOTIFICATION OF DISPOSITION

The complainant and/or victim will be notified in writing of the disposition of the investigation and the actions taken to remedy or address the circumstances giving rise to the complaint.

602.7 TRAINING

All new employees shall be provided with a copy of this policy as part of their orientation. The policy shall be reviewed with each new employee. The employee shall certify by signing the prescribed

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form that the employee has been advised of this policy, is aware of and understands its contents, and agrees to abide by its provisions during the employee's term with the City.

All employees shall receive annual training on the requirements of this policy and shall certify by signing the prescribed form that they have reviewed the policy, understand its contents, and agree that they will continue to abide by its provisions.

Grievances

603.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the city grievance system. The grievance system is intended to facilitate communication and to promptly and equitably address employee grievances in the workplace.

603.1.1 GRIEVANCE DEFINED

A grievance is a difference of opinion or dispute regarding the meaning, interpretation, or application of any of the following:

- Current employment agreements
- This Policy Manual
- Rules and regulations governing personnel practices or working conditions
- Workplace issues that do not amount to misconduct such as fraud, waste, abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or any inappropriate conduct or practices, including violations that may pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of members

Specifically outside the category of grievances are complaints related to allegations of discrimination or harassment subject to the Discriminatory Harassment Policy. Also outside the category of grievances are personnel complaints regarding any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance against any city employee that, if true, would constitute a violation of city policy or federal, state, or local law.

603.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to provide a just and equitable system for the prompt handling of employee grievances without discrimination, coercion, restraint, or retaliation against any employee who submits or is otherwise involved in a grievance.

603.3 PROCESS

Grievances may be brought by an individual employee or by an employee group representative. Employees may have representation during the grievance process.

Except as otherwise required under current employment agreements, if an employee wishes to initiate a grievance as defined above, that employee shall:

- (a) Attempt to resolve the issue through informal discussion with the employee's immediate supervisor.
- (b) If after a reasonable amount of time, generally seven days, the grievance cannot be settled by the immediate supervisor, the employee may request an interview with the head of the department.
- (c) If a successful resolution is not found with the head of the department, the employee may request a meeting with the City Administrator.

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- (d) If the employee and the City Administrator are unable to arrive at a mutual solution, the employee shall proceed as follows:
 - 1. Submit a written statement of the grievance to the City Administrator and provide a copy to the employee's immediate supervisor.
 - 2. Include the following information in the written statement:
 - (a) The basis for the grievance.
 - (b) The allegation of any specific wrongful act and the harm done.
 - (c) The specific policies, rules, or regulations at issue.
 - (d) The remedy or goal being sought by the grievance.
- (e) The supervisor shall provide the employee with a signed acknowledgment of the grievance that shall include the date and time of receipt.
- (f) The City Administrator should review the grievance and respond to the employee within 14 calendar days.
 - 1. The response will be in writing, and will affirm or deny the allegations.
 - 2. The response shall include any remedies, if appropriate.
 - 3. The decision of the City Administrator is considered final.

603.4 GRIEVANCE RECORDS

At the conclusion of the grievance process, all documents pertaining to the process shall be forwarded to the City Administrator or the authorized designee for inclusion in a secure file for all written grievances.

603.5 POLICY OR TRAINING IMPLICATIONS

If an employee who participates in the grievance review process identifies any issue that may warrant an immediate revision to this Policy Manual, a procedural change, or an immediate training need, the employee should promptly notify the City Administrator in the memorandum.

603.6 GRIEVANCE AUDITS

The City Administrator should designate an employee to perform an annual audit of all grievances filed the previous calendar year to evaluate whether any change in policy, procedure, or training may be appropriate to avoid future grievances. The evaluation should be documented in a confidential memorandum to the City Administrator without including any identifying information about any individual grievance.

Anti-Retaliation

604.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy prohibits retaliation against employees who identify workplace issues, such as fraud, waste, abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or any inappropriate conduct or practices, including violations that may pose a threat to the health, safety, or well-being of employees.

This policy does not prohibit actions taken for nondiscriminatory or non-retaliatory reasons, such as discipline for cause.

These guidelines are intended to supplement and not limit employees' access to other applicable remedies. Nothing in this policy shall diminish the rights or remedies of an employee pursuant to any applicable federal law, provision of the U.S. Constitution, state and local law, ordinance, or current employment agreement.

604.2 POLICY

The City has a zero tolerance for retaliation and is committed to taking reasonable steps to protect from retaliation employees who, in good faith, engage in permitted behavior or who report or participate in the reporting or investigation of workplace issues. All complaints of retaliation will be taken seriously and will be promptly and appropriately investigated.

604.3 RETALIATION PROHIBITED

No employee may retaliate against any person for engaging in lawful or otherwise permitted behavior; for opposing a practice believed to be unlawful, unethical, discriminatory, or retaliatory; for reporting or making a complaint under this policy; or for participating in any investigation related to a complaint under this or any other policy.

Retaliation includes any adverse action or conduct, including but not limited to:

- Refusing to hire or denying a promotion.
- Extending the probationary period.
- Unjustified reassignment of duties or change of work schedule.
- Real or implied threats or other forms of intimidation to dissuade the reporting of wrongdoing or filing of a complaint, or as a consequence of having reported or participated in protected activity.
- Taking unwarranted disciplinary action.
- Spreading rumors about the person filing the complaint or about the alleged wrongdoing.
- Shunning or unreasonably avoiding a person because the person has engaged in protected activity.

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604.4 COMPLAINTS OF RETALIATION

Any employee who feels retaliated against in violation of this policy should promptly report the matter to any supervisor, or the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

Employees shall act in good faith, not engage in unwarranted reporting of trivial or minor deviations or transgressions, and make reasonable efforts to verify facts before making any complaint in order to avoid baseless allegations. Employees shall not report or state an intention to report information or an allegation knowing it to be false or with willful or reckless disregard for the truth or falsity of the information, or otherwise act in bad faith.

Investigations are generally more effective when the identity of the reporting employee is known, thereby allowing investigators to obtain additional information from the reporting employee. However, complaints may be made anonymously. All reasonable efforts shall be made to protect the reporting employee's identity. However, confidential information may be disclosed to the extent required by law or to the degree necessary to conduct an adequate investigation and make a determination regarding a complaint. In some situations, the investigative process may not be complete unless the source of the information and a statement by the employee are part of the investigative process.

604.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors include but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring complaints of retaliation are investigated.
- (b) Receiving all complaints in a fair and impartial manner.
- (c) Documenting the complaint and any steps taken to resolve the problem.
- (d) Acknowledging receipt of the complaint, notifying the City Administrator or the authorized designee, and explaining to the employee how the complaint will be handled.
- (e) Taking appropriate and reasonable steps to mitigate any further violations of this policy.
- (f) Monitoring the work environment to ensure that any employee making a complaint is not subjected to further retaliation.
- (g) Periodic follow-up with the complainant to ensure that retaliation is not continuing.
- (h) Not interfering with or denying the right of an employee to make any complaint.
- (i) Taking reasonable steps to accommodate requests for assignment or schedule changes made by an employee who may be the target of retaliation if it would likely mitigate the potential for further violations of this policy.

604.6 COMPLAINT PROCESS

The City Administrator should communicate to all supervisors the prohibition against retaliation.

Anti-Retaliation

Supervisors shall treat all complaints as serious matters and shall ensure that prompt actions take place, including but not limited to:

- (a) Communicating to all employees the prohibition against retaliation.
- (b) The timely review of complaint investigations.
- (c) Remediation of any inappropriate conduct or condition and instituting measures to eliminate or minimize the likelihood of recurrence.
- (d) The timely communication of the outcome to the complainant.

604.7 WHISTLE-BLOWING

Employees who believe they have been the subject of retaliation for engaging in protected behaviors should promptly report it to a supervisor. Supervisors should refer the complaint to the City Administrator or the authorized designee for investigation.

604.8 RECORDS RETENTION AND RELEASE

The Custodian of Records shall ensure that documentation of investigations is maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedules.

604.9 TRAINING

This policy should be reviewed with each new employee.

All employees should receive periodic refresher training on the requirements of this policy.

Drug-and Alcohol- Free Workplace

605.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and uniform guidelines regarding drugs and alcohol in the workplace (41 USC § 8103).

605.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to provide a drug- and alcohol-free workplace for all employees.

605.3 GENERAL GUIDELINES

Alcohol and drug use in the workplace or on city time can endanger the health and safety of city employees and the public.

Employees who have consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage or taken any medication, or combination thereof, that would tend to adversely affect their mental or physical abilities shall not report for work. Affected employees shall notify an appropriate supervisor as soon as they are aware of an inability to report to work. If the employee is unable to make the notification, every effort should be made to have a representative contact the supervisor in a timely manner. If the employee is adversely affected while at work, the employee shall be immediately removed and released from work (see the Work Restrictions section in this policy).

605.3.1 USE OF MEDICATIONS

Employees should not use any medications that will impair their ability to safely and completely perform their work. Any employee who is medically required or has a need to take any such medication shall report that need to an immediate supervisor prior to commencing any work.

605.3.2 MEDICAL CANNABIS

Possession, use, or being under the influence of medical cannabis during work hours is prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action.

605.4 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees shall report for work in an appropriate mental and physical condition. Employees are prohibited from purchasing, manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using controlled substances or alcohol on city premises or on city time (41 USC § 8103). The lawful possession or use of prescribed medications or over-the-counter remedies is excluded from this prohibition.

Employees shall notify a supervisor immediately if they observe behavior or other evidence that they believe demonstrates that a fellow employee is impaired during work hours due to drug or alcohol use.

Employees are required to notify their immediate supervisors of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction (41 USC § 8103).

Drug-and Alcohol- Free Workplace

605.5 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

There may be available a voluntary employee assistance program to assist those who wish to seek help for alcohol and drug problems (41 USC § 8103). Insurance coverage that provides treatment for drug and alcohol abuse also may be available. Employees should contact the City Administrator or the authorized designee, their insurance providers, or the employee assistance program for additional information. It is the responsibility of each employee to seek assistance before alcohol or drug problems lead to performance problems.

605.6 WORK RESTRICTIONS

If an employee informs a supervisor of having consumed any alcohol, drug, or medication that could interfere with a safe and efficient job performance, the employee may be required to obtain clearance from a physician before continuing to work.

If the supervisor reasonably believes, based on objective facts, that an employee is impaired by the consumption of alcohol or other drugs, the supervisor shall prevent the employee from continuing work and shall ensure that the employee is safely transported away from the workplace.

605.7 SCREENING TESTS

A supervisor may require an employee to submit to a screening under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The supervisor reasonably believes, based upon objective facts, that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs that are impairing the employee's ability to perform work safely and efficiently.
- (b) The employee uses property owned or approved by the City in a manner that results in injury, death, or substantial property damage.
- (c) The employee drives a motor vehicle in the performance of the employee's work and becomes involved in an incident that results in bodily injury, death, or substantial damage to property.

605.7.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisor shall prepare a written record documenting the specific facts that led to the decision to require the test, and shall inform the employee in writing of the following:

- (a) The test will be given to detect either alcohol or drugs, or both.
- (b) The result of the test is not admissible in any criminal proceeding against the employee.
- (c) The employee may refuse the test, but refusal may result in dismissal or other disciplinary action.

605.7.2 DISCIPLINE

An employee may be subject to disciplinary action if the employee

- (a) Fails or refuses to submit to a screening test.

Drug-and Alcohol- Free Workplace

- (b) After taking a screening test that indicates the presence of a controlled substance, fails to provide proof, within 72 hours after being requested, of having taken the controlled substance as directed, pursuant to a current and lawful prescription issued in the employee's name.

605.8 COMPLIANCE WITH THE DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE ACT

No later than 30 days following notice of any drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace involving an employee, the City will take appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, and/or requiring the employee to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program (41 USC § 8104).

605.9 CONFIDENTIALITY

The City recognizes the confidentiality and privacy due to its employees. Disclosure of any information relating to substance abuse treatment, except on a need-to-know basis, shall only be with the express written consent of the employee involved or pursuant to lawful process.

The written results of any screening tests and all documents generated by the employee assistance program are considered confidential medical records and shall be maintained in the employee's confidential medical file in accordance with the Personnel Records Policy.

Communicable Diseases

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidelines to assist in minimizing the risk of employees contracting and/or spreading communicable diseases.

606.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Communicable disease - A human disease caused by microorganisms that are present in and transmissible through human blood, bodily fluid, or tissue, or by breathing or coughing. These diseases commonly include but are not limited to hepatitis B virus (HBV), HIV, and tuberculosis.

Exposure - When an eye, the mouth, a mucous membrane, or non-intact skin comes into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, or when these substances are injected or infused under the skin; when an individual is exposed to a person who has a disease that can be passed through the air by talking, sneezing, or coughing (e.g., tuberculosis), or the individual is in an area that was occupied by such a person. Exposure only includes those instances that occur due to an employee's position with the City. (See the exposure control plan for further details to assist in identifying whether an exposure has occurred.)

606.2 POLICY

The City is committed to providing a safe work environment for its employees. Employees should be aware that they are ultimately responsible for their own health and safety.

606.3 EXPOSURE CONTROL OFFICER

The City Administrator should assign a person as the Exposure Control Officer (ECO). The ECO is responsible for the development of an exposure control plan that includes:

- (a) Exposure prevention and decontamination procedures.
- (b) Procedures for when and how to obtain medical attention in the event of an exposure or suspected exposure.
- (c) The provision that city employees will have no-cost access to personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, face masks, eye protection, pocket masks) that is appropriate for each employee's position and risk of exposure.
- (d) Identification of exposure risks and reasonable efforts to reduce additional exposure.
- (e) Compliance with all relevant laws or regulations related to communicable diseases which may include the following:
 1. Responding to requests and notifications regarding exposures covered under the Ryan White law (42 USC § 300ff-133; 42 USC § 300ff-136)
 2. Bloodborne pathogen precautions, including exposure determination, if required (29 CFR 1910.1030)

Communicable Diseases

The ECO should also act as the liaison with the state occupational health and safety authority and may request voluntary compliance inspections. The ECO should periodically review and update the exposure control plan and review implementation of the plan.

606.4 EXPOSURE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

606.4.1 GENERAL PRECAUTIONS

All employees are expected to use good judgment and follow training and procedures related to mitigating the risks associated with communicable disease. This includes but is not limited to (29 CFR 1910.1030):

- (a) Stocking disposable gloves, antiseptic hand cleanser, CPR masks, or other specialized equipment in the work area or city vehicles, as applicable.
- (b) Wearing city-approved disposable gloves when contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, and non-intact skin can be reasonably anticipated.
- (c) Washing hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removal of gloves or other PPE.
- (d) Treating all human blood and bodily fluids/tissue as if it is known to be infectious for a communicable disease.
- (e) Using an appropriate barrier device when providing CPR.
- (f) Using a face mask or shield if it is reasonable to anticipate an exposure to an airborne transmissible disease.
- (g) Decontaminating non-disposable equipment (e.g., clothing, shoes, work equipment) as soon as possible if the equipment is a potential source of exposure.
 - 1. Clothing that has been contaminated by blood or other potentially infectious materials should be removed immediately or as soon as feasible and stored/decontaminated appropriately.
- (h) Handling all sharps and items that cut or puncture (e.g., needles, broken glass, razors, knives) cautiously and using puncture-resistant containers for their storage and/or transportation.
- (i) Avoiding eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, or handling contact lenses where there is a reasonable likelihood of exposure.
- (j) Disposing of biohazardous waste appropriately or labeling biohazardous material properly when it is stored.

606.4.2 IMMUNIZATIONS

Employees who could be exposed to HBV due to their positions may receive the HBV vaccine and any routine booster at no cost (29 CFR 1910.1030). Additional immunizations may also be required or provided.

606.5 POST EXPOSURE

Communicable Diseases

606.5.1 INITIAL POST-EXPOSURE STEPS

Employees who experience an exposure or suspected exposure shall (29 CFR 1910.1030):

- (a) Begin decontamination procedures immediately (e.g., wash hands and any other skin with soap and water, flush mucous membranes with water).
- (b) Obtain medical attention as appropriate.
- (c) Notify a supervisor as soon as practical.

606.5.2 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Supervisors should investigate every exposure or suspected exposure that occurs as soon as possible following the incident. Supervisors should document the following information (29 CFR 1910.1030):

- (a) Identification of the employee exposed
- (b) Date and time of incident
- (c) Location of incident
- (d) Potentially infectious materials involved and the source of exposure (e.g., identification of the person who may have been the source)
- (e) Work being done during exposure
- (f) How the incident occurred or was caused
- (g) PPE in use at the time of the incident
- (h) Actions taken post-event (e.g., clean-up, notifications)

Supervisors should advise their employees that disclosing the identity and/or infectious status of a source to the public or to anyone who is not involved in the follow-up process is prohibited. Supervisors should complete the incident documentation in conjunction with other reporting requirements that may apply (see the Work-Related Illness and Injury Reporting and Illness and Injury Prevention policies).

606.5.3 MEDICAL CONSULTATION, EVALUATION, AND TREATMENT

City employees have the opportunity to have a confidential medical evaluation immediately after an exposure and follow-up evaluations as necessary.

The ECO should request a written opinion/evaluation from the treating medical professional that contains only the following information (29 CFR 1910.1030):

- (a) Whether the employee has been informed of the results of the evaluation.
- (b) Whether the employee has been notified of any medical conditions resulting from exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials that require further evaluation or treatment.

No other information should be requested or accepted by the ECO.

Communicable Diseases

606.5.4 COUNSELING

The City should provide the employee, and the employee's family if necessary, the opportunity for counseling and consultation regarding the exposure.

606.5.5 SOURCE TESTING

Testing a person for communicable diseases when that person was the source of an exposure should be done when it is desired by the exposed employee or when it is otherwise appropriate. Source testing is the responsibility of the ECO. If the ECO is unavailable to seek timely testing of the source, it is the responsibility of the exposed employee's supervisor to ensure testing is sought.

Source testing may be achieved by:

- (a) Obtaining consent from the individual.
- (b) Requesting assistance from local health authorities to obtain testing.
- (c) Acquiring a court order in accordance with state law.

Since there is the potential for overlap between the different manners in which source testing may occur, the ECO is responsible for coordinating the testing to prevent unnecessary or duplicate testing.

The ECO should seek the consent of the individual for testing and consult the City Administrator to discuss other options when no statute exists for compelling the source of an exposure to undergo testing if the individual refuses.

606.6 CONFIDENTIALITY OF REPORTS

Medical information shall remain in confidential files and not be disclosed to anyone without the employee's written consent (except as required by law). Test results from persons who may have been the source of an exposure are to be kept confidential as well (29 CFR 1910.1030).

606.7 TRAINING

Training regarding communicable diseases should be provided to employees commensurate with the requirements of their position. The training (29 CFR 1910.1030):

- (a) Should be provided at the time of initial assignment to tasks where an occupational exposure may take place and at least annually after the initial training.
- (b) Should be provided whenever the employee is assigned new tasks or procedures affecting potential exposure to communicable disease.
- (c) Should provide guidance on what constitutes an exposure, what steps can be taken to avoid an exposure, and what steps should be taken if a suspected exposure occurs.

Smoking and Tobacco Use

607.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes limitations on smoking and the use of tobacco products by employees and others during work hours or while in city facilities or vehicles.

For the purpose of this policy, smoking and tobacco use includes but is not limited to any tobacco product, such as cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, tobacco pouches, and chewing tobacco, as well as any device that is intended to simulate smoking, such as an electronic cigarette or personal vaporizer.

607.2 POLICY

The City recognizes that smoking and tobacco use is a health risk and can be offensive to others. All forms of smoking and tobacco use also present an unprofessional image for the City and its employees. Therefore, all forms of smoking and tobacco use are prohibited by employees and visitors in all city facilities, buildings, and vehicles, and as is further outlined in this policy.

607.3 SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE

Smoking and tobacco use by employees are prohibited any time employees are in public view representing the City.

It is the responsibility of employees to ensure that no person under their supervision or control smokes or uses any tobacco product inside city facilities and vehicles.

No employee shall smoke or vape near any entrance, window, or other location where other persons may be subject to breathing smoke or vapor.

607.4 POSTING

Signs or other notices should be posted at appropriate locations to notify employees and the public where smoking and tobacco use is prohibited.

Working Hours, Meal Periods and Break

608.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidance regarding working hours, meal periods and breaks for employees.

608.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to provide working hours, meal periods, and breaks to employees in accordance with the law and any employment agreements.

608.3 MEAL PERIODS

Employees shall take meal periods at times approved by their supervisors. The time spent for meal periods shall not exceed the authorized time allowed.

Emergency response employees shall remain on-duty subject to call during meal periods. All other employees are not on-duty during meal periods unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

608.4 BREAKS

Breaks should be taken near the midpoint of each four-hour work period. Only one break should be taken during each four hours of work. No breaks should be taken during the first or last hour of an employee's shift unless approved by a supervisor.

Emergency response employees shall remain on-duty subject to call during breaks. All other employees are not on-duty during breaks unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.

608.5 WORKING DAYS AND WORK WEEKS

The standard workday for employees may range between eight (8) hours and ten (10) hours. The standard workweek is forty (40) hours.

Exceptions to Established Work Hours . A Department Director may change an employee's work period with at least five (5) workdays' notice, except in an emergency, in order to be consistent with the needs of the City.

Attendance. Employees report for their work assignments at the times and places set by their supervisors. Each department prepares attendance records of all employees. Regular attendance reports are provided by each department to the Payroll Department on the form approved by the City Administrator.

608.6 ALTERNATIVE WORK SCHEDULE

- (a) One alternative to the standard five (5) days/eight (8) hours per day work week is the four (4) days per week/ten (10) hours per day (4-10) work schedule or prorated for employees on a part-time schedule (e.g., 2-10 schedule for a half time, 20 hour per

Working Hours, Meal Periods and Break

week employee). The 4-10 work schedule is subject to the following requirements and conditions:

- (b) Approval by the Department Director, City Administrator and Mayor;
- (c) All sections of the Personnel Policy Manual apply to the alternative schedule except as noted;
- (c) The alternative schedule may be proposed by either the supervisor and Department Director or by the affected employee and shall include the proposed hours of work, the duration the alternative schedule is to be in place, days off, and affected classification;
- (d) During the alternative 4-10 schedule, overtime shall be paid for all work in excess of forty (40) hours per week, except in the exceptions noted. Overtime pay shall be at the rate of one and one-half (1½) times the regular rate of pay. Compensatory time may be offered by the Department Director in lieu of overtime pay.

Lactation Breaks

609.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable accommodations to employees desiring to express breast milk for the employee's infant child.

609.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to provide, in compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), reasonable break time and appropriate facilities to accommodate any nonexempt employee desiring to express breast milk for a nursing child for up to one year after the child's birth (29 USC § 207).

609.3 LACTATION BREAK TIME

A rest period should be permitted each time the employee has the need to express breast milk (29 USC § 207). In general, lactation breaks that cumulatively total 30 minutes or less during any four-hour work period or major portion of a four-hour work period would be considered reasonable. However, individual circumstances may require more or less time.

Lactation breaks, if feasible, should be taken at the same time as the employee's regularly scheduled rest or meal periods. While a reasonable effort will be made to provide additional time beyond authorized breaks, any such time exceeding regularly scheduled and paid break time will be unpaid.

Employees desiring to take a lactation break shall notify a supervisor prior to taking such a break. Such breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt city operations.

Once a lactation break has been approved, the break should not be interrupted except for emergency or exigent circumstances.

609.4 PRIVATE LOCATION

The City will make reasonable efforts to accommodate employees with the use of an appropriate room or other location to express milk in private. Such room or place should be in proximity to the employee's work area and shall be other than a bathroom or toilet stall. The location must be shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public (29 USC § 207).

Employees occupying such private areas shall either secure the door or otherwise make it clear to others that the area is occupied with a need for privacy. All other employees should avoid interrupting an employee during an authorized break, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

Authorized lactation breaks for employees assigned to the field may be taken at the nearest appropriate private area.

Lactation Breaks

609.5 STORAGE OF EXPRESSED MILK

Any employee storing expressed milk in any authorized refrigerated area shall clearly label it as such and shall remove it when the employee's workday ends.

Payroll Records and Procedures

610.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides the guidelines for completing and submitting payroll records of city employees who are eligible for the payment of wages.

610.2 POLICY

The City maintains timely and accurate payroll records.

610.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees are responsible for the accurate completion and timely submission of their payroll records for the payment of wages.

Supervisors are responsible for approving the payroll records of employees under their supervision.

610.4 TIME REQUIREMENTS

Employees who are eligible for the payment of wages are paid on a scheduled, periodic basis, generally on the same day or date each period, with certain exceptions, such as holidays. Payroll records shall be completed and submitted as established by the city payroll procedures.

610.5 RECORDS

The City shall maintain accurate and timely payroll records as required by 29 CFR 516.2 for a minimum of three years (29 CFR 516.5).

610.6 PAY PERIODS

All employees shall be paid twice a month, the nearest working day to the fifteenth (15th) and the last working day of the month. The City pays its employees through direct deposit. The deposits are made on or before the 20th of each month for work performed from the 1st to the 15th • For work performed from the 16th to the end of the month, the employee is paid on or before the 5th of the following month.

610.7 DEDUCTIONS

- (a) Deductions from employees' pay are ruled by current laws, contracts, and this Personnel Policy. They include the following:
- (b) Deductions required by law and contracts, which include federal withholding tax, Social Security tax, State retirement systems, recognized employee organization dues, wage garnishments, and health care insurance co-payments; and

Payroll Records and Procedures

- (c) Deductions can be arranged for the credit union, United Way, deferred compensation, recognized employee organizations, and other deductions as approved by the City Administrator. These types of deductions are arranged only upon receipt of the written authorization from an employee.

610.8 PAID HOLIDAYS

Regular Holidays - The following holidays are recognized as municipal holidays for pay purposes. Non-represented regular, regular part-time, and trial service employees have these days off with pay:

New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Day Presidents' Day Memorial Day Independence Day Labor Day

Veterans' Day Thanksgiving Day

Day after Thanksgiving Day

January 1st

Third Monday in January Third Monday in February Last Monday in May

July 4th

First Monday in September November 11th

Fourth Thursday in November

Christmas Eve Christmas Day Floating Holiday

December 24th December 25th Employee's Choice

When a day recognized as a holiday by the City falls on Sunday, the following Monday is observed as the holiday. When a day recognized as a holiday by the City falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday is observed as the holiday

Religious Holiday - An employee who wishes to be excused from work in observance of a religious holiday will request approval of the absence from the Department Director. If approved, the time off is charged against vacation leave or compensatory time.

Overtime Compensation

611.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes guidelines and procedures regarding overtime for employees, in conformance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) (29 USC § 201 et seq.).

611.2 POLICY

The City will compensate nonexempt employees who work authorized overtime either by payment of wages or by the accrual of compensatory time (29 CFR 553.22). Employees who are salary exempt from FLSA are not compensated for overtime worked.

611.3 COMPENSATION

Payment of wages to nonexempt employees for overtime, or accrual of compensatory time in lieu of compensation for overtime worked, shall be at the rate of not less than one and one-half hours for each hour of employment for which overtime compensation is required (29 USC § 207(o)(1)).

Short periods of overtime worked at the end of the normal workday (e.g., less than one hour in duration) may be handled informally by an agreement between the supervisor and the employee. In such cases, the supervisor shall document the overtime worked and schedule a subsequent adjustment of work time within the same work period that the overtime was worked, rather than submit a request for overtime compensation (29 USC § 207(o)).

Exempt employees may be eligible for administrative leave, which may be granted at the discretion of the exempt employee's immediate supervisor.

611.4 REQUESTS FOR OVERTIME COMPENSATION

611.4.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Generally, no employee is authorized to work overtime without the prior approval of a supervisor. If circumstances do not permit prior approval, approval shall be sought as soon as practicable during the overtime shift and in no case later than the end of the shift in which the overtime is worked.

Nonexempt employees shall:

- (a) Obtain supervisory approval, verbal or written.
- (b) Record the actual time worked in an overtime status using the city-approved form or method. Informal notations on reports, logs, or other forms not approved for overtime recording are not acceptable.
- (c) Submit the request for overtime compensation pursuant to city payroll procedures.

611.4.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors shall:

- (a) Prior to authorizing an employee to work overtime, evaluate the need for the overtime.

Overtime Compensation

1. Supervisors should not authorize any request to work overtime if the overtime would not be an appropriate use of city resources.
- (b) Upon receipt of a request for overtime compensation, confirm that the overtime was authorized and then verify the actual time worked.
 1. Supervisors identifying any unauthorized overtime or discrepancy shall initiate an internal investigation.
- (c) After verifying and approving the overtime amount, promptly forward the request for compensation to the employee's department director for final approval.
 1. After the head of the department has authorized compensation, the request shall be submitted to the City Administrator or the authorized designee as soon as practicable.

Supervisors may not authorize or approve their own overtime.

611.5 VARIATION IN TIME REPORTED

When two or more employees are assigned to the same activity and the amount of time for which overtime compensation is requested varies among the employees, the City Administrator, authorized designee, or other approving supervisor may require each employee to include the reason for the variation on the overtime compensation request.

611.6 REQUESTING USE OF COMPENSATORY TIME

Employees who have accrued compensatory time shall be allowed to use that time for time off within a reasonable period after making a request, if the request does not unduly disrupt city operations (29 USC § 207(o)). Requests to use compensatory time will be submitted to the employee's supervisor at least 24 hours in advance of its intended use. Supervisors may make exceptions in unusual or extraordinary circumstances.

Supervisors shall not unreasonably deny employee requests to use compensatory time (29 CFR 553.25).

Work-Related Illness and Injury Reporting

612.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding timely reporting of work-related conditions such as a physical injury or an occupational illness.

612.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Work-related condition - Any significant medical or mental condition suspected to have been caused by an employee's service to the City. Any condition that would reasonably require some form of treatment should be considered significant.

612.2 POLICY

The City will address work-related conditions and will comply with applicable state workers' compensation requirements.

612.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

612.3.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees shall report work-related conditions as soon as practicable, but within 24 hours, to a supervisor, and seek medical care when appropriate.

612.3.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor learning of any work-related condition should:

- (a) Ensure the employee receives medical care as appropriate.
- (b) Determine whether the Illness and Injury Prevention Policy applies and take additional action as required.
- (c) Review the report for accuracy and determine whether the work-related condition is required to be reported to the state or workers' compensation entity and whether any additional action should be taken.
- (d) Forward the report to the City Administrator or the authorized designee to be maintained in the employee's confidential medical file.

612.4 OTHER ILLNESS OR INJURY

Work-related conditions that do not qualify for workers' compensation reporting shall be documented on the designated report of injury form, which shall be signed by a supervisor. A copy of the completed form shall be forwarded to the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

Unless the injury is extremely minor, the affected employee shall sign the form indicating no desire for medical treatment. Signing the form does not preclude the employee's ability to later seek medical attention.

Work-Related Illness and Injury Reporting

612.5 SETTLEMENT OFFERS

When an employee experiences a work-related condition that is caused by another person and is subsequently contacted by that person, that person's agent, an insurance company, or an attorney and offered a settlement, the employee shall take no action other than to submit a written report of this contact to a supervisor as soon as possible.

612.5.1 NO SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL

No less than 10 days prior to accepting and finalizing the settlement of any third-party claim arising out of or related to a work-related condition, the employee shall provide the City Administrator or the authorized designee with written notice of the proposed terms of such settlement. In no case shall the employee accept a settlement without first providing written notice to the City Administrator or the authorized designee. The purpose of such notice is to permit the City to determine whether the offered settlement will affect any claim the City may have regarding payment for damage to equipment or reimbursement for wages against the person who caused the work-related condition, and to protect the city's right of subrogation, while ensuring that the employee's right to receive compensation is not affected.

Temporary Modified- Duty Assignments

613.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes procedures for providing temporary modified-duty assignments. This policy is not intended to affect the rights or benefits of employees under federal or state law, city rules, or applicable employment agreements. For example, nothing in this policy affects the obligation of the City to engage in a good faith, interactive process to consider reasonable accommodations for any employee with a temporary or permanent disability that is protected under federal or state law.

613.2 POLICY

Subject to operational and business considerations, the City may identify temporary modified-duty assignments for employees who have an injury or medical condition resulting in temporary work limitations or restrictions. A temporary assignment allows the employee to work, while providing the City with a productive employee during the temporary period.

613.3 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Priority consideration for temporary modified-duty assignments will be given to employees with work-related injuries or illnesses that are temporary in nature. Employees having disabilities covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or state law shall be treated equally, without regard to any preference for a work-related injury.

No position should be created or maintained as a temporary modified-duty assignment.

Temporary modified-duty assignments are a management prerogative and not an employee right. The availability of temporary modified-duty assignments will be determined on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the operational and business needs of the City. Temporary modified-duty assignments are subject to continuous reassessment, with consideration given to operational and business needs and the employee's ability to perform in a modified-duty assignment.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee may restrict employees working in temporary modified-duty assignments from wearing a uniform, operating a city vehicle, or engaging in outside employment.

Temporary modified-duty assignments should generally not exceed a cumulative total of 1,040 hours in any one-year period.

Employees who refuse a temporary modified-duty assignment offer are permitted to use available approved leave, if eligible.

613.4 PROCESS

Employees may request a temporary modified-duty assignment for short-term injuries or illnesses.

Employees seeking a temporary modified-duty assignment should submit a written request to their immediate supervisors or the authorized designees. The request should, as applicable, include a certification from the treating medical professional containing:

Temporary Modified- Duty Assignments

- (a) An assessment of the nature and probable duration of the illness or injury.
- (b) The prognosis for recovery.
- (c) The nature and scope of limitations and/or work restrictions.
- (d) A statement regarding any required workplace accommodations, mobility aids, or medical devices.
- (e) A statement that the employee can safely perform the duties of the temporary modified-duty assignment.

Supervisors will make a recommendation to the City Administrator or the authorized designee regarding temporary modified-duty assignments that may be available based on the needs of the City and the limitations of the employee.

Requests for a temporary modified-duty assignment of 20 hours or less per week may be approved and facilitated by the supervisor, with notice to the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

613.5 ACCOUNTABILITY

Written notification of assignments, work schedules, and any restrictions should be provided to employees assigned to temporary modified-duty assignments and their supervisors. Those assignments and schedules may be adjusted to accommodate city operations and the employee's medical appointments, as mutually agreed upon by the employee and the employee's supervisor.

613.5.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of employees assigned to temporary modified duty include but are not limited to:

- (a) Communicating and coordinating any required medical and physical therapy appointments in advance with their supervisors.
- (b) Promptly notifying their supervisors of any change in restrictions or limitations after each appointment with their treating medical professionals.
- (c) Communicating a status update to their supervisors no less than once every 30 days while assigned to temporary modified duty.
- (d) Submitting a written status report to the City Administrator or the authorized designee that contains a status update and anticipated date of return to full duty when a temporary modified-duty assignment extends beyond 60 days.

613.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The employee's immediate supervisor should monitor and manage the work schedule of those assigned to temporary modified duty.

The responsibilities of supervisors include but are not limited to:

- (a) Periodically apprising the City Administrator or the authorized designee of the status and performance of employees assigned to temporary modified duty.

Temporary Modified- Duty Assignments

- (b) Notifying the City Administrator or the authorized designee and ensuring that the required documentation facilitating the employee's return to full duty is received from the employee.
- (c) Ensuring that employees returning to full duty have completed any required training and certification.

613.6 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Prior to returning to full-duty status, employees shall be required to provide certification from their treating medical professionals stating that they are medically cleared to perform the essential functions of their jobs without restrictions or limitations.

The City may require a fitness-for-duty examination prior to returning an employee to full-duty status.

613.7 PREGNANCY

If an employee is temporarily unable to perform regular duties due to a pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, the employee will be treated the same as any other temporarily disabled employee (42 USC § 2000e(k)). A pregnant employee shall not be involuntarily transferred to a temporary modified-duty assignment.

Nothing in this policy limits a pregnant employee's right to a temporary modified-duty assignment if required under state law.

613.7.1 NOTIFICATION

Pregnant employees should notify their immediate supervisors as soon as practicable and provide a statement from their medical providers identifying any pregnancy-related job restrictions or limitations. If at any point during the pregnancy it becomes necessary for the employee to take a leave of absence, such leave shall be granted in accordance with the city's personnel rules and regulations regarding family and medical care leave.

613.8 PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES

Probationary employees who are assigned to a temporary modified-duty assignment may have their probation extended by a period of time equal to their assignment to temporary modified duty.

613.9 MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION AND TRAINING

Employees assigned to temporary modified duty shall maintain all certification, training, and qualifications appropriate to both their regular and temporary duties, provided that the certification, training, or qualifications are not in conflict with any medical limitations or restrictions. Employees who are assigned to temporary modified duty shall inform their supervisors of any inability to maintain any certification, training, or qualifications.

Speech, Expression, and Social Networking

614.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is intended to address issues associated with the use of social networking sites, and provides guidelines for the regulation and balancing of employee speech and expression with the needs of the City.

This policy applies to all forms of communication, including but not limited to film, video, print media, public or private speech, and use of all internet services, including the web, email, file transfer, remote computer access, news services, social networking, social media, instant messaging, blogs, forums, video, and other file-sharing sites.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or infringe upon any communication, speech, or expression that is protected under law. This includes speech and expression protected under state or federal constitutions as well as labor or other applicable laws. For example, this policy does not limit an employee from speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of an employee group, about matters of public concern, such as misconduct or corruption.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their supervisors regarding any questions arising from the application or potential application of this policy.

614.2 POLICY

Employees of public entities occupy a trusted position in the community, and thus, their statements have the potential to contravene the policies and performance of the City. Due to the nature of the work and influence associated with local government employees, it is necessary that city personnel be subject to certain reasonable limitations on their speech and expression. To achieve its mission and efficiently provide service to the public, the City will carefully balance the individual employee's rights against the needs and interests of the City when exercising a reasonable degree of control over its employees' speech and expression.

614.3 PROHIBITED SPEECH, EXPRESSION, AND CONDUCT

Employees should demonstrate sound judgment in speech, expression, and conduct that relates to or affects the City. In order to meet the safety, performance, and public-trust needs of the City, the following are prohibited unless the speech is otherwise protected (e.g., an employee is speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of an employee group, on a matter of public concern):

- (a) Speech or expression that is disruptive to the work environment, undermines authority, and is destructive to close working relationships.
- (b) Speech or expression made pursuant to an official duty that tends to compromise or damage the mission, function, reputation, or professionalism of the City or its employees.
- (c) Knowingly or recklessly false speech or expression that, while not made pursuant to an official duty, is significantly linked to, or related to, the City and tends to compromise

Speech, Expression, and Social Networking

or damage the mission, function, reputation, or professionalism of the City or its employees. Examples may include:

1. Making a false accusation of wrongdoing without exercising reasonable caution to verify the truth of the matter.
 2. Intentionally misrepresenting on social media actions taken by the City that would damage the city's reputation.
- (d) Speech or expression of any form that could reasonably be foreseen as having a negative impact on the safety of city employees. Use or disclosure, through whatever means, of any information, photograph, video, or other recording obtained or accessible as a result of employment or appointment with the City for financial or personal gain, or any disclosure of such materials without the express authorization of the City Administrator or the authorized designee.
- (e) Posting, transmitting, or disseminating any photographs, video or audio recordings, likenesses or images of city logos, emblems, uniforms, badges, patches, marked vehicles, equipment, or other material that specifically identifies the City on any personal or social networking or other website or web page, without the express authorization of the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

Employees must take reasonable and prompt action to remove any content, including content posted by others, that is in violation of this policy from any web page or website maintained by the employee (e.g., social or personal website).

614.3.1 UNAUTHORIZED ENDORSEMENTS AND ADVERTISEMENTS

While employees are not restricted from engaging in the following activities as private citizens or as authorized members of employee groups, employees may not represent the City or identify themselves in any way that could be reasonably perceived as representing the City in order to do any of the following, unless specifically authorized by the City Administrator or the authorized designee:

- (a) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any political campaign or initiative.
- (b) Endorse, support, oppose, or contradict any social issue, cause, or religion.
- (c) Endorse, support, or oppose any product, service, company, or other commercial entity.
- (d) Appear in any commercial, social, or nonprofit publication; in any motion picture, film, video, or public broadcast; or on any website.

Additionally, when it can reasonably be construed that an employee, acting in an individual capacity or through an outside group or organization, including as an authorized member of an employee group, is affiliated with this city, the employee shall give a specific disclaiming statement that any such speech or expression is not representative of the City.

Employees retain their rights to vote as they choose, to support candidates of their choice, and to express their opinions as private citizens, including as authorized members of employee groups on political subjects and candidates at all times during non-work hours. However, employees

Speech, Expression, and Social Networking

may not use their official authority or influence to interfere with or affect the result of elections or nominations for office. Employees are also prohibited from directly or indirectly using their official authority to coerce, command, or advise another employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes (5 USC § 1502).

614.4 PRIVACY EXPECTATION

Employees forfeit any expectation of privacy with regard to emails, texts, or anything published or maintained through file-sharing software or any internet site (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) that is accessed, transmitted, received, or reviewed on any city technology system (see the Information Technology Use Policy for additional guidance).

However, the City may not require an employee to disclose a personal username or password or to open a personal social website, except when legally permitted and relevant to the investigation of allegations of work-related misconduct.

614.5 CONSIDERATIONS

In determining whether to grant authorization of any speech or conduct that is prohibited under this policy, the factors that the City Administrator or the authorized designee should consider include:

- (a) Whether the speech or conduct would negatively affect the efficiency of delivering public services.
- (b) Whether the speech or conduct would be contrary to the good order of the City or the efficiency or morale of its employees.
- (c) Whether the speech or conduct would reflect unfavorably upon the City.
- (d) Whether the speech or conduct would negatively affect the appearance of impartiality in the performance of the employee's duties.
- (e) Whether similar speech or conduct has been previously authorized.
- (f) Whether the speech or conduct may be protected and outweighs any interest of the City.

614.6 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the City should provide training regarding the limitations on speech, expression, and use of social networking to all employees.

Illness and Injury Prevention

615.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish an ongoing and effective plan to reduce the incidence of illness and injury for employees of the City.

This policy specifically applies to illness and injury that results in lost time or that requires medical treatment beyond first aid. Although this policy provides the essential guidelines for a plan that reduces illness and injury, each department within the City may set its own related policies or procedures that do not conflict with this policy.

615.2 POLICY

The City is committed to providing a safe environment for its employees and to minimizing the incidence of work-related illness and injuries. The City should establish and maintain an illness and injury prevention plan and provide tools, training, and safeguards designed to reduce the potential for accidents, injuries, and illness. It is the intent of the City to comply with all laws and regulations related to occupational safety.

615.3 ILLNESS AND INJURY PREVENTION PLAN

The City Administrator or the authorized designee is responsible for developing an illness and injury prevention plan that should include:

- (a) Workplace safety and health training programs.
- (b) Review of city workplace safety policies and procedures of each department.
- (c) Regularly scheduled safety meetings.
- (d) Posted or distributed safety information.
- (e) A system for employees to anonymously inform management about workplace hazards.
- (f) Establishment of a safety and health committee that will:
 1. Meet regularly.
 2. Include representation from each department.
 3. Prepare a written record of safety and health committee meetings.
 4. Review the results of periodic scheduled inspections.
 5. Review investigations of accidents and exposures.
 6. Make suggestions to supervisors for the prevention of future incidents.
 7. Review investigations of alleged hazardous conditions.
 8. Submit recommendations to assist in the evaluation of employee safety suggestions.

Illness and Injury Prevention

9. Assess the effectiveness of efforts made by the City to meet applicable standards.
- (g) Establishing a process to ensure illnesses and injuries are reported as required under state law.

615.4 MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the City Administrator or the authorized designee include but are not limited to:

- (a) Managing and implementing a plan to reduce the incidence of employee illness and injury.
- (b) Ensuring that a system of communication is in place that facilitates a continuous flow of safety and health information between supervisors and employees. This system shall include:
 1. New employee orientation that includes a discussion of safety and health policies and procedures.
 2. Regular employee review of the illness and injury prevention plan.
- (c) Ensuring that all safety and health policies and procedures are clearly communicated and understood by all employees.
- (d) Taking reasonable steps to ensure that all employees comply with safety rules in order to maintain a safe work environment. This includes but is not limited to:
 1. Informing employees of the illness and injury prevention guidelines.
 2. Recognizing employees who perform safe work practices.
 3. Ensuring that the employee evaluation process includes employee safety performance.
 4. Ensuring compliance with any applicable safety standards related to:
 - (a) Communicable diseases
 - (b) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (see the Personal Protective Equipment Policy)
 - (c) Emergency Action Plan
 - (d) Walking-working surfaces
- (e) Making available a form to document inspections, unsafe conditions or unsafe work practices, and actions taken to correct unsafe conditions and work practices.
- (f) Making available a form to document individual incidents or accidents.
- (g) Making available a form to document the safety and health training of each employee. This form will include the employee's name or other identifier, training dates, type of training, and training providers.
- (h) Conducting and documenting a regular review of the illness and injury prevention plan.

Illness and Injury Prevention

615.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisor responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring employee compliance with illness and injury prevention guidelines and answering questions from employees about this policy.
- (b) Training, counseling, instructing, or making informal verbal admonishments any time safety performance is deficient. Supervisors may also initiate discipline when it is reasonable and appropriate.
- (c) Establishing and maintaining communication with employees on health and safety issues. This is essential for an injury-free, productive workplace.
- (d) Completing required forms and reports relating to illness and injury prevention and submitting such forms and reports to the City Administrator.
- (e) Notifying the City Administrator or the authorized designee when:
 1. New substances, processes, procedures, or equipment that present potential new hazards are introduced into the work environment.
 2. New, previously unidentified hazards are recognized.
 3. Work-related illnesses and injuries occur.
 4. New and/or permanent or intermittent employees are hired or reassigned to processes, operations, or tasks for which a hazard evaluation has not been previously conducted.
 5. Workplace conditions warrant an inspection.

615.6 HAZARDS

All employees should report and/or take reasonable steps to correct unsafe or unhealthy work conditions, practices, or procedures in a timely manner. Employees should make their reports to a supervisor (as a general rule, their own supervisors).

Supervisors should make reasonable efforts to correct unsafe or unhealthy work conditions in a timely manner, based on the severity of the hazard. These hazards should be corrected when observed or discovered, when it is reasonable to do so. When a hazard exists that cannot be immediately abated without endangering employees or property, supervisors should protect or remove all exposed employees from the area or item, except those necessary to correct the existing condition.

Employees who are necessary to correct the hazardous condition shall be provided with the necessary protection.

All significant actions taken and dates they are completed shall be documented on the appropriate form. This form should be forwarded to the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee will take appropriate action to ensure the illness and injury prevention plan addresses potential hazards upon such notification.

Illness and Injury Prevention

615.7 INSPECTIONS

Safety inspections are crucial to a safe work environment. These inspections identify and evaluate workplace hazards and permit mitigation of those hazards. A hazard assessment checklist should be used for documentation and to ensure a thorough assessment of the work environment.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should ensure that the appropriate documentation is completed for each inspection.

615.7.1 EQUIPMENT

Employees are charged with daily inspections of their assigned equipment or work environment, as applicable, prior to beginning their workday. Employees should complete the appropriate form if an unsafe condition cannot be immediately corrected. Employees should forward this form to their supervisors.

615.8 INVESTIGATIONS

Any employee sustaining any work-related illness or injury, as well as any employee who is involved in any work-related accident or hazardous substance exposure, shall report such event as soon as practicable to a supervisor. Employees observing or learning of a potentially hazardous condition are to promptly report the condition to their immediate supervisors.

A supervisor receiving such a report should personally investigate the incident or ensure that an investigation is conducted. Investigative procedures for workplace accidents and hazardous substance exposures should include:

- (a) A visit to the accident scene as soon as possible.
- (b) An interview of the injured employee and witnesses.
- (c) An examination of the workplace for factors associated with the accident/exposure.
- (d) Determination of the cause of the accident/exposure.
- (e) Corrective action to prevent the accident/exposure from reoccurring.
- (f) Documentation of the findings and corrective actions taken.

Additionally, the supervisor should proceed with the steps to report a work-related injury, as required under the Work-Related Illness and Injury Reporting Policy, in conjunction with this investigation to avoid duplication and ensure timely reporting.

615.9 TRAINING

Employees, including supervisors, should be provided with training on general and job-specific workplace safety and health practices. Training should be provided:

- (a) To supervisors to familiarize them with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control may be exposed.
- (b) To all employees with respect to hazards specific to each employee's job assignment.
- (c) To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been provided.

Illness and Injury Prevention

- (d) Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment are introduced to the workplace and represent a new hazard.
- (e) Whenever the City is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard.

615.9.1 TRAINING TOPICS

Training topics should include, as applicable:

- (a) Reporting unsafe conditions, work practices, and injuries, and informing a supervisor when additional instruction is needed.
- (b) Use of appropriate clothing, including gloves and footwear.
- (c) Use of respiratory equipment.
- (d) Availability of toilet, hand-washing, and drinking-water facilities.
- (e) Provisions for medical services and first aid.
- (f) Handling of bloodborne pathogens and other biological hazards.
- (g) Prevention of heat and cold stress.
- (h) Identification and handling of hazardous materials, including chemical hazards to which employees could be exposed, and review of resources for identifying and mitigating hazards (e.g., hazard labels, Safety Data Sheets (SDS)).
- (i) Mitigation of physical hazards.
- (j) Identification and mitigation of ergonomic hazards, including working on ladders or in a stooped posture for prolonged periods.
- (k) Back exercises/stretchers and proper lifting techniques.
- (l) Avoidance of slips and falls.
- (m) Good housekeeping and fire prevention.
- (n) Other job-specific safety concerns.

615.10 RECORDS

Records and training documentation relating to illness and injury prevention will be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

Workplace Violence

616.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to make clear that the City does not tolerate any direct or implied threats of violence or violent behavior in the workplace or any act or behavior that is or can be perceived as threatening, hostile, and/or violent.

616.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to provide and maintain a safe work environment for its employees, volunteers, and members of the public.

In responding to any violent behavior in the workplace, the City is committed to providing protection to all involved parties, including protection from future physical and/or mental harm and the protection of the legal rights of victims, witnesses, and those instigating the harm.

616.3 PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

No employee shall engage in, encourage, or promote violent behavior toward any person while conducting city business or on city property.

No employee engaged in city business shall carry or possess weapons or explosives unless either:

- (a) Permitted by city policy.
- (b) State or local law prohibits the City from restricting the possession of the weapon or explosive.

616.4 REPORTING AND INVESTIGATING

616.4.1 EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY

Employees who experience, observe, or have knowledge of prohibited behaviors and actions in the workplace have a responsibility to report the situation as soon as practicable to a supervisor, a manager, or a human resources representative and to the local police department, if a threat has been made or a crime has occurred.

616.4.2 SUPERVISOR AND MANAGER/ADMINISTRATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon receipt of a report of potential or actual workplace violence, supervisors shall gather as much information as possible to assess and determine the severity and potential of the situation. If the report is found to be credible, the City Administrator or the authorized designee shall be notified as soon as practicable and appropriate action taken.

Local law enforcement personnel shall be notified immediately of all threatening or violent behavior.

Workplace Violence

616.4.3 INVESTIGATION

The City Administrator or the authorized designee will promptly, impartially, and with as much confidentiality as practicable coordinate the investigation of all reports of violent behavior.

City employees are required to cooperate in any investigation. A timely resolution of each report should be reached and communicated to all parties involved as quickly as possible.

616.4.4 REPORTING NON-WORK-RELATED THREATENING OR VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

City employees who are victims of domestic violence or other threatening behavior outside of the workplace, or who believe they are potential victims of such behavior and fear it may enter the workplace, are encouraged to report the situation as soon as possible to their supervisors.

Supervisors receiving any such report shall contact the City Administrator or the authorized designee as soon as practicable so that any appropriate safety measures or plans may be developed.

616.5 RETALIATION PROHIBITED

Any form of retaliation against an employee for making a report concerning violent behavior in the workplace is prohibited.

Any employee who becomes aware of any retaliation or threatened retaliation shall immediately notify a supervisor.

616.6 RESTRAINING ORDERS

Employees who obtain a restraining order listing their workplace, person, or the City property as a protected area must provide a copy of the restraining order to their immediate supervisor or the City Administrator or the authorized designee. The City needs this information in order to provide a safe workplace.

616.7 FOLLOW-UP ACTION

Any employee reported to have exhibited violent or potentially violent behavior will be afforded all rights provided by law and applicable employment agreements before the City takes any disciplinary action.

Actions that may be taken when an employee has been found to have violated this policy include but are not limited to the following:

- Mandatory participation in counseling
- Placing the employee on paid administrative leave pending investigation into an alleged threat or act
- Corrective/disciplinary action up to and including termination
- Criminal arrest and prosecution
- Special procedures, such as job relocation or initiation of a court order

Workplace Violence

If, upon investigation, it is determined that an allegation is false or was made maliciously, the employee who provided the false information will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, as well as possible criminal arrest and prosecution.

616.8 LEGAL ACTION

The City Administrator or the authorized designee, in consultation with legal counsel, will determine if a temporary restraining order or injunction should be sought on behalf of the City to reduce future or threatened violent behavior in the workplace.

616.9 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

At the completion of the investigation and a review of the incident, or in the case of a threat of violence, non-disciplinary corrective actions should be implemented or requested to ensure overall workplace safety. These actions may include but are not limited to:

- Placing the involved employee on administrative leave pending further review and determination of permanent action.
- Administrative leave would be unpaid in the case of a volunteer.
- Reassigning the employee to a different work location.
- Referring the employee to conflict resolution training sessions.
- Referring the employee to the employee assistance program (EAP).
- Modifying workstation designs and office traffic flow patterns.
- Requiring the employee to attend a fitness-for-duty evaluation.
- Developing specific workplace violence procedures for incident response, prevention, and corrective actions.

616.10 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION

All city employees are responsible for assisting in the prevention of violence in the workplace.

The City will provide appropriate training to employees regarding workplace violence.

In the event a violent incident occurs in the workplace, the City Administrator or the authorized designee is responsible for ensuring that all responsibilities have been met and actions carried out, as detailed in this policy, and shall review the results of any investigation and ensure appropriate action is taken. Information gathered during an investigation should be used for the continuous improvement of policies and procedures to prevent workplace violence.

Outside Employment

617.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for city employees who seek to engage in authorized outside employment.

617.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Outside employment - Duties or services performed by employees of the City for another employer, organization, or individual when wages, compensation, or other consideration for such duties or services is received. Outside employment also includes duties or services performed by those employees who are self-employed and receive compensation or other consideration for services, products, or benefits rendered.

617.2 POLICY

City employees shall obtain written approval from the City Administrator or the authorized designee prior to engaging in any outside employment. Approval of outside employment shall be at the discretion of the City Administrator or the authorized designee in accordance with the provisions of this policy. Failure to obtain prior written approval for outside employment, or engaging in outside employment that is prohibited by this policy, may lead to disciplinary action.

617.3 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

617.3.1 REQUEST AND APPROVAL

Employees must submit a written request to engage in outside employment to their immediate supervisors. The request will then be forwarded to the City Administrator or the authorized designee for consideration.

If approved, the employee will be provided with a written notification of approval. Unless otherwise indicated in writing, approval for outside employment will be valid through the end of the calendar year in which the request is approved. Employees seeking to continue outside employment must submit a new request at the start of each calendar year.

617.3.2 DENIAL

Any employee whose request for outside employment has been denied should be provided with a written notification of the reason at the time of the denial.

617.3.3 REVOCATION

Any employee whose approval for outside employment is revoked or suspended should be provided with a written notification of the reason for revocation or suspension.

Approval for outside employment may be revoked or suspended:

Outside Employment

- (a) When a supervisor determines the employee's performance is failing to meet standards and the outside employment may be related to the deficient performance.
 - 1. Approval for the outside employment may be re-established when the employee's performance has reached a satisfactory level and with a supervisor's authorization.
- (b) When an employee's conduct or outside employment conflicts with city policy or any law.
- (c) When the outside employment creates an actual or apparent conflict of interest with the City.

617.3.4 APPEAL

If an employee's request for outside employment is denied or if previous approval is revoked or suspended, the employee may file a written notice of appeal with the City Administrator or the authorized designee within 10 days of receiving notice of the denial, revocation, or suspension.

A revocation or suspension will only be implemented after the employee has completed the appeal process.

If the employee's appeal is denied, the employee may file a grievance as provided in the Grievances Policy.

617.4 REQUIREMENTS

617.4.1 PROHIBITED OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The City reserves the right to deny any request for outside employment that involves:

- (a) The use of city time, facilities, equipment, or supplies.
- (b) The use of any city badge, uniform, or influence for private gain or advantage.
- (c) The employee's receipt or acceptance of any money or other consideration for the performance of duties or services required or expected of the employee in the normal course of employment or appointment.
- (d) The performance of duties or services that may later be subject directly or indirectly to the control, inspection, review, audit, or enforcement of any other employee of the City.
- (e) Demands upon the employee's time that would render the employee's work performance for the City deficient or substandard.
- (f) Activities that may conflict with any other policy or rule of the City.

617.4.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

Employees are prohibited from using any city equipment or resources in the course of, or for the benefit of, any outside employment. This shall include the prohibition against employees using their position with the City to gain access to official records or databases.

Outside Employment

617.4.3 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

Unless prohibited by law under the circumstances, prior to approving outside employment, the City Administrator or the authorized designee may request that an employee provide a copy of personal financial records for review if it is determined that a conflict of interest may exist. Failure or refusal by the employee to provide such records may result in denial of the outside employment.

If, after approving a request for outside employment, the City obtains information that a financial conflict of interest exists, the City Administrator or the authorized designee may request that the employee provide a copy of personal financial records for review. Failure or refusal by the employee to provide such records may result in revocation or suspension of approval of the outside employment pursuant to this policy.

617.4.4 CHANGES IN OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employees who terminate their outside employment shall promptly submit written notification of such termination to their immediate supervisor. Any subsequent request for renewal or continued outside employment must thereafter be processed and approved through the procedures set forth in this policy.

Employees shall also promptly submit in writing to their immediate supervisor any material changes in outside employment, including any change in the number of hours, type of work, or the demands of any approved outside employment. Employees who are uncertain whether a change in outside employment is material are advised to report the change.

617.4.5 LEAVE OR RESTRICTED DUTY STATUS

Employees who are placed on leave or other restricted duty status shall inform their immediate supervisors in writing within five days as to whether they intend to continue their outside employment while on such leave or restricted status. The immediate supervisor shall review the duties of the outside employment, along with any related orders (e.g., administrative, medical), and make a recommendation to the City Administrator or the authorized designee regarding whether such employment should continue.

In the event that the City Administrator or the authorized designee determines that the outside employment should be discontinued, or if the employee fails to promptly notify an immediate supervisor of the employee's intention regarding outside employment, a notice revoking approval of the outside employment will be forwarded to the employee and a copy attached to the original outside employment request.

Criteria for revoking approval due to leave or restricted duty status include but are not limited to:

- (a) The outside employment is medically detrimental to the total recovery of the employee.
- (b) The outside employment requires performance of the same or similar physical ability as would be required in the employee's city job.
- (c) The employee fails to give timely notice of intent regarding outside employment to an immediate supervisor.

Outside Employment

When the employee returns to full duty with the City, a written request may be submitted to the City Administrator or the authorized designee to approve the outside employment request.

Personal Appearance Standards

618.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the personal appearance of city employees.

Dress code requirements for uniformed and non-uniformed employees are addressed in the Dress Code Policy.

618.2 POLICY

City employees shall maintain their personal hygiene and appearance to project a professional image that is appropriate for public service and for the department in which they work. Personal appearance standards are primarily based on safety requirements, appearance conformity, and the social norms of the community served, while considering matters important to city employees.

618.3 GROOMING

The following appearance standards shall apply to all employees unless the employee's supervisor has granted an exception.

618.3.1 PERSONAL HYGIENE

All employees must maintain proper personal hygiene. Examples of improper personal hygiene include but are not limited to dirty fingernails, bad breath, body odor, and dirty or unkempt hair.

Employees should adhere to the following general guidelines in their personal appearance when presenting to work. Employees may be subject to additional personal hygiene standards set forth in supplemental policies established by each department.

- (a) Hair shall be neatly trimmed or arranged.
- (b) Facial hair (e.g., beards, sideburns, mustaches, eyebrows) must be clean and well-groomed. Facial hair for certain employees may be prohibited if it creates a safety hazard (i.e., facial hair for employees who regularly wear certain types of respirators).
- (c) Fingernails should be clean and neatly trimmed to a length that does not present a safety concern.

618.4 APPEARANCE

618.4.1 JEWELRY

For the purpose of this policy, jewelry refers to rings, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, wristwatches, and tie tacks or tie bars. Jewelry shall present a professional image and may not create a safety concern for the employee or others. Jewelry that depicts racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang-related, or obscene language is not allowed.

618.4.2 TATTOOS

During work hours and while representing the City in any official capacity, employees should make every reasonable effort to conceal tattoos or other body art. At no time while an employee

Personal Appearance Standards

is representing the City in any official capacity shall any offensive tattoo or body art be visible. Examples of offensive tattoos include but are not limited to those that exhibit or advocate discrimination; those that exhibit gang, supremacist, or extremist group affiliation; and those that depict or promote drug use, sexually explicit acts, or other obscene material.

618.4.3 BODY PIERCING OR ALTERATION

Body piercing (other than earlobes) or alteration to any area of the body that is visible while representing the City in any official capacity, that is a deviation from normal anatomical features, and that is not medically required, is prohibited. Such body alteration includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Tongue splitting or piercing.
- (b) The complete or transdermal implantation of any material other than hair replacement (i.e., foreign objects inserted under the skin to create a design or pattern).
- (c) Abnormal shaping of the ears, eyes, nose, or teeth (i.e., enlarged or stretched out holes in the earlobes).
- (d) Branding, scarification, or burning to create a design or pattern.

618.4.4 DENTAL ORNAMENTATION

Dental ornamentation that is for decorative purposes and that is not medically required is prohibited while representing the City in any official capacity. Such ornamentation includes but is not limited to:

- (a) Objects that are bonded to front teeth.
- (b) Gold, platinum, or other veneers or caps used for decorative purposes.

618.4.5 GLASSES AND CONTACT LENSES

Eyeglasses and sunglasses shall present a professional image. Contact lenses with designs that change the normal appearance of the eye and that are not medically required are prohibited during work hours and while representing the City in any official capacity.

618.4.6 COSMETICS AND FRAGRANCES

Cosmetics shall present a professional image. Use of cologne, perfume, aftershave lotion, and other items used for body fragrance shall be kept to a minimum.

618.5 EXEMPTIONS

City employees may request exemptions from portions of this policy when application would affect a disability, a religious practice or belief, or other protected characteristics. Requests for exemptions should be addressed to the City Administrator or the authorized designee. The City Administrator should be advised any time a request for accommodation is denied.

Dress Code

619.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides dress code guidelines for city employees.

Other related topics are addressed in the Local Government-Owned and Personal Property and Personal Appearance Standards policies.

619.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City that uniformed employees are readily identifiable to the public through the proper use and wearing of city uniforms and that the appearance of all employees is suitable and appropriate for their position.

619.3 WORK ATTIRE FOR NON-UNIFORMED EMPLOYEES

Non-uniformed employees shall dress in a manner appropriate for their position and any department-specific standards. The following guidelines apply to all non-uniformed employees:

- (a) Clothing shall fit properly, be clean and free of stains, and not be damaged or excessively worn.
- (b) Employees assigned primarily to an office environment, including management, administrative, and support positions, shall wear business-appropriate attire.
- (c) Variations from this policy are allowed at the discretion of the employee's immediate supervisor or the head of the department based upon the employee's assigned job duties.
- (d) No item of civilian attire that would adversely affect the reputation of the City or employee morale may be worn during work hours.
- (e) The following items shall not be worn during work hours or when representing the City in any official capacity:
 1. Clothing that reveals cleavage, the back, chest, stomach, or buttocks
 2. T-shirt alone or exposed undergarments
 3. Swimsuits, tank tops, tube tops, or halter tops
 4. Sweatshirts, sweatpants, or similar exercise clothing
 5. Spandex-type pants or transparent clothing
 6. Shorts
 7. Clothing, buttons, or pins displaying racial, sexual, discriminatory, gang-related, or obscene language

619.4 UNIFORMS

The City will provide uniforms for all employees who are required to wear them in the manner, quantity, and frequency agreed upon in the respective employee group's employment agreement,

Dress Code

if applicable. The City may provide other employees with uniforms at the direction of the City Administrator.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee shall maintain and update uniform and equipment specifications, which should be consulted by employees as needed. Uniforms shall be worn as described therein and as specified in this policy and any supplemental department policies.

The following shall apply to those employees assigned to wear city-issued uniforms:

- (a) Uniforms and equipment shall be maintained in a serviceable condition and shall be ready at all times for immediate use. Uniforms shall be neat, clean, and appear professionally pressed, as necessary for the position.
- (b) Uniforms shall be worn in compliance with any applicable city specifications.
- (c) Uniforms are only to be worn during work hours, at official city functions or events, while in transit to or from work, or when authorized by the City Administrator or the authorized designee.
- (d) Employees are not to purchase or drink alcoholic beverages while wearing any part of city-issued uniforms.
- (e) Supervisors shall monitor employee compliance with this policy through periodic inspections of employees within their department who wear a city-issued uniform.

All uniforms and equipment issued to city employees shall be returned to the City upon termination or resignation.

619.5 UNAUTHORIZED UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, AND ACCESSORIES

City employees may not wear any uniform item, accessory, or attachment unless specifically authorized by the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

Employees may not use or carry any safety item, tool, or other piece of equipment unless specifically authorized by the City Administrator or the authorized designee.

Open Door Policy

620.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The City of Algona believes in fostering a positive working environment in which all employees will be able to achieve their highest potential and accordingly maintains an open door policy. The open-door policy is designed to encourage employees to discuss work-related concerns or problems with their manager. Employees are encouraged to express any constructive concerns, raise questions and make suggestions for improvement. If an employee has a concern about his or her manager engaging in harassment, discrimination, or illegal conduct, the employee should discuss the concern with the members of the leadership team.

If the resolution of the issue cannot be achieved through open discussion, then the employee has the right to present a written grievance. A grievance is an issue raised by an employee relating to the interpretation of rights, benefits, and/or conditions of employment.

Whistle Blower Policy

621.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The City of Algona encourages all employees acting in good faith, to report suspected or actual wrongful conduct including, but not limited to improper governmental actions of local government officials and employees. The City of Algona is committed to protecting individuals from interference with making a protected disclosure and from retaliation for having made a protected disclosure or for having refused an illegal order as defined in this policy.

The City of Algona's Leadership Team and employees may not retaliate against an individual who has made a protected disclosure or who has refused to obey an illegal order. City employees may not directly or indirectly use or attempt to use the official authority or influence of their positions or offices for the purpose of interfering with the right of an individual to make a protected disclosure to the individual's immediate manager or other appropriate administrator or manager within the in the city or other appropriate officials about matters within the scope of this policy. It is the intention of the City of Algona to take whatever action may be needed to prevent and correct activities that violate this policy.

621.2 DEFINITIONS

Improper Government Action: means any action by a local government officer or employee:

That is undertaken in the performance of the officer's or employee's official duties, whether or not the action is within the scope of the employee's employment; and is in violation of any federal, state, or local law or rule is an abuse of authority, is of substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety, or is a gross waste of public funds. Improper governmental action does not include personnel actions including but not limited to employee grievances, complaints, appointments, transfers, promotions, assignments, reassignments, reinstatements, re-employments, performance evaluations, reductions in pay, dismissals, suspensions, and demotions, violations of local collective bargaining agreements or reprimands.

Retaliatory Action: Retaliatory action is prohibited against any employee who reports any suspected or actual misconduct. It means any unwarranted adverse change in an employee's employment status, or the terms and conditions of employment including denial of adequate staff to perform duties, frequent staff changes, frequent and undesirable office changes, refusal to assign meaningful work, unwarranted and unsubstantiated letters of reprimand or unsatisfactory performance evaluations, demotion, transfer, reassignment, reduction in pay, denial of promotion, suspension, dismissal, or any other disciplinary action. Retaliation also includes hostile action by one employee towards another that was encouraged by a manager, senior manager or official.

621.3 REPORTING PROCEDURES, INVESTIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

Except in case of an emergency, before an employee provides information of an improper governmental action to a person or an entity who is not a public official or a person listed in subsection B of this policy, the employee shall submit a written report to as set forth below.

Whistle Blower Policy

Any employee who fails to make a good faith attempt to follow this policy shall not receive the protections of this policy or of RCW 42.41.030. To report improper action, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. Call Whistleblower Hotline

Employees may confidentially and anonymously file a concern by calling. Such calls are not protected by this whistleblower policy. In order to be protected by the whistleblower policy, employees must submit a written report as set forth in subsection B below.

2. Written Report

Except in case of emergency, the employee shall submit a written report to the Executive Director or designee, the Human Resources Director, state auditor and/or the county prosecuting attorney. Report must include specific allegation(s), date(s) the incident(s) occurred, the individuals involved, and any witnesses.

3. Confidentiality

The identity of the reporting employee shall be kept confidential to the extent allowable under the law unless the employee authorizes the disclosure of his/her identity in writing.

4. Investigation

The City Administrator or designee, and/or the Human Resources Director or third party will then investigate the report and determine an appropriate course of action.

5. Retaliatory Action

If the reporting employee feels that retaliatory action has occurred because of the information he/she has reported in good faith, then the employee shall provide, in accordance with RCW 42.41.040, written notice of the retaliatory action to the City Administrator no later than thirty (30) days after the occurrence of the alleged retaliatory action that:

- ◦ Specifies the alleged retaliatory action; and
- ◦ Specifies the relief requested.

The Board of Commissioners will then investigate the report, make a determination and require appropriate action in accordance with the timelines and procedures of RCW

42.41.040 as now or hereafter amended.

6. Informal Discussion

Nothing in this policy shall prevent an employee from informally discussing these matters with any manager in his/her chain of command and/or with the Department of Human Resources, but in order to be protected by this whistleblower policy, the reporting process set forth in subsection B above must be followed. This leadership team may take appropriate action commensurate with their role and authority to resolve the matter.

Whistle Blower Policy

7. Outside Agencies

It is the right of all employees to seek at any time redress by the Washington State Human Rights Commission, by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or through a court of law. Employees are encouraged to exhaust the administrative procedures outlined in this policy before contacting outside agencies.

Sick Leave

623.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides general guidance regarding the use and processing of sick leave. Additional terms for the use of sick leave for eligible employees may be covered in another applicable city policy or employment agreement.

This policy is not intended to cover all types of sick leave. For example, employees may be entitled to additional paid or unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons as addressed in the Family and Medical Leave Policy.

623.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the city to provide eligible employees with a sick leave benefit.

623.3 USE OF SICK LEAVE

Sick leave is intended to be used for qualified absences. Sick leave is not considered vacation. Abuse of sick leave may result in discipline, denial of sick leave benefits, or both.

Employees on sick leave shall not engage in other employment or self-employment or participate in any sport, hobby, recreational activity, or other activity that may impede recovery from the injury or illness (see the Outside Employment Policy).

Qualified appointments should be scheduled during an employee's non-working hours when it is reasonable to do so.

623.3.1 NOTIFICATION

All employees should notify the appropriate supervisor as soon as they are aware that they will not be able to report to work and no less than one hour before the start of their scheduled shifts. If, due to an emergency, an employee is unable to contact the supervisor, every effort should be made to have a representative for the employee contact the supervisor.

When the necessity to be absent from work is foreseeable, such as planned medical appointments or treatments, the employee shall, whenever possible and practicable, provide the City with no less than 10 days' notice of impending absence.

Upon return to work, employees are responsible for ensuring their time off was appropriately accounted for, and for completing and submitting the required documentation describing the type of time off used and the specific amount of time taken.

623.4 EXTENDED ABSENCE

Employees absent from work for more than three consecutive days may be required to furnish a statement from a health care provider or verification supporting the need to be absent and/or

Sick Leave

the ability to return to work. Employees on an extended absence shall, if possible, contact their supervisor at specified intervals to provide an update on their absence and expected date of return.

Nothing in this section precludes a supervisor from requiring, with cause, a health care provider's statement for an absence of three or fewer days.

623.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of supervisors include but are not limited to:

- (a) Monitoring and regularly reviewing the attendance of employees to ensure that the use of sick leave and absences is consistent with this policy.
- (b) Attempting to determine whether an absence of four or more days may qualify as family medical leave and consulting with legal counsel or the City Administrator as appropriate.
- (c) Addressing absences and sick leave use in the employee's performance evaluation when excessive or unusual use has:
 - 1. Negatively affected the employee's performance or ability to complete assigned tasks.
 - 2. Negatively affected city operations.
- (d) When appropriate, counseling employees regarding excessive absences and/or inappropriate use of sick leave.
- (e) Referring eligible employees to an available employee assistance program when appropriate.

Family and Medical Leave

624.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide general guidance for managing unpaid leave for eligible employees for qualified medical and family reasons, including (29 USC § 2612):

- The birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child.
- To care for an immediate family member (spouse, child, or parent) with a serious health condition.
- When an employee is unable to work because of the employee's own serious health condition.
- To care for a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who is a service member of the United States Armed Forces and who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty.

This policy does not address all possible situations and circumstances that may arise when an employee requests leave for family or medical reasons. As these leave situations arise, supervisors should consult with the City Administrator or authorized designee to obtain specific guidance regarding leave rights and obligations.

Nothing in this policy supersedes any provision of any employment agreement, civil service or other local rule, or any law that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

624.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Child - A child under 18 years of age, or 18 years of age or older who is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability (29 USC § 2611; 29 CFR 825.102; 29 CFR 825.122). An employee's child is one for whom the employee has actual day-to-day responsibility for care and includes a biological, adopted, or foster child; stepchild; or a child for whom the employee is standing in loco parentis (in place of a parent).

FMLA - The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (29 USC § 2601 et seq.).

[PMFLA- The Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave Act RCW 50 A](#)

Qualified health care professional - A physician, surgeon, doctor of osteopathy, podiatrist, dentist, psychologist, optometrist, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, clinical social worker, or physician assistant duly licensed and authorized to practice medicine; chiropractors for some purposes; any health care provider from whom the city benefits plan will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits (29 CFR 825.125).

Spouse - The person with whom an employee has entered into a marriage defined or recognized by the location in which the marriage was entered into (29 USC § 2611(13); 29 CFR 825.102; 29 CFR 825.122).

Family and Medical Leave

624.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the City to manage unpaid leave for eligible employees for qualified medical and family reasons in compliance with both federal and state law as well as any applicable employment agreement.

PFMLA and FMLA are separate entitlements and should be treated differently. PFMLA is a statewide insurance program that provides wage replacement, along with job protections, similar to FMLA (if eligible). FMLA is a federal entitlement providing job protections and insurance maintenance for employees who qualify.

PFMLA program does not replace the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and in many cases, PFMLA and FMLA will run concurrently.

624.3 ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

Employees are eligible for FMLA after working for the City for at least one year and completing 1,250 hours over the 12 months prior to the commencement of the leave (29 USC § 2611; 29 CFR 825.110). Employees may not be eligible for leave if there are fewer than 50 other employees within 75 miles of the employee's worksite.

[Employees are eligible for PMFLA under RCW 50A if they have worked a minimum of 820 hours in a twelve-month period prior to applying for the leave.](#)

624.4 TYPE AND DURATION OF LEAVE

Generally, eligible employees are entitled under FMLA to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave during a 12-month period (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.100). Up to 26 weeks of unpaid leave during a single 12-month period may be available to care for certain injured military service members. The 12-month period is measured backward from the date leave is taken and continuously with each additional leave day taken.

[Generally, eligible employees are entitled to a benefit under PMFLA of up to 12 weeks of paid leave a year, with some eligible for up to 16 weeks. Employees in Washington who take paid leave can receive as much as 90 percent of their weekly wages, with a cap of \\$1,000 a week.](#)

624.4.1 SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS

Eligible employees may take up to 12 weeks of leave to care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition or when the employee is unable to work because of the employee's own serious health condition (29 USC § 2612(a)(1); 29 CFR 825.200).

If both spouses are employed by the City, the combined number of workweeks to care for a sick parent is limited to 12 workweeks during any 12-month period (29 USC § 2612(f); 29 CFR 825.201).

Generally, a serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves (29 USC § 2611; 29 CFR 825.113):

Family and Medical Leave

- An overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility (29 CFR 825.114).
- Continuing treatment by a qualified health care professional due to a serious health condition of more than three full consecutive calendar days (29 CFR 825.115(a)).
- Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy complications or prenatal care (29 CFR 825.115(b)).
- A chronic condition that requires treatment (29 CFR 825.115(c)).
- A permanent condition for which treatment may not be effective (such as Alzheimer's or the terminal stages of a disease) (29 CFR 825.115(d)).
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments, including any recovery period, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days without medical intervention or treatment (such as cancer chemotherapy or physical therapy for arthritis) (29 CFR 825.115(e)).

624.4.2 BIRTH OR PLACEMENT OF A CHILD

Eligible employees may take up to 12 weeks of leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child of the employee (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.200). The leave must be concluded within one year of the birth or placement of the child (29 CFR 825.120; 29 CFR 825.121).

If both parents are employed by the City, the combined number of workweeks of leave is limited to 12 workweeks during any 12-month period (29 USC § 2612(f); 29 CFR 825.120; 29 CFR 825.121).

624.4.3 MILITARY EXIGENCY LEAVE

Eligible employees may take service member leave of up to 12 weeks for qualifying exigencies occurring because a spouse, child, or parent is on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending order to active duty (29 USC § 2612(a)(1)(E); 29 CFR 825.200). This type of leave is available to a family member of a person in the National Guard, Reserves, or members of the regular Armed Forces deployed to a foreign country. Qualifying exigencies include (29 CFR 825.126):

- Addressing issues that arise from a short notice (seven or less days) deployment.
- Attending military events related to the active duty or call to duty.
- Attending family support or assistance programs.
- Making child care or educational arrangements or attending school activities arising from active duty or a call to active duty.
- Making financial and legal arrangements.
- Spending time with a military member who is on short-term rest-and-recuperation leave during a period of deployment.
- Attending post-deployment activities.

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- Addressing issues that arise from the death of a military member, such as making funeral arrangements.
- Caring for a military member's parent who is incapable of self-care, such as providing care on an immediate-need basis or arranging for alternative care.

624.4.4 MILITARY CAREGIVER LEAVE

Eligible employees may take up to 26 weeks of leave in a single 12-month period to care for a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin who has incurred an injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces, provided that such injury or illness may render the family member medically unfit to perform work (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.200).

Military caregiver leave is also available to family members of covered veterans who were members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves, at any point in the five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.127).

During the single 12-month period, employees are entitled to no more than a combined total of 26 weeks of FMLA leave. In any case in which both spouses are employed by the City, the combined number of workweeks of leave is limited to 26 workweeks during any 12-month period (29 USC § 2612(f); 29 CFR 825.127).

Service member FMLA leave runs concurrent with other leave entitlements provided under federal, state, and local law. Where FMLA leave qualifies as both military caregiver leave and care for a family member with a serious health condition, the leave will be designated as military caregiver leave first.

624.4.5 INTERMITTENT LEAVE

An employee may take leave for the employee's own serious health condition, for the serious health condition of the employee's spouse, child, or parent, or to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness, intermittently or on a reduced schedule if medically necessary, and if that medical need can best be accommodated by an intermittent schedule as defined in federal law (29 USC § 2612(b); 29 CFR 825.202; 29 CFR 825.124).

Leave due to a military exigency may be taken on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule (29 CFR 825.202).

Intermittent leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child is only available if granted at the discretion of the City Administrator, unless the employee has a serious health condition in connection with the birth or if the newborn child has a serious health condition (29 CFR 825.120; 29 CFR 825.121).

Intermittent leave for any employee shall be tracked and calculated.

624.4.6 PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE

Pregnant employees who are disabled by pregnancy may be entitled to a disability leave in addition to any FMLA leave. The duration of leave is dependent on the circumstances. The City

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Administrator shall defer to a pregnant employee's qualified health care professional in assessing the employee's ability to work.

624.5 EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WHILE ON LEAVE

While on leave, employees will continue to be covered by any group health insurance to the same extent that coverage is provided while the employee is on the job (29 USC § 2614(c); 29 CFR 825.209). However, employees will not continue to be covered under non-health benefit plans.

Employees are responsible for any health plan employee contributions while on leave (29 CFR 825.210). Employee contribution rates are subject to any change in rates that occurs while the employee is on leave. If an employee fails to return to work after the leave entitlement has been exhausted or expires, the City may recover its share of health plan premiums for the entire leave period unless the employee does not return because of the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition of the employee or the employee's family member that would entitle the employee to leave, or because of circumstances beyond the employee's control (29 CFR 825.213). The City may recover premiums through deduction from any sums (e.g., unpaid wages, vacation pay).

Employees may not earn additional time off while on unpaid leave.

624.6 SUBSTITUTION OF PAID ACCRUED LEAVES

Subject to applicable employment agreements and civil service rules, employees are required to exhaust all applicable paid accrued leave before taking unpaid leave. Paid accrued leave includes vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, and compensatory time earned in lieu of overtime, pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, during FMLA leave. Employees may not use paid accrued leave to extend FMLA leave beyond 12 workweeks per year.

624.7 USE OF FMLA LEAVE

If an employee takes a leave of absence for any reason that is FMLA qualifying, the City may designate that non-FMLA leave as running concurrently with the employee's 12-week FMLA leave entitlement.

624.8 PROCEDURES

The following procedures will apply for all employees requesting leave under FMLA:

- (a) When a leave is requested for a medical or other FMLA-related treatment appointment, the employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule the appointment at a time that minimizes disruption to city operations (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.302).
- (b) An employee who wishes to take FMLA leave must provide the employee's supervisor with 30 days' advanced notice when the leave is foreseeable or as soon as practicable if the need for leave is not foreseeable (29 USC § 2612; 29 CFR 825.302; 29 CFR 825.303).
- (c) At the time of the request, the employee must complete an FMLA request form.

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Requests for medical leave shall be accompanied by a qualified health care professional statement, including the date on which the serious health condition began and the estimated date of return to work (29 USC § 2613; 29 CFR 825.302).

Once the leave is requested or designated by the City, the supervisor should forward the request and any medical certifications to the City Administrator or the authorized designee and ensure the employee is provided the necessary forms and FMLA information and required notices within five business days (29 CFR 825.300).

Employees are required to provide medical certification of a qualified health care professional or military documentation, if requested (29 CFR 825.305; 29 CFR 825.308; 29 CFR 825.309; 29 CFR 825.310).

Employees shall be required to periodically report on their status and intent to return to work (29 USC § 2614; 29 CFR 825.311). This may assist in avoiding a delay in reinstatement when the employee is ready to return to work.

Employees returning from a medical leave for the employee's own serious health condition will be required to present medical verification from a qualified health care professional of the employee's ability to return to work and a list of any restrictions that need to be accommodated (29 USC § 2614; 29 CFR 825.100; 29 CFR 825.312).

624.9 REINSTATEMENT FOLLOWING LEAVE

Generally, employees returning from FMLA leave within the qualified period will be restored to their original job or to an equivalent job with equivalent pay and benefits (but not seniority), unless the employee would not otherwise have been employed at the time reinstatement is requested (e.g., in the case of a layoff) (29 USC § 2614; 29 CFR 825.214; 29 CFR 825.216).

If the same position is no longer available, such as in a layoff, the employee will be entitled to a position that is comparable in pay, job content, and promotional opportunities and geographic location, if such a comparable position exists.

If upon return from leave an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of the job because of a physical or mental disability, the supervisor should work with the City Administrator or the authorized designee to engage in an interactive process with the employee to identify a potential reasonable accommodation.

After exhausting paid FMLA leave, non-paid leave will continue until the conclusion of the protected 12- or 26-week time limit. Following the protected leave, the City Administrator or the authorized designee in consultation with the legal counsel will determine whether non-FMLA leave should apply.

624.10 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibilities of the City Administrator or the authorized designee include but are not limited to (29 CFR 825.108; 29 CFR 825.110; 29 CFR 825.112; 29 CFR 825.300; 29 CFR 825.301):

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- (a) Attempting to determine whether an employee absence of four or more days may qualify as FMLA leave.
- (b) Determining if an employee is eligible for FMLA leave.
- (c) Determining if leave is for an FMLA-qualifying reason.
- (d) Granting or denying a request for FMLA leave and providing designation notice to the employee within five business days of designation.
- (e) Providing eligibility notice to the employee within five business days of the request for FMLA leave or when acquiring knowledge that an employee's leave may be for FMLA.
 - 1. If the employee is not eligible for FMLA leave, the notice must state at least one reason why the employee is not eligible.
- (f) Providing a written rights and responsibilities notice each time the eligibility notice is provided to an employee.

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should work with legal counsel regarding questions relating to leave or reinstatement from leave under this policy.

624.11 RECORDS

The City will maintain leave-related records as required by 29 CFR 825.500 for at least three years and in compliance with the city's established records retention schedule.

Records and documents related to doctor certifications and other medical information created for purposes of complying with FMLA and this policy shall be maintained as confidential medical records in separate files from employee personnel files.

624.12 NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

The City Administrator or the authorized designee should ensure that a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and procedures is prominently posted in conspicuous places in the City where it can be readily seen by all employees and applicants for employment. Electronic posting is sufficient as long as the other posting requirements have been met as provided by 29 CFR 825.300 (29 CFR 825.300).