



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Meeting Agenda - Final-revised

### Finance & Personnel Committee

Thursday, January 4, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers  
City Hall, First Floor

This meeting is open for in-person attendance and will also be available through video conferencing. The meeting can be viewed (no participation) by visiting the Legislative Information Center Meetings calendar (<https://cityoflacrosse.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>) - find the scheduled meeting and click on the "In Progress" video link to the far right in the meeting list.

Public comment is limited to agenda items; statements shall be restricted to the subject matter. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please register in advance:

- Register online at <https://www.cityoflacrosse.org/city-services/meeting-registration>
- Contact the City Clerk's Office no later than 4:00p on the day of the meeting, with the following information: name, municipality of residence, if you are representing an organization or a person other than yourself at the meeting, and if you are speaking in favor, opposition or neutral.
- Sign up in person no less than ten (10) minutes before the start of the meeting.

If attending virtual and you wish to speak, contact the City Clerk's Office and we will provide you with the information necessary to join the meeting. Call 608-789-7510 or email [cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org).

*Public hearings shall be limited to 30 minutes when there are opposing viewpoints from the public. In the absence of opposing viewpoints, public hearings are limited to 15 minutes. Individual speakers shall speak no more than three (3) minutes unless waived by the Chair or a majority of the committee.*

*Members of the public who would like to provide written comments on any agenda may do so by emailing [cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), using a drop box outside of City Hall or mailing to City Clerk, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse WI 54601.*

### Call To Order

### Roll Call

### Agenda Items:

#### NEW BUSINESS

[23-1240](#)

Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Maple Street and Weston Street.

**Sponsors:** Woodard

*Public hearing.*

[23-1390](#)

Employee Handbook Annual Review for 2024. F&P item only, unless otherwise directed.

**Sponsors:** Reynolds

- [23-1391](#) Resolution approving a Fourth Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement between TDM, Inc., D/B/A Colgan Air Services and the City of La Crosse.  
**Sponsors:** Dickinson
- [23-1414](#) Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign State/Municipal Financial Agreement for the Citywide Traffic Implementation utilizing the Signal and ITS Standalone Program to replace Pedestrian Signal heads at 34 intersections (ID# 3700-10-60).  
**Sponsors:** Reynolds
- [23-1444](#) Resolution creating and appropriating funds for Capital Improvement design for the Losey Boulevard HSIP projects.  
**Sponsors:** Trost and Kiel
- [23-1445](#) Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign State/Municipal Financial Agreements for two Highway Safety Improvement Projects along Losey Boulevard (ID# 5991-07-80/81 & 5991-07-82/83).  
**Sponsors:** Trost and Kiel
- [23-1492](#) Resolution approving a reorganization to the table of positions and classifications within the La Crosse Regional Airport  
**Sponsors:** Dickinson
- [23-1496](#) Resolution authorizing the City of La Crosse to submit an application to Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) for the Idle Sites Redevelopment (ISR) Grant Program for the West Channel at Barron Island development.  
**Sponsors:** Woodard
- [24-0040](#) Resolution approving a 3-year contract with Coulee Region Humane Society for animal impoundment.  
**Sponsors:** Reynolds  
*Short-circuited by Mayor Reynolds on 1/3/2024*
- [24-0001](#) Collective Bargaining Update.  
*(Note: The Committee and/or Council may convene in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(e) to formulate & update negotiation strategies and parameters. Following such closed session, the Committees and/or Council may reconvene in open session.)*  
**F&P Item Only, unless otherwise directed.**

## Adjournment

*Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.*

*NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY*

*Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to [ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org), with as much advance notice as possible.*

**Finance & Personnel Members:**

**Doug Happel, Larry Sleznikow, Erin Goggin, Barb Janssen, Rebecca Schwarz, Mark Neumann**



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1240

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Weston Street and Maple Street.

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the public interest requires the vacation of certain streets and alleys within the corporate limits of the City of La Crosse, and

WHEREAS, such vacation should be done as expeditiously as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council, City of La Crosse that it hereby declares that the public interest requires the partial vacation of the alley as described on attached Exhibit "A."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the portion of the alley above-described be, and the same is hereby ordered vacated, subject, however, to any and all reservations for any and all public and private utilities.

#### Adjacent Properties:

<b>Tax Parcel</b>	<b>Owner Name</b>	<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Mailing City State Zip</b>
17-50038-130	ELMER C BLANK, INEZ E BLANK	1101 MAPLE ST	1101 MAPLE ST	LA CROSSE WI 54601
17-50773-20	DALLAS LAVERN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST RUTH ANN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST	2312 SOUTH AVE	311 COOK ST	LA CROSSE WI 54601
17-50781-500	GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER INC JOHN GUND BREWING COMPANY	800 BENNORA LEE CT	1910 SOUTH AVE	LA CROSSE WI 54601

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In the Matter of the partial vacation of  
alley located between Weston Street  
and Maple Street.

LIS PENDENS

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\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that a resolution  
has been introduced to the Common Council to be  
acted upon by such Common Council, which said  
action has been taken at the initiative of the Common  
Council of the City of La Crosse, wherein the following  
property, to-wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED  
and shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A"  
showing the location thereof, is sought to be vacated.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

CITY OF LA CROSSE

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

Stephen F. Matty  
City Attorney

Drafted by:

City Attorney's Office  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse WI 54601  
(608) 789-7511

This space is reserved for recording data

Return to

City Clerk  
400 La Crosse St  
La Crosse WI 54601

Parcel Identification Number/Tax Key Number

**PARTIAL ALLEY VACATION**  
**Between Maple Street and Weston Street**

**Part of a 22' wide alley right of way located adjacent and Westerly of Lot 10, Block 1 of Shooting Park Addition located in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 8, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin more particularly described as follows:**

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 10, Block 1 of said Shooting Park Addition said point being on the Northerly right of way line of Maple Street and the Easterly right of way line of a 22' wide alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 28.28' along said Easterly right of way line to the point of beginning of this alley vacation, said point being described in Document Number 1690101 as a point on the North line of a trail easement; thence N 63°09'10" W, 24.96' to the West right of way line of said alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 110.49' more or less along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of Weston Street; thence East along said South right of way line, 22' to the East right of way line of said alley, said point being the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence S 01°20'59" E, 121.72' more or less along said East right of way line to the point of beginning. See attached Exhibit "A".

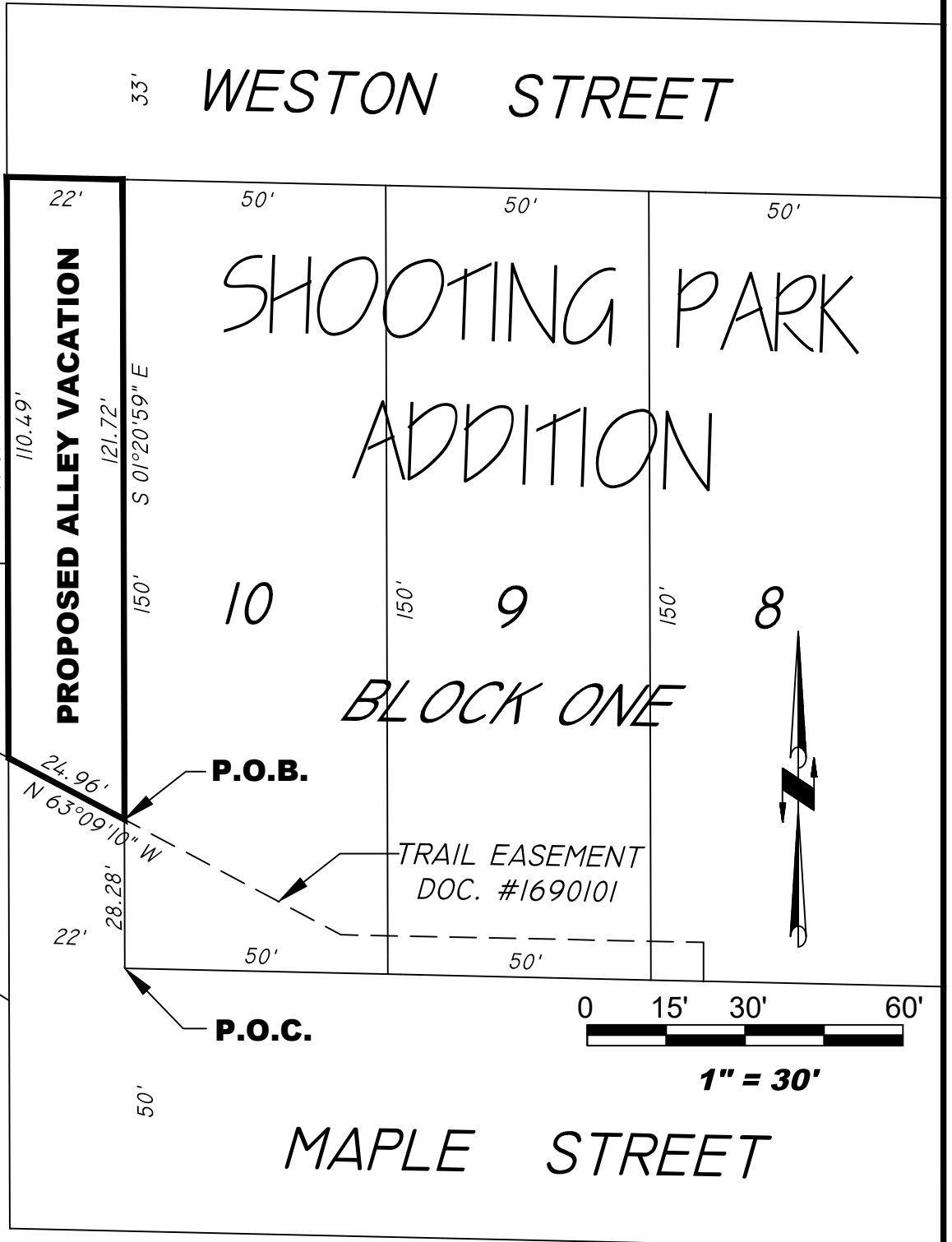
Drafted by: jmc 9/25/2023

Checked by: kjc 10/2/2023

S:\\_PROJECTS\2023 MISC\23-027 Weston to Maple Partial Alley Right of Way Vacation\Partial Alley Vacation between Maple and Weston Streets.docx

SCHAMS BUSINESS  
ADD'N.

GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN  
MEDICAL CENTER ADD'N.



# EXHIBIT "A"

## PARTIAL ALLEY VACATION

NE 1/4 / SW 1/4 SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 15 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST





DocId:8469415  
Tx:4160394

**1814471**  
LACROSSE COUNTY  
REGISTER OF DEEDS  
ROBIN L. KADRMAS

RECORDED ON  
11/14/2023 02:06 PM  
PAGE COUNT: 4  
EXEMPT #:   
RECORDING FEE 30.00

In the Matter of the partial vacation of  
alley located between Weston Street  
and Maple Street.

LIS PENDENS

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NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that a resolution  
has been introduced to the Common Council to be  
acted upon by such Common Council, which said  
action has been taken at the initiative of the Common  
Council of the City of La Crosse, wherein the  
following property, to-wit:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED  
and shown on the map attached hereto as Exhibit "A"  
showing the location thereof, is sought to be vacated.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

#110

This space is reserved for recording data

Return to  City Clerk 400 La Crosse St La Crosse WI 54601
Parcel Identification Number/Tax Key Number

CITY OF LA CROSSE

By:   
Stephen F. Matty  
City Attorney

Drafted by:

City Attorney's Office  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse WI 54601  
(608) 789-7511

Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Weston Street and Maple Street.

### RESOLUTION

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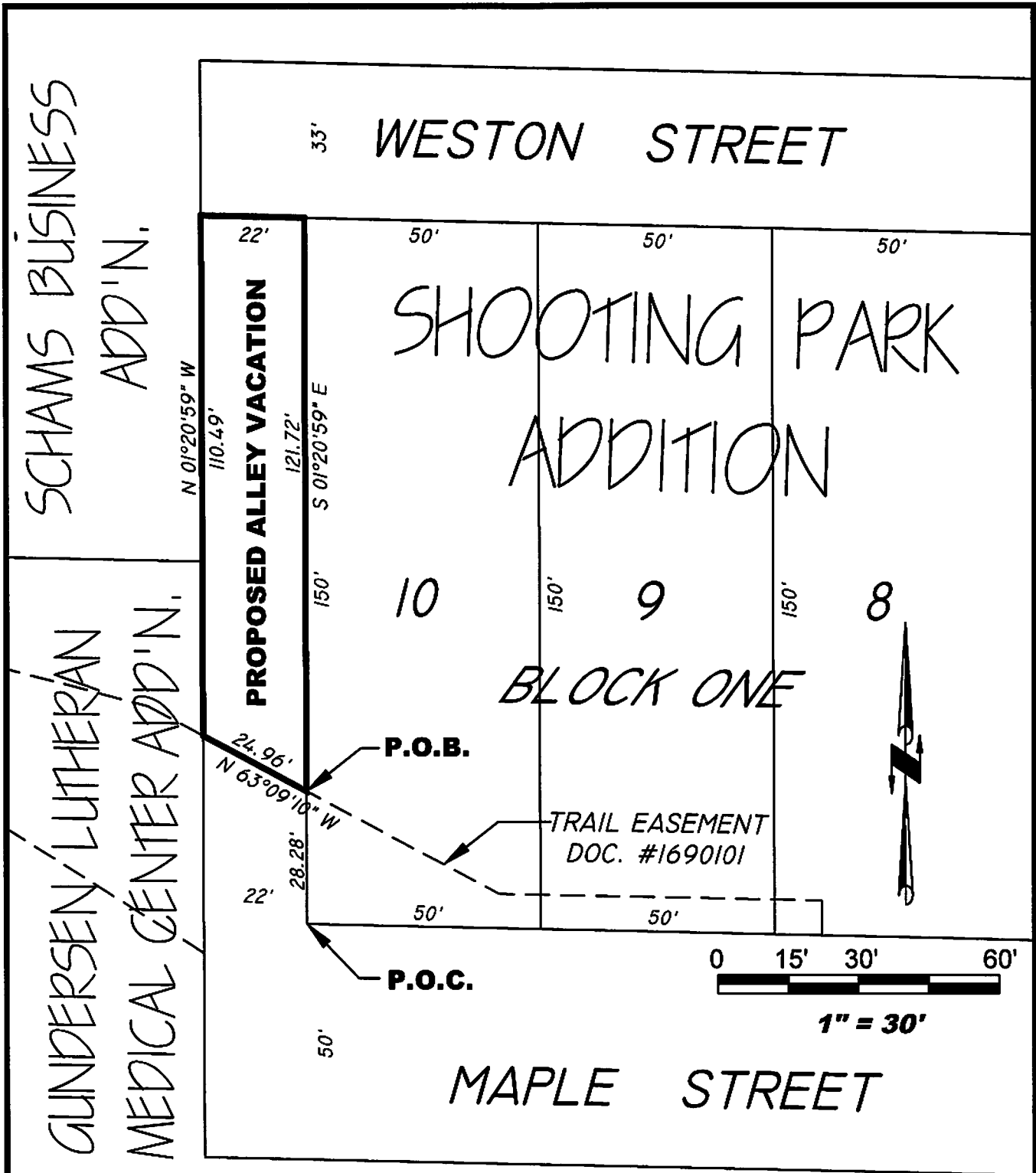
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17-50773-20	DALLAS LAVERN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST RUTH ANN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST	2312 SOUTH AVE	311 COOK ST	LA CROSSE WI 54601
17-50781-500	GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER INC JOHN GUND BREWING COMPANY	800 BENNORA LEE CT	1910 SOUTH AVE	LA CROSSE WI 54601



**EXHIBIT "A"**

**PARTIAL ALLEY VACATION**

**NE 1/4 / SW 1/4 SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 15 NORTH, RANGE 7 WEST**

## **PARTIAL ALLEY VACATION**

### **Between Maple Street and Weston Street**

**Part of a 22' wide alley right of way located adjacent and Westerly of Lot 10, Block 1 of Shooting Park Addition located in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 8, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin more particularly described as follows:**

Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 10, Block 1 of said Shooting Park Addition said point being on the Northerly right of way line of Maple Street and the Easterly right of way line of a 22' wide alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 28.28' along said Easterly right of way line to the point of beginning of this alley vacation, said point being described in Document Number 1690101 as a point on the North line of a trail easement; thence N 63°09'10" W, 24.96' to the West right of way line of said alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 110.49' more or less along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of Weston Street; thence East along said South right of way line, 22' to the East right of way line of said alley, said point being the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence S 01°20'59" E, 121.72' more or less along said East right of way line to the point of beginning. See attached Exhibit "A".

Drafted by: jmc 9/25/2023

Checked by: kjc 10/2/2023

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**NOTICE OF HEARING TO VACATE A PORTION OF ALLEY**

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Resolution is pending before the Common Council of the City of La Crosse, for the vacation of the following described portion of alley, to-wit:

Part of a 22' wide alley right of way located adjacent and Westerly of Lot 10, Block 1 of Shooting Park Addition located in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 8, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 10, Block 1 of said Shooting Park Addition said point being on the Northerly right of way line of Maple Street and the Easterly right of way line of a 22' wide alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 28.28' along said Easterly right of way line to the point of beginning of this alley vacation, said point being described in Document Number 1690101 as a point on the North line of a trail easement; thence N 63°09'10" W, 24.96' to the West right of way line of said alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 110.49' more or less along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of Weston Street; thence East along said South right of way line, 22' to the East right of way line of said alley, said point being the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence S 01°20'59" E, 121.72' more or less along said East right of way line to the point of beginning.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED THAT a hearing thereon will be held before the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Common Council on January 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers of City Hall, 400 La Crosse St. La Crosse St, at which time any and all may be heard for or against the vacation of said street.

Such matter will also be acted upon by the City Plan Commission at 4:00 p.m. on January 2, 2024 and by the Common Council on January 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., both meetings will be at Council Chambers, 400 La Crosse St. La Crosse St.

If you wish to attend any of the above meetings through video conferencing, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 608-789-7510 or email [cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org) for more information.

The above referenced Resolution and relevant attachments may be examined in the Legislative Information Center which can be accessed from the City website at [www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org) (search for file 23-1240).

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2023.

Per Order of the Common Council  
Nikki Elsen  
City Clerk of the City of  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Published on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.



# CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-7510  
cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org  
www.cityoflacrosse.org

November 20, 2023

La Crosse Police Department  
Attn: Civil Process  
City Hall  
400 La Crosse St  
La Crosse WI 54601

Re: Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Maple Street and Weston Street.

Part of a 22' wide alley right of way located adjacent and Westerly of Lot 10, Block 1 of Shooting Park Addition located in the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 8, Township 15 North, Range 7 West, City of La Crosse, La Crosse County, Wisconsin more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Lot 10, Block 1 of said Shooting Park Addition said point being on the Northerly right of way line of Maple Street and the Easterly right of way line of a 22' wide alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 28.28' along said Easterly right of way line to the point of beginning of this alley vacation, said point being described in Document Number 1690101 as a point on the North line of a trail easement; thence N 63°09'10" W, 24.96' to the West right of way line of said alley; thence N 01°20'59" W, 110.49' more or less along said West right of way line to the South right of way line of Weston Street; thence East along said South right of way line, 22' to the East right of way line of said alley, said point being the Northwest corner of said Lot 10; thence S 01°20'59" E, 121.72' more or less along said East right of way line to the point of beginning.

Shift Commander:

Enclosed you will find copies of a Notice of Hearing to Vacate a Portion of Alley for service upon the following:

Owner	Address	City State Zip
ELMER C BLANK, INEZ E BLANK	1101 MAPLE ST	LA CROSSE WI 54601
DALLAS LAVERN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST RUTH ANN ELLEFSON REVOCABLE TRUST	311 COOK ST	LA CROSSE WI 54601
GUNDERSEN LUTHERAN MEDICAL CENTER INC JOHN GUND BREWING COMPANY	1910 SOUTH AVE	LA CROSSE WI 54601

**Please be advised that service needs to be made no later than December 5, 2023.**

The extra copy is for the officer serving the notice to return with the Affidavit of Personal Service. One affidavit needs to be filled out for each notice served. The affidavits **must be signed by the officer in front of a notary.**

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC  
City Clerk  
elsenn@cityoflacrosse.org

AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )

Officer Todd Fischer, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states as follows:

1. That I am an adult employed by the Police Department of the City of La Crosse.

2. That on the 21st day of November, 2023, at 1101 Maple ST 2:05 PM, La Crosse, Wisconsin, I personally served a copy of the following documents:

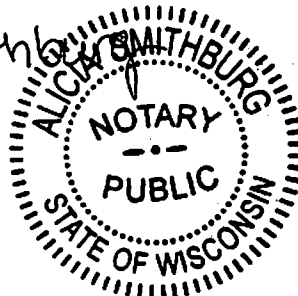
**Notice of Hearing to Vacate a Portion of Street or Alley**

upon Elmer C. Blank  
(name of person served)

Todd Fischer pthm/2512  
(Officer Serving Notice – must sign here in front of notary)

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 21 day of November, 2023

Alicia Smithburg  
Notary Public  
La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin  
My Commission expires: 8/23/2027



AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )

Officer Todd Fischer, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states as follows:

1. That I am an adult employed by the Police Department of the City of La Crosse.

2. That on the 21st day of November, 2023, at 333 Front St N, 1:48pm, La Crosse, Wisconsin, I personally served a copy of the following documents:

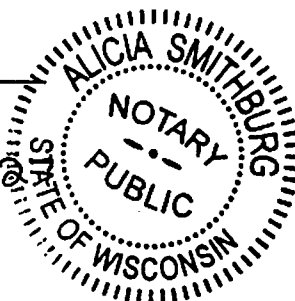
**Notice of Hearing to Vacate a Portion of Street or Alley**

upon Lizzy A. Hoffmann  
(name of person served)

Todd Fischer pthm/2512  
(Officer Serving Notice – must sign here in front of notary)

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 21 day of November, 2023

Alicia Smithburg  
Alicia Smithburg Notary Public  
La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin  
My Commission expires: 8/23/2024





AFFIDAVIT OF PERSONAL SERVICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )

Officer Todd Fischer, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and states as follows:

1. That I am an adult employed by the Police Department of the City of La Crosse.

2. That on the 21st day of November, 2023, at 311 COOK ST 1:14pm, La Crosse, Wisconsin, I personally served a copy of the following documents:

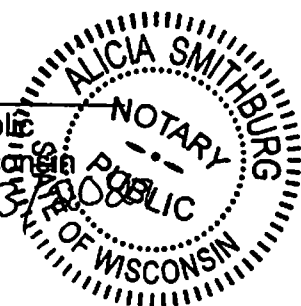
Notice of Hearing to Vacate a Portion of Street or Alley

upon Ruth A. EIKERSON  
(name of person served)

Todd Fischer pt/m/2512  
(Officer Serving Notice – must sign here in front of notary)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21 day of November, 2023

Alicia Smithburg  
Alicia Smithburg, Notary Public  
La Crosse County, State of Wisconsin  
My Commission expires: 8/23/2025





# CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-7510  
cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org  
www.cityoflacrosse.org

November 20, 2023

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PO BOX 7910  
MADISON, WI 53707-7910

Re: Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Maple Street and Weston Street.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the above resolution and notice of hearing when and where the resolution will be acted upon.

This notice is provided pursuant to Wis. Stat., sec. 66.1003(8), since the public way or alley that is the subject of the resolution is located within one-quarter mile of a state trunk highway or connecting highway.

Sincerely,

Nikki Elsen, WCMC  
City Clerk

Enclosures



# CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-7510  
cityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org  
www.cityoflacrosse.org

December 21, 2023

Elmer Blank  
Inez Blank  
1101 Maple St  
La Crosse WI 54601

Re: Resolution approving partial alley vacation between Maple Street and Weston Street.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of the resolution and map of the proposed alley vacation that will be presented to Council in the January 2024 cycle of meetings.

Schedule of meetings:

Board of Public Works	January 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m.
City Plan Commission	January 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Finance & Personnel Committee	January 4, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Common Council	January 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

*All meetings are in the Council Chambers of City Hall.*

Per ordinance, the administrative fee for a vacation that is more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an alley within a block is \$1,000 (increasing to \$1,500 effective 1/1/2024). Enclosed is an invoice for the administrative fee in connection with the alley vacation that you requested per letter dated August 17, 2023. Please prepare a check payable to the City of La Crosse and mail it to the City Clerk's Office.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me. Regards,

Regards,

Nikki M. Elsen, WCMC  
City Clerk

Enclosure

**Agenda Item 23-1240 (Lewis Kuhlman)**

Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Maple Street and Weston Street.

**General Location**

Aldermanic District 9, about two blocks east of the intersection of South Ave. and West Ave as depicted in Map 23-1240. Adjacent land uses include residential and industrial.

**Background Information**

The alley was platted as part of the Shooting Parks Addition and not fully developed. One (of just two) adjacent landowner was interested in vacating the alley. The letter (in Legislative File 23-0134) does not state an intention for the vacation. In a phone call, the interested party just said it was right next to their garage and they want it to be part of their property. The other landowner does not need to approve but is notified of the request. The County would decide how to divide the ~20-foot-wide vacated alley between properties. The vacation would not include the easement for the VIP Trail, which would remain in the public right of way. The resolution states that the vacation is in the public interest but does state what that interest is. There is no attached council report with further information.

The interested party owns an R1-zoned, double-frontage parcel to the east of the alley. It appears additions have encroached within the current standard minimum side yard and rear yard setbacks. They also own two vacant adjacent parcels to the east, for a combined total of 16,646 ft<sup>2</sup>—more than double the minimum residential lot size.

Both adjacent landowners have built up to their current property line. If the vacation were approved, the adjacent landowners would have to meet the 6' side yard setbacks, leaving about 6' developable or potentially 3 ft. each.

Alleys are intended to provide access to the back and side of properties, including access to driveways, and garbage pickup. Alleys reduce the need for individual driveways, which have the potential to create conflicts for pedestrians, bicycles, and automobiles, as well as reduce on-street parking space.

Weston St. and Maple St. both have dead ends at this alley and no cul-de-sacs for service vehicle to turn around. Maple St. is over 250 ft. from 11<sup>th</sup> Place and Weston St. is over 350 ft. from the next nearest alley.

**Recommendation of Other Boards and Commissions**

The Board of Public Works approved the first step in the approval process on 9/5/23. Legislative file 23-1034 only included a letter from the adjacent landowners of 1101 Maple St., stating they are interested in vacating the alley. The video of the discussion didn't address the neighbor's motives for the vacation. It was unknown at the time whether waste haulers used the alley. CM Trost suggested the BPAC review the vacation due to the proximity to the VIP Trail. CM Schwarz recommended defining what problem we're trying to solve by vacating the alley.

**Consistency with Adopted Comprehensive Plan**

Alleys are not addressed in the comprehensive plan.

The approved 2015 Transportation Vision recommends retaining and restoring the street network (including alleys) to create an attractive and urban context. Seemingly slight vacations can become a “death by a thousand cuts.” It recommends protecting all streets and alleys.

The approved 2013 Joint PPH Neighborhood-Gundersen Campus Master Plan includes the extension of Benora Lee Ct to South Ave. Several route alternatives are proposed including Weston Ave. If Weston were selected, it would likely include improvements beyond its current gravel state.

### **Staff Recommendation**

**Denial** – There isn’t much justification for why this is necessary. The interested party has plenty of land to the east, and the house’s proximity to the alley is not through the fault of the City, but through the additions to the home. Vacating a public right of way has the potential to eliminate any future, long-term use of land the City once controlled and should be carefully considered.

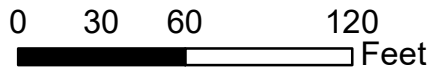
### **Routing J&A 1.2.24**

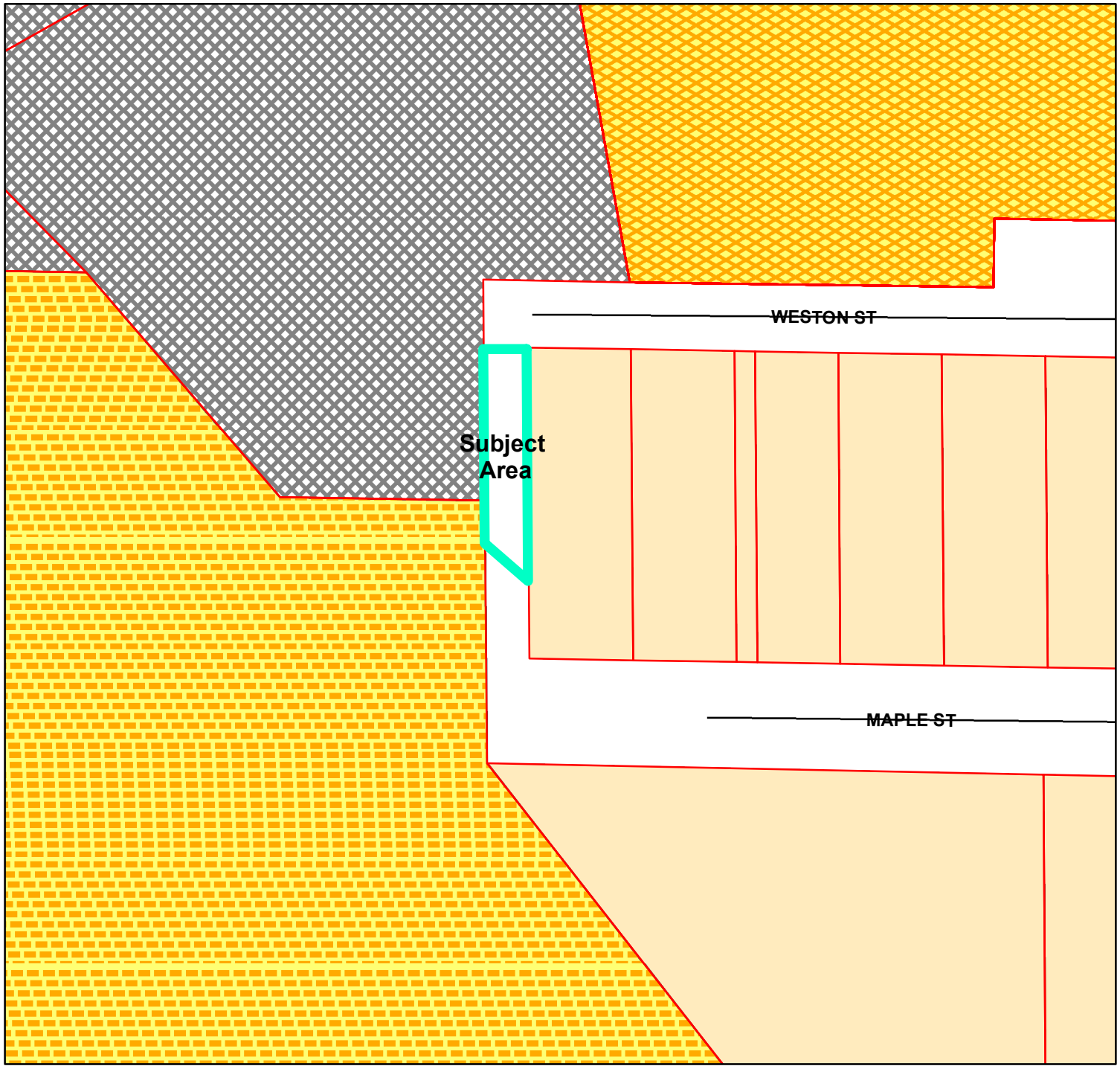


## BASIC ZONING DISTRICTS

	R1 - SINGLE FAMILY
	R2 - RESIDENCE
	WR - WASHBURN RES
	R3 - SPECIAL RESIDENCE
	R4 - LOW DENSITY MULTI
	R5 - MULTIPLE DWELLING
	R6 - SPECIAL MULTIPLE
	PD- PLANNED DEVELOP
	TND - TRAD NEIGH DEV.
	C1 - LOCAL BUSINESS
	C2 - COMMERCIAL
	C3 - COMMUNITY BUSINESS
	M1 - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
	M2 - HEAVY INDUSTRIAL
	PS - PUBLIC & SEMI-PUBLIC
	PL - PARKING LOT
	UT - PUBLIC UTILITY
	CON - CONSERVANCY
	FW - FLOODWAY
	A1 - AGRICULTURAL
	EA - EXCLUSIVE AG
	City Limits
	SUBJECT PROPERTY

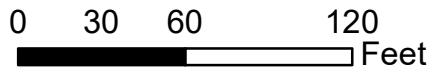






## BASIC ZONING DISTRICTS

- R1 - SINGLE FAMILY
- R2 - RESIDENCE
- WR - WASHBURN RES
- R3 - SPECIAL RESIDENCE
- R4 - LOW DENSITY MULTI
- R5 - MULTIPLE DWELLING
- R6 - SPECIAL MULTIPLE
- PD- PLANNED DEVELOP
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# CITY OF LA CROSSE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

400 LA CROSSE ST  
LA CROSSE WI 54601-3396

MITCH REYNOLDS, President  
REBECCA SCHWARZ, Council Member  
TAMRA DICKINSON, Council Member  
MATTHEW GALLAGER, City Engineer  
ANDREA TRANE, Director Planning & Development  
NIKKI M. ELSSEN, City Clerk - Secretary

January 2, 2024

Honorable Mayor and  
Common Council Members

Re: 23-1240 Resolution approving a partial vacation of the alley located between Maple Street and Weston Street.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Board of Public Works considered the above matter at their meeting on January 2, 2024, and recommends the same be adopted.

Sincerely,

Mitch Reynolds  
President

/nme





# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1390

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Review

**Agenda Number:**



# Human Resources

400 La Crosse St., La Crosse, WI 54601 • Tel: (608) 789-7595 • Fax: (608) 789-7598  
www.cityoflacrosse.org HR@cityoflacrosse.org

## Employee Notice: Changes to the Employee Handbook for 2024

The following is a summary of the changes within the Employee Handbook Part I and Part II. For more details, please refer to the Employee Handbook. All changes are effective January 1, 2024.

### Employee Handbook I

#### Section 1: Introductory Period and Review Period

- a. Reduce the introductory period from two (2) years to one (1) year.

#### Section 2: Types of Employees (Part 1)

- a. Update introductory language from two (2) years to one (1) year.
- b. Update job title from Transit Manager to Director of Transit following the Pay and Class Study in 2022.

#### Section 5: Pay and Compensation

- a. Retitle Mechanic I/Mechanic II ASE Certification Premium to ASE Certification Premium & add the job title of *Inventory/Parts Technician* to eligible positions.
- b. Add a section for DNR Operator Certification Premium Pay\*

\*This expense will be absorbed within the current operating budget.

- c. Retitle On-Call/Pager Pay to On-Call Pay and add the job title of *Electrician – Streets* to positions who are eligible for this benefit.
- d. Add eight (8) Street department workers to the On-Call Pay section to provide consistent and reliable coverage for snow emergencies. \*

\*This expense will be absorbed within the current operating budget.

- e. Add one (1) Engineering Technician employee to the On-Call Pay section.

\*This expense will be absorbed within the current operating budget.

- f. Increase premium pay from \$.35 per hour to \$.50 per hour.

Rebecca A. Franzen, SHRM-CP  
Director of Human Resources

Audra M. Bloom  
Employee Benefits Specialist

Angela R. Leisso  
Sr. Human Resources Generalist

Gwendolyn A. Benish  
Human Resources Generalist

Angela M. Berget  
Human Resources Assistant

- g. Add a section for *Fire Administration Work in Battalion Chief Vacancies*.
  - 1. For any shift vacancy at the Battalion Chief position that creates a traditional shift overtime working opportunity, a qualified Chief Officer (exception of the Fire Chief) can work hours in those positions and be compensated at an hourly rate in correspondence to the employee 112-hour workweek grade and step.

## **Section 6: Benefits**

- a. Remove the requirement to provide verification of the date of death, date of funeral, and the relationship of the deceased (i.e., obituary, funeral pamphlet). We will retain the right to request verification from any employee under discipline for attendance issues.
- b. Adding language to allow the use of bereavement leave in the event of a miscarriage or stillborn birth. This applies to the birthing parent and spouse or domestic partner of the birthing parent.
- c. Update the Family Care Days section of the Sick Leave policy to allow employees to use the time to care for priority family members (i.e., employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster, or stepchild)).
- d. Update the Family Care Day section of the Sick Leave policy to allow employees to use the time in the event of an unexpected closure of school (snow day, etc.) or daycare facility. (Applies to Battalion Chief and Airport Operations Coordinators as well)
- e. Add Regular Part-Time employees to the Sick Leave Pay-Off at Retirement or Death policy.
- f. Under the Family Care Days section, at the request of the Airport Director, removed the following language "...by the Airport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor. Such request/coverage for the additional eight (8) hours would be limited to weekday hours occurring between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m." due to the limiting nature of the language.
- g. Removed language in the Catastrophic Leave policy referencing Airport Operations Coordinators hired prior to June 1, 2014 – we no longer having any employees hired as of this date, so the policy is no longer relevant.
- h. Update the vacation policy to state "an employee severing their employment with the City may not use accumulated vacation to extend their separation date beyond the last day worked."



# Human Resources

400 La Crosse St., La Crosse, WI 54601 • Tel: (608) 789-7595 • Fax: (608) 789-7598  
www.cityoflacrosse.org HR@cityoflacrosse.org

## Employee Handbook II

### Classification and Compensation Plan

- a. Section 3. Classification of New Positions – added language that all requests for new positions need to be submitted by July 1 for consideration in the next operating budget. Added language that would allow the Director of Human Resources to bring the Common Council recommendations for new positions outside of the operating budget cycle based on department need (i.e., vacancies or reorganizations).
  
- b. Section 7. Request for Reclassifications – removed the requirement to submit between May 1 and May 15 of each calendar year.

**In both Employee Handbook I and Employee Handbook II, minor grammatical and formatting corrections were made.**

**Rebecca A. Franzen, SHRM-CP**  
Director of Human Resources

**Audra M. Bloom**  
Employee Benefits Specialist

**Angela R. Leisso**  
Sr. Human Resources Generalist

**Gwendolyn A. Benish**  
Human Resources Generalist

**Angela M. Berget**  
Human Resources Assistant

**CITY OF LA CROSSE**  
**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**  
**Procedures AND BENEFITS**  
**JANUARY 01, 2024**

Part One



Effective January 1, 2014

Amended 2/14; 01/15; 01/16; 01/17; 01/18; 01/2019; 01/2020; 01/2022; 01/2023; 01/2024



## **INTRODUCTION**

It is the intent of the Common Council of the City of La Crosse to establish a uniform City of La Crosse Employee Handbook, herein referred to as “Handbook”. The Handbook informs employees about what the employer may generally expect from the employees so they may fulfill their responsibilities in serving the public. It is not, nor is it intended to be a contract of employment, a promise of employment, or a guarantee of any rights or benefits, for any or all of City of La Crosse employees.

Individual departments may choose to adopt specific work rules and procedures in addition to the policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook. Employees are expected to follow the policies in the Handbook as well as any Departmental policies. This Handbook will control to the extent the Handbook is in conflict with Departmental policy.

The Handbook summarizes City of La Crosse benefits, procedures, and policies. The Handbook is subject to any controlling ordinance, resolution, State or Federal statute, code or regulation, or any other legally controlling authority. Should any part of the handbook become obsolete or invalid, the balance of the document will remain in effect.

The Handbook applies to all City of La Crosse employees excluding ATU Local #519, LPPNSA, LPPSA, IAFF Local #127 – Fire Department. In addition, contract employees and temporary / limited term employees are excluded.

The City reserves the right to unilaterally change, supplement or rescind the Handbook, with or without notice, as deemed necessary.

It is your responsibility to read and become familiar with this handbook and to follow the policies and procedures contained within. If you have any questions regarding the contents of the handbook, or on matters not covered, please call Human Resources for guidance.



## **Revisions and Approval Process**

As the needs of the City and its employees change, and to comply with changing laws on the Federal, State and Local level, the City may find it necessary to review and update the Handbook. To provide an efficient, streamlined process for revisions, the Common Council authorizes the Director of Human Resources or their designee to modify the Handbook in the best interest of the City, and to comply with legislative mandates. Modifications with a negative financial impact require Common Council approval.

Per Resolution 2011-11-029, Common Council has authorized the Director of Human Resources or their designee to formulate or amend existing policies, while ensuring that the policies comply with State and Federal law.

The Director of Human Resources or their designee will report to the Finance and Personnel Committee all modifications enacted under his/her authority. In addition, the entire Handbook will be presented to the Finance and Personnel Committee on an annual basis for their review.

Employees that seek changes to the Handbook should contact the Human Resources Department. A draft copy of the proposed or revised section should be provided to Human Resources for review and analysis of the impact to the budget, internal operations/controls, safety and legal issues.

R 01/2018; 01/2022

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## **SECTION 1: Introductory Period and Review Period**

### **Non-City Executives:**

1. Newly hired City employees, or those employees who transfer from a collective bargaining agreement to a position covered under the Employee Handbook, are subject to a one (1) year introductory period, consisting of one (1) year of continuous employment with the City, excluding temporary/limited term employment. For elected officials, employees that serve at the pleasure of an elected official, and employees in a federally funded grant position there is no defined introductory period.
2. Employees who transfer through the recruitment process to another City position covered under the Employee Handbook are subject to a six (6) month review period for the new position, independent of the one (1) year introductory period. The transferred employee surrenders their rights regarding their former position.

Employees who fail to successfully complete their introductory period or review period will be dismissed. In lieu of dismissal, the City reserves the right to extend an employee's introductory period or review period. The Department Head and Director of Human Resources or their designee shall make this determination.

### **City Executives:**

City Executives are not defined to an introductory period. With the exception of the Fire Chief and Chief of Police, per City ordinance, appointments of City Executives are subject to confirmation by the Common Council and are to hold office for an indeterminate term subject to removal for cause by vote of the Common Council. Fire Chief and Chief of Police are subject to Police and Fire Commission rules and regulations, §62.13.

### **Police and Fire:**

Employees in the Police and Fire Department shall be subject to an introductory period as contained in the rules and regulations of the Police and Fire Commission. They shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief of Police or Fire Chief, as applicable, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Police and Fire Commission governing promotions and appointments.

## SECTION 2: Types of Employees

### Employment Categories

- A. **At-Will Employees:** The employment relationship of at-will employees may be terminated at any time, for any reason, with or without cause and with or without notice, at the option of the City or the employee, and wages due shall only include time worked up to and including the day and hours of termination. At-will employment is not for any definite period or succession of periods. At-will employees are:
- i. Employees serving their one (1) year introductory period or extended introductory period.
  - ii. Employees that serve at the pleasure of the Municipal Court Judge. These positions include all Municipal Court employees.
  - iii. Employees in positions funded by federal grants. These positions are at-will for the purpose of the grant provisions. Therefore, the employment of the at-will employee in grant funded positions may be impacted should the grant provisions change affecting the funding or qualifications/compliance required of the grant funded position. Currently, these positions are Planning positions funded by Community Development Block Grant.
- B. **Contract Employees:** Employees who are hired on a contract basis. Provisions of the employee handbook do not apply to contract employees.
- C. **For Cause Employees:** Those employees who have successfully completed their introductory period and retained on the basis of merit and may not be removed except for cause. “Elected Officials”, “At Will Employees” and “Contract Employees” are not “For Cause Employees”. In addition, employees in grant funded position are considered “For Cause Employees” (as defined in this paragraph) for performance issues.
- D. **Elected Officials:** Those employees elected by the voters and include the Mayor and Municipal Court Judge. Elected Officials shall receive the salary and benefits *per ordinance*.
- E. **City Executives:** Those for cause employees in the positions of Director of La Crosse Regional Airport, City Attorney, Director of Engineering & Public Works, Director of Finance, Fire Chief, Director of Information Technology, Director of Parks, Recreation, Forestry, Facilities and Grounds, Director of Planning, Development and Assessment, Chief of Police, Director of Human Resources, City Clerk and Director of Transit. City Executives shall receive the salary and benefits described herein.

### **Wisconsin Retirement System Classification:**

- A. General Employees** – Employees that the Wisconsin Retirement System classifies as such. This definition excludes any employee that is classified as “protective” by the Wisconsin Retirement System.
- B. Fire Protective Employees** – Employees that perform fire related activities and are classified as protective by the Wisconsin Retirement System. For the purposes of this resolution this includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief(s), Battalion Chief, and Division Chief of Training.
- C. Police Protective Employees** - Employees that perform police related activities and are classified as protective by the Wisconsin Retirement System. For the purposes of this resolution, it includes Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police and Police Captains.
- D. Elected Officials** – Employees elected by the voters and include Mayor and Municipal Court Judge.

### **Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Classification**

- A. Exempt:** Salaried positions not eligible for overtime, as defined in the FLSA. Examples include Executive, supervisory and certain professional positions.
- B. Non-Exempt:** Employees eligible for overtime as defined in the FLSA. Employees are paid on an hourly basis.

### **Benefit Eligibility:**

- A. Regular Full-Time employees:** Employees working full time in positions that are budgeted for 37.5/40 hours per week (defined as full time). Eligible for benefits contained herein.
- B. Regular Part-Time Employees:** Employees working a minimum of 20 hours per week in positions budgeted for less than full time, but a minimum of 20 hours per week are eligible for benefits contained herein. Accrued leave benefits will be pro-rated based on part-time status. For eligibility for Medical Benefit Plan please see Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document available from Human Resources.
- C. Part-time employees:** Employees working in positions budgeted for less than 20 hours per week are not eligible for City benefits as listed under Section 6, with the following exceptions: *May* be eligible for WRS, Life, and ICI based on Employee Trust Fund (ETF) eligibility.

## **SECTION 3: Time Away from Work**

### **Blood Drives**

Regular full time and regular part-time employees may participate in blood drives conducted at City Hall or at the County Buildings, during working hours, provided that it does not adversely affect departmental operations, result in overtime and/or cause staffing shortages. All requests to participate in a blood drive must be approved by the respective supervisor in advance. Participating employees shall suffer no loss of pay.

### **Family and Medical Leave**

The City of La Crosse has established a Family and Medical Leave Act policy pursuant to Federal and State Family and Medical Leave Act. See Employee Handbook – Policies.

### **Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies**

Generally, employees are expected to report to work at their regularly scheduled time regardless of weather conditions. However, out of concern for the safety of our employees, if you believe conditions are such you cannot make it to and from work safely, you will have the option of using available leave (i.e., personal business, vacation, compensatory time, or floating holiday). Unpaid leave may not be taken until such time all eligible paid leave banks have been exhausted.

Please contact your supervisor as soon as you can prior to your shift to see what accommodations can be made. Supervisors will be as flexible as possible while keeping the critical functions of the City operational.

To ensure the safety and security of the public and the continued operation of City services, employees required for public safety and other critical services are excluded from this policy.

### **Jury Duty and Court Appearances**

In the event an employee is selected to serve on a jury during regular work hours, all jury fees received for the jury duty shall be paid back to the City, and the employee shall suffer no loss in wages. The employee shall complete a Leave Request form. All jury fees received for jury duty (excluding mileage reimbursement) during working hours must be submitted to the Human Resources Department (payable to City Treasurer), along with a copy of the receipt. Jurors, when not assigned to cases, must report to their regular work for the remainder of the day. Jury duty shall be noted on the payroll records.

In the event an employee is subpoenaed to testify in court regarding *work-related* incident, provided such subpoena has been authorized by the City Executive and the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the subpoenaed employee shall suffer no loss of pay. Any fees received for the court appearance (minus mileage reimbursement) shall be paid to the Human Resources Department (payable to City Treasurer).

Should an employee be subpoenaed to testify in a non-work-related case, they will be excused from work however will be required to use accrued unused leave for the lost time.

### **Military Leave**

Employees who are duly enrolled members of the National Guard, State Guard or any other organized reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall be allowed a military leave of absence to attend scheduled military training as has been ordered, not to exceed fifteen (15) days for 37.5/40 hour employees, six (6) shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators, and eight (8) shift days for Fire platoon employees. Such time shall be in the calendar year in which so ordered. A copy of orders requiring attendance at military training sites shall accompany all requests for a military leave of absence. Military leave shall be in addition to any other authorized leaves.

Employees, who are authorized military leave as outlined above, shall suffer no loss of straight time pay for such leave. Upon returning to City duty, the City will provide an offset to the employee taking military leave upon receipt of their military pay stub. The City shall pay the difference between the employee's military base pay, excluding quarters, rations, and travel allowances, and the employee's regular City straight time rate of pay if the military pay is less than City pay.



To receive the offset, the employee must provide their military pay stub to Human Resources within thirty (30) days from the date in which the employee returns to City employment. The compensation offset is provided for annual military training, *not weekend drills*.

The City will comply with all state and national laws relating to employees in reserve or active military service, including the Federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

### **Professional Development**

City Executives shall be provided two (2) professional development days to attend training which is beneficial to their professional growth. Areas of professional growth are at the discretion of the City Executive. There shall be no loss of earnings while attending such training, however Mayor approval for attendance is required. The actual cost of the training may be paid by the City, at the discretion of the Mayor. All other costs associated with the professional development training are at the City Executives expense. Attendance at training to maintain a professional license for the City Executives occupation shall not be considered as Professional Development days.

### **Reduction in Workforce**

Reductions in the workforce may occur through layoffs or furloughs, in addition to attrition or position elimination or modification. The City will determine where the reduction in workforce will occur, including Department, number of employees and persons impacted by the reduction in workforce. In the event of a reduction in workforce, affected employees will be laid off or furloughed based on impact on City operations, skills, abilities, qualifications, experience in a particular position, length of service and overall best interest of the City. Length of service shall not be the deciding factor when proceeding with a reduction in workforce, however it will be considered. The City may choose to seek volunteers for the reduction in workforce.

### **Unpaid Leave of Absence**

The supervisor may, only with the approval of the Director of Human Resources or their designee, grant an employee a leave of absence without pay for good reason when the employee's service can be spared without detriment to the best interest of the City. Such unpaid leave shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days per year, unless unusual circumstances are evident and such additional leave is approved by the City. It is understood that leaves of unpaid absences under this clause will not be granted where employees have existing appropriate paid leave balances. A leave of absence (non-medical) will also not be granted when the employee does not, at the time of the leave request and during the leave, possess all required qualifications, certifications, and licensures for the employee's position, or for the request of unpaid leave for the pursuit of education or other employment. Instead, the employee's employment will be terminated, and the employee may seek rehire with the City in a different capacity. The use of unpaid leave in conjunction with leaves of absences for family and medical reasons will be administered in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws. Leave taken without pay may result in a pro-rated vacation accrual for the following year. It is understood that pro-ration shall be based on "total hours" paid in the previous calendar year.

During the 30 day leave of absence employees who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan will receive the same medical benefit plan benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as active employees. If additional unpaid leave is approved which extends beyond the approved initial 30-day calendar leave of absence, employees may lose eligibility for the medical benefit plan as an active employee if they do not meet the qualifications as defined in Section 6, Medical Benefit Plan, paragraph P.

Employees must submit a written request for an unpaid leave of absence as soon as the need for leave is apparent. The employee must provide sufficient information for the supervisor and Director of Human Resources or their designee to consider including the anticipated duration of the leave and the reason for the leave.

### **Voting/Election Official Leave Law**

**Voting** Any employee who is entitled to vote at an election is entitled to be absent from work while the polls are open for a period not to exceed 3 successive hours to vote. The employee must provide notice to his/her Department Head before Election Day of the intended absence. Time absent requires use of accrued leave. The Department Head will designate the time of day for the absence.

**Election Official Using Accrued Leave** Employees who are appointed as an election official, under s. 7.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, are entitled a leave of absence from work to attend to such duties. An employee who serves as an

election official shall provide his or her Department Head with at least 7 days' notice of request for a leave. Time absent requires the use of accrued leave, however, shall not result in a loss of fringe benefits.

**Election Official Not Using Accrued Leave** City employees residing in La Crosse County, may submit a written request for a paid leave of absence to serve as an election official under s. 7.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Paid time will include hours worked on Election Day and for any training necessary to perform the duties of an election official. On Election Day, employees will be paid their regular rate of pay for the amount of hours that equals their normal workday (7.5 or 8 hours). Any hours beyond the normal workday hours, and any training hours, will be paid by the City Clerk at the rate of the election official position. Employees must submit a written request for leave using the City of La Crosse Leave Request form, which must be approved by their supervisor, department head and Director of Human Resources. Approval for this paid time is subject to departmental needs and must not adversely affect department operations.

### **Work Breaks**

Employees working full time may receive two (2) paid breaks, not to exceed 15 minutes each. Work breaks are a privilege not a right. Paid work breaks may be interrupted, cancelled or rescheduled consistent with the needs to accomplish assigned work tasks or staffing needs. In no case shall paid breaks be used to leave work early, report in late or extend unpaid lunch breaks, or for personal gain such as appointments, travel, errands, etc.

### **Workers Compensation**

Worker's Compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes. It is agreed that all statutory provisions in connection with the Worker's Compensation Law shall be incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein.

Airport Operations Coordinators: Workers' compensation benefits shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes, however injuries/illnesses resulting from active Aircraft Fire Suppression duties, Aircraft Fire Suppression training activities, and emergency medical response provided in the scope of their employment may receive supplemental salary as outlined below for Protective employees. To receive the supplemental pay all injuries must be reported immediately/next business day following the date of injury.

Protective employees: It is expected that members of the Police and Fire Department shall exercise sound safety practices in the performance of their duties. Members of the Police or Fire Department who contract a disease or are injured in the performance of their duties while protecting the interests of the general public, may receive supplemental salary as outlined below.

A determination shall be made as to whether or not such injury and/or illness is within the scope of the preceding paragraph and thus entitle the employee to full salary and shall so state on the report covered in procedure in case of injury on the job. Any determination which would result in full pay by virtue of this provision because of illness or injury, shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Human Resources or their designee. In any event, no benefits shall be paid until the City's workers compensation claims administrator determines liability and commences workers compensation payment.

Such payments shall be made only for so long as the claims administrator shall make workers compensation payments. In any event, such full salary pay shall only cover the healing period of temporary total disability and the contribution of the City of La Crosse to such full salary pay shall be the difference between the amount paid by the workers compensation claims administrator and the employee's regular salary at the time of the injury or illness.

In cases involving third party liability, Section 102.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes shall apply.

For workers compensation medical appointments please refer to the Workers Compensation – Appointment Reimbursement policy.

## **SECTION 4: Work Week / Pay Week**

### **Work Week**

The work week for regular full-time employees is generally established as forty (40) hours per week, except for non-exempt positions at City Hall, which are generally thirty-seven and one-half (37 ½) hours per week. The work week is established by the Common Council and may be modified from time to time. For payroll purposes the work week is established as Friday through the following Thursday.

For Airport Operations Coordinators, the work week shall consist of 24.5-hour days, on a rotational basis of 2 – 3 days per week.

Non-exempt employees must not report in more than seven (7) minutes before the start of their shift or stay more than seven (7) minutes at the end of their shift, unless such time has been previously authorized by a supervisor.

### **Payroll and Pay Periods**

Employees shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis. Payment for hours worked shall be received the week following completion of the two-week work pay period. Direct deposit of paychecks is a mandatory condition of employment. Errors found in an employee's paycheck are to be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Department as soon as possible.

Each employee is required to document working hours via the timekeeping system for their department. Non-exempt employees are to report accurately the actual hours worked for each day. Each employee will be held accountable for failing to accurately record work time. The employee shall record his/her time only.

## **SECTION 5: Pay and Compensation**

### **Animal Control Training Premium**

Effective January 1, 2023, Community Service Officers will be offered the opportunity to be trained in the general animal control duties. This training will be provided in-house by a certified Humane Officer. Upon successful completion of the training, the employee will receive an hourly premium of \$.50 per hour. The premium will be applicable to all hours paid. Upon completion of this training, the employee may be used to supplement animal control duties at the agency's discretion. This premium will be audited on an annual basis and employees will be required to have refresher training each year.

### **Clothing Allowance – Personal Items**

- A.** A uniform allowance is provided for limited positions. In each case, fifty percent (50%) of such allowance is payable on the first payday in February of each year, and the second such installment shall be paid on the first payday in August of each year. The employee must be in active status at the time of the installments.

Community Service Officers shall receive three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per year for pre-approved uniforms.

Police Department: Police Captains, Assistant Chief of Police and Chief of Police shall receive five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$575.00) per year.

Fire Department: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chiefs shall receive four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$425.00) per year.

**B.** Damage to Eyeglasses and Personal Items – Police Protective

Eyeglasses, damaged or lost, involving a job-related incident, shall be repaired, or replaced by the City for an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Appropriate personal items damaged or lost, involving a job-related incident, maybe repaired, or replaced by the City for an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) prorated, provided proof of loss is furnished, and there is a police report substantiating the incident. If at any time the city receives restitution through the courts or other sources which exceeds the above stated amounts, the officer shall additionally receive the difference between the applicable above stated amount and the amount actually received by the City.

All requests for reimbursement under this section, including purchase of new equipment and damage to eyeglasses or personal property, shall be submitted for approval to the Director of Human Resources or their designee, and such approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

### **Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Trainer**

Should the City determine a need to train employees for a CDL, the City may assign an employee to provide CDL training to employees for the purpose of obtaining a CDL. An assigned non-exempt employee shall receive \$2.50 per hour above his/her regular wage for all hours assigned as CDL Trainer. Employee assigned as CDL Trainer must hold a valid CDL license, including applicable endorsements. Training will generally occur during the work day, therefore only employees working a day shift are eligible for consideration.

### **Classification and Compensation Guidelines**

The City has a defined Classification and Compensation Plan approved by Common Council which provides guidelines for the classification and compensation of regular full time and regular part-time employees covered in the Employee Handbook.

### **Compensatory Time:**

Compensatory time is available to non-exempt employees (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators). Employees who work over 40 hours in a workweek may be eligible for compensatory time or overtime, computed at time and one-half their normal rate of pay. For employees on a 37 ½ hour work week or less, time worked over their normal schedule (up to 40 hours worked in the work week), will be paid as straight pay. Compensatory time is not available for any hours worked less than 40 hours in the workweek. Generally, employees will have the option of choosing either compensatory time or overtime for hours worked over 40 in a work week, unless specifically deemed otherwise, in advance, by the Department supervisor.

Compensatory time taken while working an out-of-class assignment shall be paid at the employee's regular classification rate. Compensatory time off must be requested in advance to the respective supervisor.

Compensatory time balance may not exceed 40 hours per year. Any accumulated compensatory time over 24 hours will be paid out in the last full pay period in December. At year end, the first 24 hours of accumulated compensatory time will be carried over into the next calendar year.

### **Evidence Room:**

Community Service Officer(s) assigned to work in the Police Evidence room shall receive \$2.00 per hour premium pay for all hours actually worked in the assignment. Such assignment is at the sole discretion of Police management.

### **ASE Certification Premium**

Effective February 1, 2017: Mechanic I's and Mechanic II's have the option to obtain ASE certifications, on a voluntary basis. Effective January 1, 2024, the Inventory/Parts Technician will have the option to obtain ASE certifications, on a voluntary basis. The City will pay for the initial registration fee limited to two (2) registrations per year per employee. Successive attempts to pass an ASE certification will be at the employee's cost for registration.

Upon successful receipt of an ASE certification the mechanic is to provide proof to management, The premium pay of ten cents (\$.10) per hour will be effective the next pay period following receipt. Premiums are limited to a maximum of eight (8) ASE certifications per employee. Once obtained the recertification fee would be paid by the City. All other provisions would be the responsibility of the employee (time off, travel, exam fee, etc.).

The premium is applicable to all hours paid, including holidays, vacation, sick leave, etc.

Loss of certification or failure to recertify shall result in the removal of the premium as applicable per certification.

### **DNR Operator Certification Premium**

Effective January 1, 2024, employees who are actively employed by either the Wastewater or Water utility will have the option to obtain their operator certification through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on a voluntary basis. The City will pay for the initial registration fee limited to two (2) registrations per year per employee. Successive attempts to pass an DNR operator certification will be at the employee's cost for registration.

Upon successful receipt of the operator certification the operator is to provide proof to management, The premium pay of fifty cents (\$.50) per hour will be effective the next pay period following receipt.

Upon successful completion of the advanced operator certification, the operator is to provide proof to management. The premium pay of fifty cents (. \$50) per hour will be effective the next pay period following receipt.

Premiums are limited to a maximum of two (2) certifications per employee. Once obtained the recertification fee would be paid by the city. All other provisions would be the responsibility of the employee (time off, travel, exam fee, etc.).

The premium is applicable to all hours paid, including holidays, vacation, sick leave, etc. Loss of certification or failure to recertify shall result in the removal of the premium as applicable per certification.

### **Oktoberfest Premium – Community Service Officers (CSO)**

Community Service Officers shall receive \$5.00 per hour premium pay for any straight time hours worked for the Torchlight Parade, Maple Leaf Parade and any hours worked between 7:00 pm and 3:00 am the Friday and Saturday of Oktoberfest.

### **On-Call Pay**

Non-exempt employees who are scheduled by the City to be on call must remain available for duty during non-scheduled working hours. The scheduled employee shall be paid an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each week of scheduled on-call duty. This is limited to one employee per week in Water Department, Parking Utility (CSO - Parking Utility, Maintenance Worker - Parking, Custodian – Parking Utility), Electrician – Streets, and Maintenance Technician - Airport; and two (2) employees within Sanitary Sewer Utility.

Eight (8) employees within the Street department will be eligible for on-call pay from December 1<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> each calendar year to provide consistent and reliable coverage for snow emergencies. The eight (8) on-call employees will work on a rotation throughout the designated months as assigned by the Superintendent of Streets or their designee.

One (1) Engineering Technician will be eligible for the on-call pay in the event they are providing coverage when the Public Works Locator & Code Enforcement Technician is on vacation or experiences an unexpected leave of absence.

## **On-The-Spot Rewards Program**

### Purpose

Employees deserve to be recognized for their extra efforts. Department heads can use this On-The-Spot rewards program as one way to recognize their employee's excellent performance and valuable contributions in a real-time way. By providing a Spot Bonus, managers have the opportunity to provide a meaningful "thank you" and connect the reward to the contribution and/or performance being recognized.

In addition, recognition may be given across departments with collaboration between department heads and/or managers.

### Award

The On-The-Spot Reward is a monetary reward of up to \$500 provided in the form of a Visa gift card.

### Eligibility

- This bonus is available to all full- and part-time employees who have completed at least six (6) months of continuous employment with the City of La Crosse.
- Employee must be successful in meeting all performance expectations and attendance standards.
- Employee must not be on a performance improvement plan, or have had any disciplinary action (including a verbal and/or written warning) in the six (6) months prior to nomination.
- Employees must be actively employed at the time of payout.

### Award Criteria

The On-The-Spot Rewards Program is meant to reward individuals who have displayed extra effort or who have gone above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities. The program recognizes employees "in the moment" on a one-time basis for exemplary action.

To illustrate ways in which an On-The-Spot reward can be utilized, below are some examples of an employee action that may result in a Spot Bonus:

- Participating in and completing a large work assignment that added considerable effort on top of their day-to-day work.
- Improving a process which created department efficiency and overall budget savings.
- Utilizing creative problem-solving to resolve a particularly complicated and ongoing issue.
- Providing exceptional customer service.

Under Internal Revenue Service regulations, these spot bonuses are considered taxable income and will be processed through the payroll system at a grossed-up amount to net the dollar amount of the gift card. The payroll system is only used to calculate and affix taxes to the employee's W-2 record. The gift card in its net denomination is the award payout.

## **Out-of-Class Assignments**

Management shall determine the direction of the work force. Out-of-class assignment shall be based on skill set, availability, and staffing. Should a non-exempt employee be assigned by management to perform the essential functions of a non-exempt position in a higher grade, the employee may be eligible for out-of-class pay. Out-of-class pay will only be applicable for actual hours worked, paid in fifteen-minute increments.

Non-exempt employees assigned to work in a non-exempt position of a higher-grade classification shall receive an hourly premium of fifty cents (\$.50) per grade difference. (e.g., Non-exempt employee in pay grade 3 is assigned by management to work in a position classified as pay grade 6. Employee would receive an hourly premium of \$1.50, representing a 3-grade difference, for all hours actually worked in the out-of-class assignment.)

One dollar (\$1.00) per hour premium shall also be provided when a non-exempt employee is assigned by management to perform limited supervisory duties on a temporary basis due to the absence of the exempt supervisory personnel. The premium would be for actual hours worked in the temporary assignment. In general, this will occur in very limited circumstances.

### **Overtime**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is recognized as a guide in determining payment of overtime. Therefore, executive, administrative, supervisory and professional employees as designated in the FLSA shall be exempt from payment of overtime. All other employees who do not qualify for the above exemption (non-exempt) shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for services rendered and hours *actually worked* over 40 hours per week. For purposes of this paragraph, vacation and holidays shall count as hours worked. All other forms of leave are not considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

Hours worked for calculating overtime for Airport Operations Coordinators shall include all of the following: vacation, sick leave, personal business days, family care days and bereavement. However, holidays paid (not worked) do not count as hours worked for Airport Operations Coordinators.

Departments will establish an overtime procedure which best meets the needs of the department. Consideration may include skill set required, availability, staffing, response time for emergency callouts, etc. Management has the sole discretion in the assignment of overtime.

The City has the right to require overtime work as necessary to meet operational needs.

### **Police Command Staff Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) Investigative Representation**

In the event a member of the command staff (i.e. Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and/or Police Captain) is involved in a shooting or use of force incident where they are required to provide responses in an investigation into the incident that was a result of their direct or indirect actions, the member of the command staff may bring legal representation of their own selection to the incident investigation pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 164.02. The City will provide funds to cover out of pocket costs for this type of legal representation.

### **Premium Pay Hours**

Non-exempt employees shall receive premium pay for all hours *actually worked* which occur on/after 6:30 p.m. and prior to 5:59 a.m. Premium pay shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per hour, in addition to their regular hourly rate. This provision does not apply to Airport Operations Coordinators.

### **Property Appraiser Trainee**

Candidates hired as an Appraiser I, who have not yet obtained the required state certifications, shall be hired as Appraiser I Trainee, with a starting wage of five percent less than step one (1) of the established pay grade for Appraiser I. Such certifications must be obtained within six months of hire as a condition of employment. Upon attainment of the State of Wisconsin Property Appraiser certification and the Assessor I Certification the Trainee shall be moved to step one (1) of the established pay grade for Appraiser I.

### **Recalls/Shift Abutment/Work Continuation**

Employees recalled to work (non-scheduled) shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) hours pay at time and one-half to be taken as overtime or compensatory time. Assignment of recalls will be based on the same principle as the assignment for overtime.

Shift abutments occur when an employee is called in to work within two (2) hours preceding the start of their shift, and is continuous. Work continuation occurs when the employee continues work at the end of

their shift. In both instances time is paid at straight pay, however it may result in overtime if actual hours worked exceed 40 hours per week.

## **Tar Crew Pay**

Non-exempt employees assigned by management to work on the tar crew shall receive premium pay of \$.75 per hour for the full day. Assignment to the tar crew shall be made by management.

## **Translation Duties:**

Non-exempt employees performing translation duties shall receive premium pay of \$.50/hour for all hours actually worked in the assignment. Assignment would be made by management; however, it is understood that such assignment is voluntary.

## **Fire Administration Work in Battalion Chief Vacancies**

For any shift vacancy at the Battalion Chief position that creates a traditional shift overtime working opportunity, a qualified Chief Officer (exception of the Fire Chief) can work hours in that position and be compensated at an hourly rate in correspondence to the employees 112-hour workweek grade and step.

The vacancy to be filled must put a shift below the staffing minimum as determined by administration.

Qualifications to work in the Battalion Chief position for a Chief not currently serving as a Battalion Chief are subject to approval by the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. A “qualified Chief” must have the following experience and certifications to serve in the capacity of a Battalion Chief:

- ICS 300, ICS 400, and Fire Officer 2
- At least five (5) years as an operations line officer
- Documented Incident Command experience beyond a certificate as validated through training documentation and/or actual incident experience.
- Agreement of the Fire Chief that the individual is a qualified Chief to serve in the Battalion Chief role.

Should there be a vacancy, the on-duty Shift Commander shall follow the procedures in appropriate staffing software to fill the vacancy.

- The list of eligible Chiefs will be based on the “bucket” list with hours worked being reset at the start of each calendar year.
- The list of eligible Chiefs will have first right of refusal over Local 127 CBA employees.
- When the Shift Commander filling the vacancy determines all Chiefs have been notified of the vacancy and have replied in accordance with approved methods and the position remains unfilled, the standard practices and procedures will be used to fill the vacancy.



## SECTION 6: Benefits

### Bereavement Leave:

In the event of a death in the employee's "priority family", "immediate family" or "other relations", the employee will be allowed time off without loss of pay or sick leave credits. Additionally, in the event an employee and/or their spouse or domestic partner experience a miscarriage or stillborn birth, this will be covered under the priority family category for bereavement leave. No funeral leave will be allowed if the employee is on vacation, sick leave for illness or injury, lay-off, or any other paid or unpaid leave of absence. To receive bereavement leave, the employee must submit a Request for Leave form. Employees under discipline for attendance issues may be required to provide documentation with regard to their bereavement leave.

#### Priority Family

Priority family shall be defined as the employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster or stepchild). Parents in the preceding sentence shall be interpreted as parents/stepparents of the employee and/or their legal spouse. Bereavement leave for a priority family member shall be up to six (6) days and shall be used from the date of death through two (2) weeks from the date of death. An exception to the 2-week timeframe may be made through the Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to four (4) shift workdays off without loss of pay or sick leave credits for priority family.

#### Immediate Family

Immediate family shall be defined as the employee's, or the employee's legal spouse's grandparent, grandchild, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law. Bereavement leave for immediate family shall be used from the day of death up to and including the day after the funeral.

General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Fire Protective- Dayshift, and Police Protective employees shall be allowed up to three (3) days' time off without loss of pay or sick leave credits in the event of a death in the immediate family. (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees).

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to two (2) shift workdays off without loss of pay or sick leave credits for immediate family.

#### Other Relations

Other relations shall be defined as the employee's niece, nephew, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, and aunt or uncle of the employee. General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Fire Protective-Day Shift and Police Protective employees shall be allowed one (1) day off without loss of pay or sick leave credits (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees).

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to one (1) shift workday off without loss of pay or sick leave credits.

#### Death of a City Employee or Retiree.

Up to two (2) full time employees may take up to four (4) hours (each), without loss of pay from regular work hours, when serving as a pallbearer for the funeral of an active City employee or retiree. Pallbearer leave is applicable to normal scheduled hours only and may not result in overtime for non-exempt employees. Requests for pallbearer leave must be approved by the respective City Executive and Director of Human Resources or their designee.

In the unfortunate loss of a current or retired City employee the City will make every effort to allow time off to those employees requesting time off to attend to the employee/retiree's visitation or funeral. Unless the deceased is a family member (see definition of immediate family or other relations above) such time off shall be taken as follows:

- Leave time would be deducted from the employee's applicable accrued leave banks (i.e. vacation, or personal business day.).
- Exempt employees may request to flex their time, subject to the Flex Time Policy.

- In some cases, non-exempt employees may request to flex their time and make up the unpaid time by working earlier or later than their scheduled shift, in the same amount of time as that which was taken unpaid. The flex hours worked must be within the same workweek and within the Department’s normal operating hours. Flexing hours cannot result in overtime for the employee or the department.
- Granting time off to attend the funeral of an active or retired City employee would be subject to approval by the respective department head in accordance with the above limitations.
- The City’s ability to provide an appropriate level of service must be considered in approving all leave requests.

**Bus Passes**

The City agrees to provide monthly MTU bus passes to covered employees free of charge. It is understood that employees electing this benefit must comply with all applicable administrative rules as modified from time to time.

**Deferred Compensation Plan**

A voluntary I.R.S. Section 457 deferred compensation plan is available for all regular full time and regular part-time employees. The maximum annual deferral limit is established by the I.R.S. and may be modified from time to time. The City reserves the right to select the carrier for the deferred compensation plan and change carriers from time to time.

**Employee Assistance Program**

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for employees and their legal spouse/ dependents through Gundersen Health Systems. This benefit is independent of the Medical Benefit Plan.

**Flexible Spending Account (I.R.S. Section 125)**

Eligible employees may participate in an Internal Revenue Service Section #125 salary reduction reimbursement plan in order to pay for medical deductibles, medical co-pays, co-insurance and prescription drug co-pays with pre-tax dollars. In addition to medical expenses, the plan may be used for vision, dental, and dependent care expenses. The City agrees to credit and pay for the pension costs on the salary which is put into the Section #125 Plan. This payment does not include any F.I.C.A. payments to Social Security. All employee medical benefit plan payments due the plan will be taken as a pre-tax deduction from employee’s paychecks through the IRS Section #125 Plan, unless an employee chooses to waive participation by completing the application form requesting such. Administration of this shall be consistent with I.R.S. regulations as modified from time to time. Please see Summary Plan Description for complete plan options, eligibility and rules.

**Holidays**

Regular full time and regular part-time employees: Employees will normally be granted holidays off with pay (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) for the designated holidays listed below under “Eligibility”.

Airport Operations Coordinators: Employees will receive 10.1 hours of holiday pay on the celebrated holiday. Holiday pay does not count as actual hours worked for overtime purposes. If the employee is required to work on the celebrated holiday or gets called in to work on the celebrated holiday, they shall receive time and one-half for hours worked on the actual holiday, plus 10.1 hours of straight pay for the holiday.

Eligibility: To be eligible for holiday pay, including “Floating Holiday”, qualified employees must work the full regularly scheduled workday prior to the designated holiday, and work the full regularly scheduled work day after the designated holiday. Use of accrued unused paid leave shall qualify as hours worked for purposes of holiday eligibility. Holidays which fall within a scheduled vacation shall not be construed as vacation.

New Years Day	Thanksgiving Day
Martin Luther King Day	Day after Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Labor Day	New Year’s Eve Day

Floating Holiday: In addition to the above holidays, regular full time and regular part-time employees shall be granted one (1) day floating holiday per calendar year. This floating holiday may be taken at any time during the calendar year, subject to advance approval by the employee's supervisor, and **must be taken in full day increment** – 7.5 hours / 8 hours (or pro-rated for regular part-time). Floating holiday is a use it or lose it provision and may not be carried over or paid out.

Battalion Chiefs: One day shall be defined as 12 hours of floating holiday to be taken as flex time, at the employee's discretion and as approved by the Fire Chief.

Airport Operations Coordinators: One day shall be defined as 10.1 hours and may only be taken as straight pay. Employee has the discretion as to when to elect the floating holiday "pay", however it must be paid in full 10.1-hour increment.

Celebrated Holidays: If the designated holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be celebrated on the preceding workday (Friday). If both Friday and Saturday are holidays, they shall be celebrated on Friday and Monday. If the holiday falls on Sunday, it shall be celebrated on the succeeding Monday. If both Sunday and Monday are holidays, they shall be celebrated on Friday and Monday.

Employees who are exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended from time to time, who are required to work on the holiday, shall receive additional time off with pay in accordance with the City's Flex Time Policy.

If a non-exempt employee is required to work on the holiday or gets called in to work on the celebrated holiday, they shall receive time and one-half for hours worked, plus straight pay for the holiday. If a celebrated holiday falls on an employee's off day, the employee shall receive an additional day off at straight pay, to be taken within thirty (30) days of the holiday.

In this case, due to department staffing should they be precluded from taking the additional day off (for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day only) within the calendar year they would be able to carryover said holiday to be used by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the succeeding calendar year.

### **Income Continuation Insurance**

Employees may participate in a voluntary income continuation insurance program as provided by the State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund. The City's premium contribution shall be limited to the employer's share of the cost as authorized by Wisconsin State Statute # 40.61 and 40.62. The City reserves the right to self-insure and/or select the carrier for the present level of benefits.

Employees electing to use Income Continuation Insurance benefits must do so in compliance with the City's leave of absence policy, which is consistent with both the State and Federal Family Medical Leave Act.

The benefits described above shall be administered in accordance with applicable State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations. The State of Wisconsin - Employee Trust Fund (ETF) may at any time change the eligibility criteria, benefit levels, and the cost of such insurance.

### **Life Insurance**

Employees become eligible for life insurance on the first day of the month following six (6) complete calendar months of employment in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).

Employees may apply for insurance for themselves and their spouse and dependents. "Spouse" for purposes of Life Insurance, shall also include "domestic partner." A domestic partner is a person who meets the definition of domestic partner in Wis. Stats. 40.02 (21d) with an employee insured under this life insurance program and for who the employee has submitted an *Affidavit for Domestic Partnership* form (ET-2371) with the Department of Employee Trust Funds.

- A. **Basic:** This plan provides term insurance to each eligible Wisconsin Retirement System participant. The amount of insurance in force for the employee is equal to the amount of earnings reported to the WRS in the previous calendar year rounded up to the next higher thousand.
- B. **Additional - Units I, II, III:** This plan is available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan. The amount of each Unit of Additional Life Insurance is available at one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's previous

calendar year earnings reported to the WRS, rounded to the next higher thousand. Additional coverage for retired employees ceases at age 65. For working employees, Additional Plan coverage continues past age 65, until retirement or age 70, whichever comes first.

- C. **Spouse and Dependent:** This plan, available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan, provides term insurance for an employee's lawful spouse and/or dependents.
1. Schedule I: The spouse is insured for \$10,000; dependents are insured for \$5,000 each.
  2. Schedule II: This allows the employee to increase coverage for his/her spouse to \$20,000 and \$10,000 for each dependent. In the event of the spouses/dependent's death, the employee is the beneficiary. Where both parents have coverage on a dependent, a death benefit will be paid for each coverage.
- D. **Supplemental:** Supplemental life insurance is available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan. The amount of supplemental insurance is only available at one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's previous calendar year earnings reported to the WRS, rounded to the next higher thousand. Supplemental coverage for retired employees ceases at age 65. For working employees, Supplemental coverage continues past 65, until retirement or age 70, whichever comes first.
- E. **Cost of Insurance:** All employees who are eligible and elect to participate in the Basic group life insurance program shall pay one (1) cent per thousand per months for each thousand dollars' worth of coverage for which they are eligible by reason of eligible earnings. The City shall contribute the balance.
- F. **Life Insurance Coverage for Eligible Retirees at Age 66:** Basic life insurance coverage for eligible employees who retire after the effective date (established in accordance with State Statute #40.03(6)(b) and applicable State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations) shall remain at fifty percent (50%) at age 66.
- G. **Administration:** The life insurance benefits described above shall be administered in accordance with State Statute # 40.03 (6)(b) and applicable State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations. The State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund (ETF) may at any time change the eligibility criteria, levels of coverage available, and the cost of such insurance. Any increase and/or decrease in the cost of Additional, Supplemental and Spouse & Dependent insurance will be at the expense of the employee.

## **Medical Benefit Plan**

Full-time employees (as defined in Section 2 and as amended by the Affordable Care Act) are eligible to participate in the City's Medical Benefit Plan and receive the level of benefits as described in the Schedule of Benefits contained in the Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document/Summary Plan Description.

### **A. Employees classified as Protective under the Wisconsin Retirement System**

#### **1. Employees Hired prior to July 1, 2011:**

All provisions contained in Medical Benefit Plan shall apply to Fire protective employees with the exception of monthly rate contributions, deductibles and co-insurance. For purposes of this Section protective employees includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Battalion Chiefs.

Employees who are classified by the Wisconsin Retirement System as protective without Social Security shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active represented protective employees, respective to their department, as modified from time to time.

In addition, Fire protective employees shall be subject to the same deductibles and co-insurance provisions applicable to active represented protective employees within their respective department, as modified from time to time.

**Voluntary Waiver:** Upon ratification and approval of the 2012-2014 collective bargaining agreement for IAFF Local #127 (Fire) incumbent Fire protective employees had the opportunity to waive their participation in the represented protective employees medical benefit plan design for monthly rate contribution, deductibles and coinsurance. If waived the employee had the medical benefit plan design of non-represented employees as described herein and is also subject to the employee pension contribution

levels of non-represented employees: contributing one-half of the total actuarially required contribution for General municipal employees to the Wisconsin Retirement System.

Employees *promoted* into the protective position (Fire) covered under the Employee Handbook (on or after January 1, 2014) shall be offered the voluntary waiver upon the date of promotion. No further opportunity for waiver will be provided.

2. Employees Hired on or After July 1, 2011:

All provisions contained in Medical Benefit Plan shall apply to Police protective employees and Fire protective employee hired on or after July 1, 2011. For purposes of this Section protective employees includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and Police Captains. Hired for purposes of this Section shall mean the employees employment hire date with the City - not promotion of incumbent protective employees.

**B. Employee's Medical Benefit Plan Payments**

Active employee's monthly contributions shall be through payroll deductions. Employee contributions will be deducted from the first two (2) paychecks of the month for the current month's coverage. Employees are automatically enrolled in the Insurance Premium Account of the Section 125 Plan in which their monthly contributions are deducted pre-tax. If an employee would elect to terminate coverage during the plan year without a qualifying change in status (in accordance with IRS regulations), the employee would be required to continue to pay their pre-tax contributions until the end of the plan year. Employees who wish to have their contributions paid with after tax dollars must complete a waiver requesting such.

For 2018 coverage, the employee's monthly contribution shall be 16% of the 2018 monthly premium equivalent rate. Employees who participate in the previous year's Health Risk Assessment (as described below), shall have a contribution rate of 12.6% of the 2018 monthly premium equivalent rate.

Regular part-time employees who qualify for the Medical Benefit Plan, per IRS definition of full time, shall receive a pro-rated employer contribution to the monthly premium equivalent. The employee's monthly premium shall be the same as regular full-time employees (i.e., 16% or 12.6%), plus an additional 25% of the monthly premium equivalent rate.

**C. Coverage for New Employees**

Newly hired full time employees shall be eligible to participate in the City's medical benefit plan referred to herein after one (1) full month following the month in which they begin employment. New employees will have the opportunity to select a Network for themselves and their covered dependents up to 31 days following their eligibility date for the medical benefit plan.

**D. Health Risk Assessment (HRA)**

The City shall offer an annual health risk appraisal on a voluntary basis for active and retired employees and spouses enrolled in the City Medical Benefit Plan. Such program shall be conducted by a third-party vendor who agrees to comply with applicable privacy laws to maintain the confidentiality of information collected and not release personalized findings, other than the names of participants, to the City.

Full time active employees not enrolled in the City's medical benefit plan will also be eligible to participate in the health risk assessment. Eligibility for the monthly contribution incentives will only be available to employees who participated in the previous year's health risk assessment, regardless if the employee was enrolled in the Medical Benefit Plan when the HRA was conducted.

Active and retired employees may participate (by completing a short questionnaire, biometric testing with fasting, a personal counseling session with personalized report of findings and by providing healthcare practitioner contact information to the HRA vendor for mailing the HRA results). This process is to take place in a secured environment (behind closed doors) on City premises at various times intended to maximize participation, on duty time as possible without adverse impact on City operations, and any duty conflict shall be rescheduled for such employees on duty. A participation incentive for active and retired employees shall be a lowered monthly contribution amount while covered under the City Medical Benefit Plan.

New employees who are hired after the regular program testing has been completed shall be granted the related participation incentive prospectively until a subsequent testing is offered by the City provided that such covered employees then complete the participation requirements above. Failure to complete the HRA will result in adjustments to the employee's monthly contribution amount, retroactive to the month coverage began.

Identification of participants on such questionnaires shall be a number other than the participant's full social security number. It is further agreed that biometric testing for men over age 50 shall include PSA testing. Men aged 40 to age 50 with a family history of prostate disease may voluntarily elect to be tested. Retirees with permanent residences out of the local network service area shall be provided access to a site for biometric testing in their local area. Such retiree must complete all steps to be eligible for participation incentive. If the City changes vendors in the future and such local access is not available, such retirees shall be considered as a participant in the program.

It is understood by the parties that any future incentive is subject to Common Council approval and may be modified from time to time.

**E. Dependent Coverage**

Eligible dependents shall be covered subject to eligibility and enrollment timeframes as defined by the Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document. Dependent eligibility shall be consistent with applicable State or Federal law.

**F. One Plan for Married Employees**

Married employees that work for the City shall be limited to one (1) medical benefit plan. The employee with the most seniority shall be the subscriber. Married employees that both work for the City would be allowed to switch "subscribers" on an annual basis if allowed to do so by State and Federal law. In the event that the subscriber's health insurance is terminated, the remaining employee shall become the subscriber and the former subscriber shall become the dependent without any waiting periods or limitations for pre-existing conditions. (The purpose of this clause is merely to avoid the duplication of administrative and stop loss insurance premium charges. It is not intended to reduce any employee's eligibility or benefits.) This is not intended to enhance the level of benefits or expand the network selection procedures as provided in paragraph G below.

**G. Networks With 100% Coverage**

The City shall offer City employee's a choice of medical Networks serving the local labor market to provide covered medical services for eligible City employees. The City retains the right to select the Networks. Employees may select a Network for themselves and their covered dependents during dual choice selection period which occurs each Fall with an effective date of change to be the following January 1<sup>st</sup>. Employees will be required to remain in their selected Network through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each respective year.

**H. Monthly Rate Payments for Retirees or Surviving Spouse & Dependents**

Monthly contributions are required to be received by the City in advance of coverage becoming and/or remaining in effect. Such contributions are due by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) of the preceding month for the next month's coverage.

**I. Medicare Carve-Out –For Disability, Effective January 1, 2008**

1. All Current Employees Any employee that retires in the future due to disability and meets the eligibility requirements to maintain City medical benefit plan coverage and who is eligible for Medicare due to their disability is required to apply for Parts A (Hospital) and B (Medical) of Medicare coverage. If the employee/retiree fails to apply for such coverage within 31 days of meeting the Federal eligibility requirements, then benefits under the City plan will be offset for any benefits which would have been payable under Medicare Parts A and B had such person made a timely enrollment for Medicare.
2. All Retirees and Spouses: Any retiree, spouse of a retiree or surviving spouse (as of 1/1/08) that meets the eligibility requirements to maintain City medical benefit plan coverage and who are eligible for Medicare Parts A and B due to a disability is required to apply for Parts A and B of Medicare Coverage at their first enrollment opportunity. If the retiree, younger spouse of a retiree or surviving spouse fails to apply for Medicare Parts A and B at their first enrollment opportunity, the benefits under the City plan will be offset for any benefits which would have been payable under Medicare Parts A and B had such person made a timely enrollment for Medicare as described in this paragraph. (Note that this provision

does not apply to younger spouses that elect continued coverage following the retired person's age off the City plan.).

3. Make Whole:

A. Employees who retired on or before 12/31/2014, and who were participating in Medicare Part B as of 12/31/2014: It is understood that the City shall make whole any retiree, spouse of current retiree, or surviving spouse for his/her Medicare Part B premium payments and waive the monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution. It is further understood that if a spouse of a current retiree meets this provision, the retiree's monthly benefit plan contribution will be waived.

B. Employees who retire after 12/31/2014: It is understood that the retiree's monthly out of pocket premium costs for the combined costs of Medicare Part B and City's retiree health plan shall not exceed the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse monthly benefit plan contribution. If the cost of Medicare Part B is **less** than the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution, the retiree or surviving spouse shall only pay to the City the difference (e.g.: If Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$105 and City monthly Retiree /surviving spouse benefit plan premium is \$202, the retiree/surviving spouse would be required to pay \$97 towards the City monthly benefit plan premium.) If the cost of Medicare Part B is **more** than the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution, the City would provide the retiree/surviving spouse with an offset equal to the difference (e.g. If Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$105 and the City monthly retiree /surviving spouse benefit plan premium is \$97, then the City would provide a monthly offset to the employee of \$8.00).

**J. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan Coverage - Normal Service (For Employee's Hired as Regular Full Time Prior to January 1, 2014)** (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full-time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.)

1. City Executives: City Executives, as defined in Section 2, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have ten (10) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

2. Non-City Executives – Hired Prior to January 1, 2002:

General Employees: Employees employed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have ten (10) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment

for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within thirty-six (36) months.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**Protective Employees:** Employees employed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare or reach age sixty-five (65), whichever occurs last. Additionally, the employee must have fifteen (15) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within thirty-six (36) months.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

3. Non-City Executives – Hired between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006

- a. **General Employees:** Employees employed between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity. Additionally, the employee must have fifteen (15) years of regular full time continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.



Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

Protective employees: All new employees, hired between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2006, subject to this agreement who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and who retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) may continue their medical benefit plan coverage at group rates until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have eighteen (18) years of continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

3. Non-City Executives – Hired January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2013:

Employees employed between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2013 who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Additionally, the employee must have twenty (20) years of regular full time continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twelve (12) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time-to-time Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual,

Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

Protective employees: Employees, hired between January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2013, subject to this agreement who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and who retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) may continue their medical benefit plan coverage at group rates until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have twenty (20) years of continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

4. All Employees, Including City Executives, hired as a Regular Full Time Employee After January 1, 2014: Only COBRA provisions apply if covered under the medical benefit plan at time of retirement.

**K. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan -Disability Pension (Workers Compensation) For Employees hired as Regular Full time prior to January 1, 2014)**

Without regard to paragraph J and N, full-time employees who receive a disability pension (as a result of an approved worker's compensation injury) shall receive the same benefits including contributions on the same basis as in effect for active employees. This benefit ends when the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as is in effect for active employees as modified from time to time.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**L. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Disability Pension (For employees hired as Regular Full Time prior to January 1, 2014) (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.)**

Full time eligible employees who are participants in the City's Medical Benefit Plan who retire and receive a non-duty disability pension (applies to employees who began WRS covered employment prior to October 16, 1992), shall receive the same benefits including contributions on the same basis as in effect for active employees as described in paragraph J above provided that they have a minimum of ten (10) years of continuous service as a regular full time employee of the City of La Crosse. This benefit ends when the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**M. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Long Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) (For Employees hired as Regular Full time prior to January 1, 2014)**

*(Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013 is based on their adjusted hire date.)*

Effective January 1, 2006, full time eligible employees who are participants in the City's medical benefit plan and who qualify and receive Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Long Term Disability Insurance shall receive the same benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as is in effect for active employees as described in paragraph F above provided they have a minimum of ten (10) years of service as a regular full time employee for the City of La Crosse.

This benefit ends when the WRS terminates the employees LTDI benefit or the employee reaches age 65, whichever occurs first.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**N. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Younger Spouse (For employees hired as Regular Full Time prior to January 1, 2014)**

When a retiree reaches Medicare age, and his/her spouse is younger, the spouse may elect to continue his/her coverage in the City's medical benefit plan until the spouse reaches Medicare age, provided that the spouse pays the total monthly pseudo premium rate.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

The younger spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. The younger spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**O. Coverage for Spouse & Dependents of Eligible Employees/Retirees that Die**

1. For employees hired prior to January 1, 2012:

The spouse and/or eligible dependents of an insured employee/retiree who dies before the employee/retiree becomes eligible for Medicare, shall be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan if the deceased employee had met their years of service requirement for retiree medical benefit plan coverage (paragraph J).

Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employees as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee/retiree shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time until the spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries.

If the years of service requirement for retiree medical benefit plan coverage (paragraph J) had not been met by the deceased employee, the spouse and/or eligible dependents of the insured employee who dies would be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan for six (6) months. Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employee as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for

active employees as modified from time to time, until six months have expired, or the spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries, whichever occurs first.

Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

2. Employees hired after January 1, 2012: The spouse and/or eligible dependents of an insured employee/retiree who dies before the employee/retiree becomes eligible for Medicare, shall be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan for six (6) full months following employee's date of death. Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employees as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time, until the six (6) months have expired, spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries, whichever occurs first.

Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**P. Medical Benefit Plan Coverage While on Income Continuation Insurance**

Full time employees who are participants in the City's medical benefit plan and are receiving the Income Continuation Insurance (ICI) benefit shall receive the same medical benefit plan benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as in effect for active employees provided that they have a minimum of ten (10) years of continuous service as a regular full-time employee for the City of La Crosse. This benefit ends when the employee becomes eligible for a Wisconsin Retirement System benefit of any kind (i.e., Normal Retirement pension, Disability Retirement (worker's compensation), Disability Retirement, or Long Term Disability Insurance) or Medicare or Medicaid or for a period of one (1) year while on ICI whichever occurs first.

Covered employees shall pay the same monthly contribution rates as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time.

**Q. Health and Wellness Funds**

The City provides a sum of money for health and wellness initiatives for employees covered under the Handbook. The sum of money provided for these initiatives shall be based upon the number of regular full-time employees covered under the Handbook, and employed as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each respective year, at a rate of \$50 per employee. Fund expenses shall be managed by the Employee Wellness Coordinator to fund health and wellness initiatives. Health and wellness initiatives will be determined by gathering employee input including, but not limited to, meetings, interest and culture surveys and soliciting other employee suggestions.

**Pension**

General employees and Elected Officials shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contributions for their respective category to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees (Police and Fire) hired after July 1, 2011, shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contributions for General employees to the WRS. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees – Police: Employee shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contribution for general municipal employees to the WRS. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees – Fire: Unless voluntarily waived, protective employees (hired prior to July 1, 2011) including Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chiefs shall be aligned to the WRS employee contribution level paid by represented Fire employees covered under Fire, Local #127 collective bargaining agreement. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

## **Sick Leave**

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

General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Police Protective and Protective Department Heads (Fire Chief and Chief of Police): Employees shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of one (1) day per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment. One day means 7.5 hours/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees. A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period. The sick leave credits shall be allowed to accumulate to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days.

Fire Battalion Chiefs and Assistant Fire Chief: Day shift employees shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of 12.86 hours per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment, to a maximum accumulation of 1371.43 hours (171.42 days). Battalion Chief employees shall accumulate at a rate of .75 shift days for each month of employment to a maximum accumulation of 1920 hours (80 shift days). A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee actually receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period.

Airport Operations Coordinators shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of 10.1 hours per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment, to a maximum of 48 shift days (1176 hours). A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee actually receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period.

For New Hires: Newly hired employees must have worked prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of their first month of hire to accrue the initial day of sick leave.

At retirement or termination, the employee will accrue a day of sick leave for their last month only if the last day worked is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month or later.

### **B. Sick Leave Usage**

Accumulated sick leave may be used for any bonafide illness, injury, or medical/dental appointments of the employee except when sickness or injury is work connected and deemed to be within the meaning of the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act. Injuries or illnesses incurred by employees engaged in any outside employment or business are not compensable under sick leave provisions.

All sicknesses or injuries of more than three (3) days duration (or 2 shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators or Battalion Chiefs) must be verified with acceptable medical substantiation by a physician. Such medical substantiation must state the kind or nature of the illness or injury and indicate that the employee has been incapacitated for work for said period of absence.

When sick leave abuse is suspected the City reserves the right to require acceptable medical substantiation, including a general diagnosis, for any and all absences including those of two (2) or less workdays. The City reserves the right of reasonable independent medical examination at the employer's expense. Such medical examination shall be at the request of the department head, the governing board or appointing authority.

Sick leave shall be based on the rate of employee's regular classification.

Any and all medical substantiation, including physician certificate, required under this Article may bypass the employee's immediate supervisor and be directed to the City's Human Resources Department, if the employee so desires.

An employee severing his/her employment with the City may not use accumulated sick leave to extend his/her separation date beyond the last day worked. The ban on the use of accumulated sick leave prior to separation does not apply when the employee has provided medical substantiation of the employee's inability to work.

### **C. Personal Business Days**

Employees may request to use up to four (4) days (30/32 hours or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business subject to approval of their supervisor, however employees shall request same of their supervisor at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time off requested. Exceptions to the hours are:

Battalion Chiefs may use up to 32 hours of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business, subject to approval of their supervisor, and requested at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to time off requested.

Airport Operations Coordinators may use up to 24.5 hours of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business, subject to approval of their supervisor, and requested at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to time off requested. An additional 8 hours of accumulated sick leave may be requested when coverage is available and whereas no overtime occurs.

Use of sick leave for personal business shall be deducted from sick leave accumulation. Employees who have not accumulated sick leave shall not be entitled to such time off. Requests for personal business are subject to management approval, based on the needs of the department. Personal business days shall be based on the rate of employee's regular classification. *Personal business is not available during the employee's initial six (6) months of employment.*

**D. Family Care Days**

Employee's working day shifts may use up to three (3) days (22.5/24 hours or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) of accumulated sick leave credits to care for their priority family members identified below due to minor illness, injury, or medical/dental appointments or in the event of an unexpected closure of school (i.e., snow day, etc.) or daycare facility.

Battalion Chief employees and Airport Operations Coordinators may use accumulated sick leave credits (up to 24 hours for Battalion Chiefs, and 24.5 hours for Airport Operations Coordinator) to care for their priority family members due to minor illness or injury or medical/dental appointments or in the event of an unexpected closure of school (i.e., snow day, etc.) or daycare facility.

Use of sick leave for family care days shall be deducted from sick leave accumulation. Employees who have not accumulated sick leave will not be entitled to such time off.

Priority family shall be defined as the employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster, or stepchild). Parents in the preceding sentence shall be interpreted as parents/stepparents of the employee and/or their legal spouse.

**E. Catastrophic Leave**

Upon accruing the maximum sick leave accrual, an employee shall continue to accrue sick leave for a "catastrophic leave bank" to be used for the FMLA qualifying serious health condition of the employee, employee's spouse or dependent for which a physician has certified that the duration of the medical condition is expected to be more than 30 continuous calendar days. Catastrophic leave is only available after all accrued sick leave and vacation days have been exhausted, and employee must have met the "adequate" attendance standards in the previous 12 months. A request for use of catastrophic leave must be approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

Sick leave for the employee's catastrophic leave bank shall be accrued at the same rate as defined above and shall only accrue when the employee's sick leave accrual is at maximum accrual. The catastrophic leave bank will be capped at 60 days for day shift employees, 24 days for Airport Operations Coordinators and 30 days for Battalion Chiefs. Catastrophic leave is not eligible for payout at retirement.

**F. Sick Leave Pay-Off at Retirement or Death**

For purposes of this section, "retirement" shall mean that either 1) the employee applies for an immediate Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefit at any time after age 55 (general WRS employees) /50\* (WRS protective) or takes an early WRS retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program; or 2) the employee is at least the minimum age for which he/she would be eligible for Social Security (non-disability) benefits, however, the employee would not be required to apply for such benefits.. (Note: \*Retiring prior to age 53 disqualifies the employee for retiree Medical Benefit Plan. Refer to Section on Medical Benefit Plan)

1. For employees hired as Regular Full Time or Part Time prior to January 1, 2014: (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.) Upon retirement or death, the City will make a lump sum payment to the retiree for the amount of accrued, unused sick leave on record at the time of retirement or death. Such payment shall be according to Wisconsin Statutes Section 40.02 (22)(b)(6) concerning single cash sum payments.

General employees	45%
Fire Chief/Chief of Police	45%
Assistant Chief of Police/Police Captain	54%
Assistant Fire Chief / Battalion Chief	37.5%

2. Employees hired as Regular Full Time or Part Time after January 1, 2014: (*Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full-time position.*)

Upon retirement or death, the City will make a lump sum payment to the retiree equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of accrued, but unused sick leave earned at the time of retirement or death. Eligibility for 100% sick leave payout requires 20 years of full-time continuous service with the City **and** meets the definition of "retirement" defined above.

An employee who retires (retirement as defined above) prior to meeting the 20 years of regular full-time continuous service with the City would receive a lump sum payment equivalent to that stated for incumbents in paragraph F-1.

### **Tuition Reimbursement**

Employees shall be eligible for tuition reimbursement for college level courses related to their occupation as approved by their Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee. The maximum citywide pool of money for this purpose is \$15,000 each year, with an individual maximum in accordance with the Tuition Reimbursement Policy. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

## Vacation

Employees shall accumulate vacation on the basis of full months of continuous service as a regular part-time or regular full-time employee. When an employee qualifies for an additional vacation period within the calendar year, the vacation may be taken within the calendar year. However, if the employee terminates their employment prior to reaching their anniversary date, the unearned portion will be deducted from their final pay. Vacation shall be paid at the employee's regular classification rate. *All employees are responsible to use their accrued vacation in the year in which it is earned.*

When an employee terminates employment with the City, such employee will receive a lump sum payment for unused, earned vacation, and prorated vacation on the basis of the employee's earned vacation for each month of employment, calculated from the anniversary date to termination date. Termination for vacation purposes includes all forms of employment separation from the City. An employee severing their employment with the City may not use accumulated vacation to extend their separation date beyond the last day worked.

Vacation requests must be pre-approved by management.

### A. Vacation Accrual:

1. Initial calendar year of regular full time or regular part-time employment: An employee will be credited with vacation on the first full pay period following their date of hire. The vacation of 1 week for non-exempt and 2 weeks for exempt is pro-rated by the number of remaining full pay periods in the initial calendar year (from first full pay period through the last full pay period). (Note: The vacation is pro-rated for regular part-time employees based on the regular part-time hours for which the employee was hired.) The crediting of vacation is determinant upon the employee being employed through December 31 of their initial calendar year, as a regular full time or regular part-time employee. Should an employee leave employment or change status wherein they are no longer a regular full time or regular part-time employee, prior to December 31, all credited vacation taken will be deducted from their last paycheck as it had not yet been earned.

#### a. Non-Exempt Initial Year of Vacation

FT Employee (1.0 FTE)

40 hours/week employee

37.5 hours/week employee

Earns 1.538 hours per pay period

Earns 1.44 hours per pay period

Pay periods

Vacation Credited (40 hours per week/37.5-hour per week)

- Rounded to the tenth
- Must be employed through December 31

# of Pay Periods	40 hours per week	37.5 hour per week
26 full pay periods	40 hours	37.5 hours
25 full pay periods	38.5 hours	36 hours
24 full pay periods	36.9 hours	34.6 hours
23 full pay periods	35.4 hours	33.1 hours
22 full pay periods	33.8 hours	31.7 hours
21 full pay periods	32.3 hours	30.2 hours
20 full pay periods	30.8 hours	28.8 hours
19 full pay periods	29.2 hours	27.4 hours
18 full pay periods	27.7 hours	25.9 hours
17 full pay periods	26.1 hours	24.5 hours
16 full pay periods	24.6 hours	23 hours
15 full pay periods	23.1 hours	21.6 hours
14 full pay periods	21.5 hours	20.2 hours
13 full pay periods	20 hours	18.7 hours
12 full pay periods	18.5 hours	17.3 hours
11 full pay periods	16.9 hours	15.8 hours
10 full pay periods	15.4 hours	14.4 hours



09 full pay periods	13.8 hours	13 hours
08 full pay periods	12.3 hours	11.5 hours
07 full pay periods	10.8 hours	10.1 hours
06 full pay periods	9.2 hours	8.6 hours
05 full pay periods	7.7 hours	7.2 hours
04 full pay periods	6.2 hours	5.8 hours
03 full pay periods	4.6 hours	4.3 hours
02 full pay periods	3.1 hours	2.9 hours
01 full pay periods	1.5 hours	1.4 hours

Part-time employee would be pro-rated based on FTE status. If a regular part-time employee is hired for 29 hours per week, for a position which would normally be 37.5 hours, the FTE status for pro-rata vacation is .77 FTE.

If regular part-time employee is hired for 23 hours per week for position which would normally be 37.5 hour, the FTE status for pro-rata vacation is .61 FTE.

b. Exempt Initial Year of Vacation

FT Employee (1.0 FTE)

40 hours/week employee

Earns 3.076 hours per pay period

Regular part-time employee would be pro-rated

Pay periods

Vacation Credited (40 hours per week)

- Rounded to the tenth
- Must be employed through December 31

<b># of Pay Periods</b>	<b>40 hours per week</b>
26 full pay periods	80 hours
25 full pay periods	76.9 hours
24 full pay periods	73.8 hours
23 full pay periods	70.7 hours
22 full pay periods	67.7 hours
21 full pay periods	64.6 hours
20 full pay periods	61.5 hours
19 full pay periods	58.4 hours
18 full pay periods	55.4 hours
17 full pay periods	52.3 hours
16 full pay periods	49.2 hours
15 full pay periods	46.1 hours
14 full pay periods	43.1 hours
13 full pay periods	40 hours
12 full pay periods	36.9 hours
11 full pay periods	33.8 hours
10 full pay periods	30.8 hours
09 full pay periods	27.7 hours
08 full pay periods	24.6 hours
07 full pay periods	21.5 hours
06 full pay periods	18.5 hours
05 full pay periods	15.4 hours
04 full pay periods	12.3 hours
03 full pay periods	9.2 hours
02 full pay periods	6.2 hours
01 full pay periods	3.1 hours

2. Subsequent calendar years: Vacation is always credited to employees in the pay period which includes January 1 of each calendar year and the amount provided is based on the length of employment the employee will attain during that calendar year. Vacation is earned based on anniversary date. In order to earn all of the vacation credited to them for the current year an employee must work up to his/her anniversary date.

If an employee were to leave employment prior to their anniversary date and had used more vacation than what was earned as of their last day of employment, they would owe the City for the time used they had not yet earned. If the employee would leave employment after their anniversary date they are entitled to receive all of their vacation entitlement, PLUS additional prorated vacation calculated from employment anniversary date as a regular full time or regular part-time employee to termination date.

a. Non-Exempt Employees:

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	One (1) week
After two (2) years of continuous service	Two (2) weeks
After six (6) years of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After ten (10) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) days
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	Twenty-two (22) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Twenty-six (26) days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty-eight (28) years of continuous service	Twenty-eight (28) days
After twenty-nine (29) years of continuous service	Twenty-nine (29) days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

b. Exempt (Non-City Executive) Employees

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	Two (2) weeks
After five (5) years of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After ten (10) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) days
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	Twenty-two (22) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Twenty-six (26) days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty-eight (28) years of continuous service	Twenty-eight (28) days
After twenty-nine (29) years of continuous service	Twenty-nine (29) days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

c. City Executives – as defined under Types of Employees

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After six (6) months of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After two (2) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After eight (8) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After fifteen (15) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

d. Battalion Chiefs

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	Three (3) shift days
After three (3) years of continuous service	Six (6) shift days
After seven (7) years of continuous service	Nine (9) shift days
After fourteen (14) years of continuous service	Twelve (12) shift days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Fifteen (15) shift days
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Sixteen (16) shift days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Seventeen (17) shift days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) shift days

e. Airport Operations Coordinator

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	2.3 shift days (56.4 hours)
After two (2) years of continuous service	4.6 shift days (112.7 hours)
After six (6) years of continuous service	6.9 shift days (169 hours)
After ten (10) years of continuous service	8.2 shift days (200.9 hours)
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	9.2 shift days (225.4 hours)
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	10.18 shift days (249.4 hours)
After 20 years of continuous service	11.5 shift days (281.8 hours)
After 26 years of continuous service	11.96 shift days (293 hours)
After 27 years of continuous service	12.42 shift days (304.3 hours)
After 28 years of continuous service	12.88 shift days (315.6 hours)
After 29 years of continuous service	13.34 shift days (326.8 hours)
After 30 years of continuous service	13.8 shift days (338.1 hours)

**A. Vacation Carryover**

All employees are responsible to use their accrued vacation. An employee may carryover accrued, unused vacation, not to exceed two (2) weeks (75/80 hours, pro-rated for regular part-time employees; 4.6 shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators and 4 shift days for Battalion Chiefs) into the subsequent calendar year. The carryover will occur automatically after the last pay period of the year. Any vacation carried over into the subsequent year **must** be used by the last full pay period of that year, or it shall be forfeited.

In addition, any vacation remaining at year end which exceeds two (2) weeks (or as defined above) shall result in vacation forfeiture.

**B. Change in Status: Part-time to Full Time**

Employees hired as regular part-time, who have a change in employment status to regular full time, shall have their vacation adjusted for the initial year (only) of accrual due to status change.

Vacation Adjustment:

Employees who change employment status (PT to FT) shall have their vacation adjusted during the initial year for which the vacation is being earned. A status change which occurs *prior* to an employee meeting their “anniversary hire date” shall have their vacation pro-rated that year. Employees who change employment status (PT to FT) *after* meeting their “anniversary hire date.”

shall have their vacation pro-rated for the following years accrual. “Anniversary hire date” is defined as the continuous date of employment as a regular full time/regular part-time employee with the City. Thereafter, vacation accrual shall be based on the employee’s “anniversary hire date”.

Beginning January 1, 2017, current full-time employees who had changed from regular part-time to regular full time status prior to 2016 shall receive vacation accruals for 2017 and forward based on their “anniversary hire date”.

## **SECTION 7: Employment Recruitment and Separation**

### **Background and Reference Checks**

To ensure that individuals who join the city of La Crosse are well qualified and to ensure that the City maintains a safe and productive work environment, it is our policy to conduct background checks and reference checks on candidates who are offered employment. Background and reference checks may include verification of any information on the applicant's resume or application form.

The City also reserves the right to conduct a background check for current employees to determine eligibility for promotion or transfer within the City.

Prior to employment additional checks may be required, such as pre-employment drug testing, driving records, DOT Release of Information – 49 CFR Part 40, etc.

### **Exit Interviews**

An exit interview will be conducted through the Human Resources Department for all voluntary resignations of employment for regular full time and regular part-time employees. The interview is intended to be beneficial for both the City and the departing employee. Employees will have the opportunity to discuss their employment experience. Additionally, it is the intention of the City to obtain information that will help in our recruitment and retention efforts.

### **Job Vacancies - Recruitment**

The City seeks to hire the best qualified candidate regarding employment and equal opportunity. Approved vacancies for non-exempt regular full-time positions shall be posted in Human Resources and the field departments (Water, WWTP, La Crosse Center and Streets/Parks), on the City's intranet (for employment opportunities exclusive to employees covered under the Employee Handbook), and on the City's webpage (for all employment opportunities available to both the general public and internal employees). Employees may apply via the application process. All applicants must apply within the stated deadlines and are subject to job qualifications as defined in the job description. For positions requiring a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) preference will be given to applicants who possess a minimum of a Class B CDL. Additionally, consideration for hire will include ability to perform the work, relative skills and abilities, proven performance, disciplinary record, and experience. Qualified applicants who apply within the defined application deadline may be eligible to participate in an interview process coordinated through Human Resources. Interviews which occur during an employee's off-duty hours will not be considered paid time. In some cases, as determined by Human Resources, the City may conduct an internal recruitment only.

Human Resources reserves the right to waive the recruitment process when placing qualified regular full time and regular part-time employees in vacant positions due to extenuating circumstances. (ADA, Workers Compensation, etc.)

Testing requirements may apply to certain positions. Depending on the position, testing may include, but is not limited to, computer skills test, typing accuracy/speed test, written exam, ten key test, physical capacity exam, DOT drug test, etc.

### **Residency Requirements**

The City of La Crosse follows State law regarding residency requirements, WI Act 20, Section 1270, 66.0502(4)(b) states "a local governmental unit may impose a residency requirement on law enforcement, fire, or emergency personnel that requires such personnel to reside within 15 miles of the jurisdictional boundaries of the city, village or town to which the personnel are assigned."

### **Separation of Employment**

Employees are requested to provide adequate advance notice of their intent to separate employment with the City. Non-exempt employees are requested to provide a two (2) week notice, exempt employees are requested to provide a four (4) week notice, and Department Heads are required by provide advance notice of retirement as per resolution. All property of the City, including the identification badge, must be returned to the City in appropriate condition prior to the employee's last day of work.

Any forced separation of an at-will employee requires review and approval by Human Resources.

## **SECTION 8: Employee Conduct**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Punctual and regular attendance is an essential responsibility of each employee. Employees are expected to report to work as scheduled, on time and prepared to start work. Absenteeism can cause scheduling problems for the department and can adversely affect our ability to serve the public. Attendance and punctuality are considered during the performance evaluation process.

Exempt employees are responsible for accomplishing the duties assigned to them and may be required to attend regular and special meetings and events outside their normal work hours. Exempt employees are eligible for the Flex Time policy. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **City Vehicles**

Employees may be granted approval by their Department Head to take home City vehicles. Approved use includes official city business or if serving in an official “on-call” status to respond to emergencies on a rotating or consistent basis. Any employee who uses a City vehicle must comply with IRS regulations and reporting requirements for personal mileage. Department heads will be held responsible for their employees. Per Wisconsin law, smoking in public vehicles is prohibited.

### **Confidentiality**

Due to an employee’s responsibilities within the City, an employee may have access to confidential, personnel or other sensitive information. This confidential information cannot be disclosed to any City personnel who do not have a legitimate business need to know such information or to persons outside of the City without the express authorization of the Department Head who is the Custodian of the Records.

### **Grievance Procedure**

The City has a Grievance Procedure approved by Common Council. The Grievance Procedure is established for the employee to use for matters concerning discipline, termination, or workplace safety, as defined by the Grievance Procedure. Discipline specifically includes an employment action that results in disciplinary suspension, with or without pay, disciplinary termination or disciplinary demotion. It does not include counseling, oral reprimands/warnings, written reprimands/warnings, performance improvement plans, performance evaluations or reviews, documentation of employee acts or omissions, administrative leave, non-disciplinary wage, benefit or salary adjustments, changes in assignment, action taken pursuant to an ordinance created under s. 19.59 (1m), or other non-material employment actions. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **Identification Badges**

An identification badge program exists to provide enhanced security and to aid in the public’s recognition of those employees that serve the public in various functions. All management and office personnel, as well as employees that conduct City business on outside private property are required to wear their ID badges during the workday. Outside labor positions are required to have the ID cards on their person during the workday. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **Performance Evaluations**

The purpose of performance evaluations is to provide employees with feedback regarding their performance, to assist supervisory personnel in appraising employees of their progress and/or areas that need to be improved, and to set goals. In addition, performance evaluations are used to determine eligibility for possible step increase, subject to funding in the budget process. Performance evaluations reflect the employee’s performance in the preceding 12 months. Performance evaluations shall be conducted mid-year, on an annual basis. Performance factors include employee’s attendance (per Attendance policy) and punctuality, communication/customer service skills, productivity, initiative and leadership, work attitude and public image, judgment and decision making. In addition, exempt supervisors are evaluated on supervisory skills. Performance factors for Department Heads are set by Executive Committee.

## **Random Drug and Alcohol Testing (Non-DOT) – Airport and Police Department**

Sworn Police Management shall be subject to random drug and alcohol testing, as part of the Department testing of sworn officers. Testing shall be limited to one (1) sworn officer per month and shall be conducted by a laboratory and by a physician or health care professional qualified and authorized to administer and determine the meaning of any test results. Selection for the random draw will be made by the laboratory. See Police Department General Orders.

Community Service Officers assigned to work in the Police Evidence room and La Crosse Airport maintenance and operations staff are subject to random drug and alcohol testing at any time. Selection for the random draw will be made by Human Resources. Due to the integrity of the position in the Police Evidence Room and the significant public safety concern for Airport staff, a positive drug or alcohol test will result in immediate termination.

The laboratory shall test for the substances and within the current limits for the initial and confirmation test as provided within the NADA standards, which may change from time to time. Alcohol testing shall be conducted by the laboratory using a breathalyzer or similar test equipment.

The employer shall be responsible for costs involved for random drug and alcohol testing. The employer shall select the laboratory for the random drug and alcohol testing provisions.

### **Remedial Action and Discipline:**

Employees who have unsatisfactory work performance or who violate City rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, without limitation, those listed in this Handbook, are subject to remedial action or discipline. Remedial action includes supervisory counseling, evaluative notice and oral or written reprimands. Remedial action and administrative leave are not considered as discipline.

Discipline is disciplinary action and only includes the following actions: suspension without pay, disciplinary demotion, or disciplinary discharge. At the sole discretion of the City, various types of employee remedial action and discipline may be imposed. No specific remedial action or discipline is required to be used before discharge from employment occurs, nor are the listed actions required to be used in any specific or progressive order. All documented remedial action and discipline will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Placement on administrative leave pending discipline or remedial action requires involvement of Human Resources. Discipline must be approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee. Discipline is subject to the City's grievance procedure. Remedial action and administrative leave are not subject to the grievance procedure.

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**City of La Crosse – Employee Handbook Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge receipt of and understand that I have the responsibility to read and follow the Employee Handbook of the City of La Crosse. I further understand that I should direct any questions regarding this Handbook to Human Resources.

I understand and agree that nothing contained in the Handbook is intended to be, nor is to be construed as a guarantee that employment or any employment benefit will be continued for any period of time (except as mandated by law).

Since the information contained in the Handbook is subject to change, I acknowledge that revisions to the Handbook may occur, and that such revisions to the Handbook supersede, modify or eliminate existing policies.

Please sign and print name legibly:

Received by:	_____	_____
	Employee Printed Name	Date

_____	_____
Employee Signature	Date

Issued by:	_____	_____
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**CITY OF LA CROSSE**  
**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**  
**POLICIES**  
**JANUARY 01, 2024**

Part Two



Effective January 1, 2014

Amended 2/2014; 01/2015; 01/2016; 01/2017; 01/2018; 01/2019; 01/2020; 01/2022; 01/2023; 01/2024



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## **ATTENDANCE POLICY NON-REPRESENTED EMPLOYEES**

### **PURPOSE**

This policy is to ensure that a consistent procedure is used by all city departments in the administration of attendance at work for non-represented employees.

### **ATTENDANCE**

All employees will be required to be regular in their attendance and to meet normal attendance standards. For reporting purposes refer to below procedures. Three levels of attendance standards have been established ranging from exceeds to needs improvement. Each employee shall meet or exceed the standards. If an employee's yearly attendance, (i.e. June 1<sup>st</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup>) falls below this expected level, they may not be eligible for a step increase and will be counseled and warned, and if the problem persists, the employee will be subject to disciplinary action.

For definition purposes, a day of absence means each individual day, or portion thereof, lost from work due to reasons other than:

- Accrued leave benefits: holidays; vacation; personal business; family care; bereavement.
- Leave without pay (LWOP) pre-authorized by Human Resources
  - Leave while on ICI,
  - Leave accommodation due to ADA/AAA,
  - Pre-planned leave for a newly hired employee as part of the employment offer,
  - 30 day leave of absence provision as contained within the Employee Handbook
- Paid administrative leave
- Flex time
- Military leave
- Family Medical Leave
- Jury or witness duty
- Injury suffered on the job
- Disciplinary action
- Health Care Provider excused illness or medical appointment of the employee when using paid leave

An occurrence is defined as each consecutive occasion that an employee misses work. Example: If an employee is off sick for two (2) consecutive days with the flu that would count as one (1) occurrence and two (2) days absence.

Any sickness or injury more than three (3) days duration must be verified by a physician's certificate. This certificate must state the kind or nature of the illness or injury and that the employee has been incapacitated for work for said period of absence.

Where the city has reasonable cause to suspect sick leave abuse exists, the city reserves the right to require reasonable medical substantiation, including a general diagnosis, for any and all prospective sick leave absences including those of three (3) or less workdays. Any and all medical substantiation, including physician certificate, required under this policy may bypass the employee's immediate supervisor and be directed to the City's Human Resource Department, if the employee so desires.

### **REPORTING PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES REQUESTING SICK LEAVE:**

The Employee must:



- Personally notify his/her supervisor or their designee prior to the scheduled start of the shift. Exception – If the employee is incapacitated by a medical condition that would prevent him/her from making the call personally.
- Inform management of the general nature of the illness and expected date of return.
- Inform management if leave is for Family Care. Family Care days are deducted from accrued sick leave bank and are designated for injury/illness and medical/dental appointments of the employee's minor dependents.

Keep management informed of changes effecting return to work date.

- Present acceptable medical substantiation upon return to work following more than three (3) consecutive scheduled workdays (2 shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators) off due to illness or injury. The medical substantiation must be presented to a Supervisor or Human Resources upon returning to work.
- For absences less than 3 days to be considered approved, acceptable medical substantiation must be presented to a supervisor or Human Resources by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Because attendance is a factor in an employee's performance evaluation, medical substantiation received beyond May 31<sup>st</sup> will not be considered with the exception of those employees with appointments/absences that occur in the last week of May for which they will have 1 week beyond May 31<sup>st</sup> to submit acceptable medical substantiation.

#### **MEDICAL/DENTAL APPOINTMENTS:**

If the work schedule allows, employees may use accrued sick leave for their medical/dental appointments as follows:

- The employee may use sick leave for the duration of the employee's medical/dental appointment, plus any travel time necessary to and from the appointment, (i.e., an employee has a doctor's appointment at 10:00 a.m. In order to make it there he/she requests to leave at 9:30 a.m. His/her appointment is completed at 11:00 a.m. He/she is expected to return to work immediately after the appointment, i.e., 11:30 a.m.).
- An employee will not be allowed to take the entire day off for an appointment, unless special circumstances warrant such as conditions which affect their ability to perform their job description's essential duties safely, effectively, or thoroughly.
- Sick leave is not intended to provide additional income to an employee, but as a substituted form of pay for time attending the employee's appointment. Sick leave may be used for the time period for which the employee's appointment falls during normal work hours, (i.e. the employee is scheduled for an appointment at 4:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. The employee's normal scheduled workday would have ended at 4:30 p.m., so the employee would only be able to use sick leave from 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- Every effort should be made to schedule appointments during non-work time.
- For an approved absence while using sick leave, acceptable medical substantiation is required. Substantiation shall include the appointment date, employee name, start and end time of appointment, name/location of dental/health care facility, and signature of health care provider or official medical facility stamp.

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

ATTENDANCE CRITERIA

“Exceeds”	3 days or less of absence 2 or 3 occurrences
	Platoon Shift Employees (Airport & Fire) 2 total shift days or less of absence 2 or less occurrences
“Meets”	4 to 7 total days of absence 4 occurrences
	Platoon Shift Employees (Airport & Fire) 3 total shift days of absence 3 occurrences
“Needs Improvement”	8 or more total days of absence 5 or more occurrences A noticeable pattern of absence is present
	Platoon Shift Employees (Airport & Fire) 4 or more total shift days of absence 4 or more occurrences A noticeable pattern of absence is present

*Employees must meet both criteria for each standard to be considered for that category. For example, if an employee has 2 occurrences each lasting 3 days (for a total absence of 6 days) the appropriate standard would be “Meets”. A partial day absence shall be considered one day.*

**FALSE SICK REPORTS**

Employees who feign illness or injury in order to use sick leave, or to avoid working assigned work, are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

**REPORTING LATE FOR WORK:**

Employees failing to report for work at their scheduled start time will be considered late. Employees shall make every effort to notify their Supervisor or their designee if they are going to be late with their expected time of arrival to work.

<sup>1</sup> City of La Crosse Family and Medical Leave Policy as defined by Wisconsin and Federal Family and Medical Leave Acts, Definition of Physician/Health Care Provider, 2001: Health care provider. Acupuncturist, audiologist, Christian Science practitioner, chiropractor, D. O., D. D. S., D. P.M., health care provider in foreign country, hospice, inpatient care facility, MD., marriage and family counselor or therapist, nurse-midwife, nurse, optometrist, O. T., P. T. psychologist, respiratory care practitioner, social worker, speech pathologist, or Wisconsin-licensed CBRF.

## **BONE MARROW AND ORGAN DONATION LEAVE POLICY**

**I. PURPOSE:**

To describe the policies, procedures, and obligations of the City of City of La Crosse and the rights and obligations of employees under the Wisconsin Bone Marrow and Organ Donation Leave law.

**II. ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS AFFECTED:**

This policy applies to all City of City of La Crosse departments, boards, commissions, and employees.

**III. POLICY:**

Eligible employees may take up to (6) weeks of protected leave in a 12-month period necessary to undergo a bone marrow or organ donation procedure and to recover from the procedure. Leave will be calculated on a 12-month calendar year (January – December) period.

Bone Marrow or Organ Donation Leave will run concurrently with Federal and State Family and Medical Leave (FMLA). If an employee does not apply for family and medical leave and his or her leave usage appears to qualify for FMLA, the City shall notify the employee in writing that the leave will be classified as FMLA leave and run the benefits concurrently.

**IV. REFERENCES:**

Bone Marrow and Organ Donation Leave law (Section 103.11 Wis. Stats.)

**V. PROCEDURES:**

It is the policy of the City of City of La Crosse to grant up to six (6) weeks of Bone Marrow or Organ Donation Leave during any calendar year to eligible employees, in accordance with Section 103.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The leave may be paid, unpaid, or a combination of paid and unpaid, depending on the circumstances and as specified in this policy.

**VI. ELIGIBILITY:**

Employees are entitled to bone marrow and organ donation leave benefits if they have been employed by the City for at least 52 consecutive weeks and have worked for at least 1,000 hours during the 52 weeks prior to the start of the leave.

**VII. AMOUNT OF LEAVE:**

Eligible employees may take up to a total of (6) weeks of unpaid leave in a 12-month period only for the time necessary to undergo the bone marrow or organ transplant donation procedure and to recover from the procedure.

**VIII. PAYMENTS ON BONE MARROW OR ORGAN DONATION LEAVE:**

Employees may substitute, for portions of the bone marrow and organ donation leave, any accrued and unused paid leave provided to them by the City.

As with all leaves of absence, no employee may pursue or engage in employment when on bone marrow or organ donation leave.

**IX. NOTICE AND CERTIFICATION:**

If an employee intends to take leave for the purpose of serving as a bone marrow or organ donor, the employee shall do all of the following:

1. Give their supervisor advance notice of the bone marrow or organ donation and submit a Family and Medical Leave Request Form (“request form”) to the Human Resources (HR) department within a reasonable period of time, i.e., at least (2) weeks in advance of the leave if foreseeable. When the need for leave is not foreseeable, the employee must notify their supervisor and the HR department and thereafter submit the request form as soon as practicable under the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Absent unusual circumstances, it is considered practicable for an employee to provide notice of unforeseeable leave within the time prescribed by the City’s usual and customary notice requirements applicable to that employee for such leave. Failure to give timely notice and/or submit the request form may result in the delay or denial of the leave and may subject the employee to discipline under City policies.
2. Make a reasonable effort to schedule the bone marrow or organ donation procedure and accompanying recovery period so it does not unduly disrupt the City’s operations, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the bone marrow or organ donee.
3. Submit a **Health Care Provider Bone Marrow and Organ Donation Leave Certification Form** (“certification form”), completed by the health care provider, to the HR department within 15 days of commencing the leave if possible, or, when the employee cannot submit the certification form within 15 days of commencing the leave, as soon as practicable, certifying:
  - The donee has a serious health condition that necessitates a bone marrow or organ transplant;
  - The employee is under the health care provider’s care, is eligible, and has agreed to serve as a bone marrow or organ donor for the donee; and
  - The amount of time expected to be necessary for the employee to be off from work for the bone marrow or organ donation procedure and to recover from the procedure
4. If the employee receives written notification that the certification form is incomplete and/or insufficient, the employee shall have seven days to cure the identified deficiencies. If an employee does not provide the required certification by the designated deadlines, or if the City determines that an employee is not eligible for the leave, the leave may not be designated as bone marrow and organ donation leave, and the employee may be subject to discipline under City attendance policies unless he or she uses accrued paid leave (like vacation) and/or is granted an unpaid leave of absence as may be permitted by City Policy.
5. An employee returning from bone marrow and organ donation leave must provide a “Fitness for Duty” statement signed by the health care provider.
6. Forms available through the HR department.
  - Family and Medical Leave Request Form
  - Health Care Provider Certification Form
  - Fitness for Duty Certification Form

X. HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS:

Group health insurance coverage will be maintained for employees while they are on bone marrow and organ donation leave, on the same terms as if the employee continued to work. The employee will be required to pay their regular portion of health insurance premium payments on a schedule established by the City.

The City may recover its share of health insurance premiums paid during a period of unpaid bone marrow and organ donation leave from an employee if the employee fails to return to work (for a minimum of 30 calendar days) after the expiration of the leave.

The City may discontinue health insurance benefits if the employee fails to make a premium payment within 30 days of the due date after providing written notice to the employee of the cancellation of coverage for non-payment.

XI. OTHER BENEFITS:

Qualified bone marrow and organ donation leave will not be counted as an absence under the City's attendance policy.

Other City benefits may be continued during periods of unpaid bone marrow and organ donation leave, and arrangements should be made for the employee's portion of the payments with the Employee Benefits Coordinator.

XII. FITNESS FOR DUTY AND RETURN TO WORK:

An employee returning from bone marrow and organ donation leave must provide a "Fitness for Duty" statement signed by the health care provider. An employee who fails to provide a Fitness for Duty statement may be prohibited from returning to work until it is provided. Failure to provide a Fitness for Duty statement may result in discipline up to and including termination. Upon return from bone marrow and organ donation leave, an employee shall be restored to their original position or, if the position is not vacant, to an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment. An employee may not be restored to their original or equivalent position if they are unable to perform the essential functions of their job because of a mental or physical condition.

XIII. COMPLAINT PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING:

An employee who believes their right to take bone marrow or organ donation leave has been violated should contact the Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Human Resources or their designee immediately and attempt to resolve the matter internally. Alternatively, or in the event the matter is not resolved following contact with the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the employee may, within 30 days after the alleged violation occurs or the employee should reasonably have known that the violation occurred, whichever is later, file a complaint with the Department of Workforce Development alleging the violation.

XIV. DEFINITIONS:

"Bone Marrow" has the meaning given in Section 146.34 (1) (a) Wis. Stats.

"Health Care Provider" has the meaning given in Section 103.10 (1) (e) Wis. Stats.

"Organ" has the meaning given for "human organ" in Section 230.35 (2d) (a) 2 Wis. Stats.

1/01/17; R 01/01/2018

# CELL PHONE STIPEND POLICY

## I. PURPOSE

- a. The City of La Crosse recognizes that the performance of certain job responsibilities may be enhanced by or may require the use of a cellular (cell) phone or a Smartphone. The IRS considers these devices to be "listed property." As such, IRS regulations (IRS Section 274(d)(4)) require detailed record keeping including (a) the amount of the expense, (b) the time and place of the call, and (c) the business purpose for the call. The IRS can declare that all undocumented use of a cell phone is personal and should be taxed as wages, even if the majority of the calls are for business purposes.
- b. In order to comply with IRS rules regarding the taxable nature of cell phone usage by employees, the City of La Crosse will issue a cell phone stipend for those employees who hold positions where the duties of that position require the use of a cell phone. The benefits of such an approach include:
  1. A call log is not required;
  2. Monthly reporting is not required;
  3. A single phone may be used for both personal and business purposes.
  4. The stipend is not to be considered taxable income to the employee.
- c. This Stipend does not constitute an increase to base pay, and will not be included in the calculation of percentage increases to base pay due to annual raises, job upgrades, bonuses, benefits based on a percentage of salary, etc.

## II. SCOPE

This policy applies to all City of La Crosse employees who will be receiving a stipend for their personal cell phone.

## III. POLICY

Employees who hold positions that include the need for a cell phone to conduct city business as determined by the Department Head (see eligibility criteria below) may be eligible to receive a cell phone stipend to compensate for business-related costs incurred when using their individually-owned cell phones. The City will not own cell phones for the use of individual employees except in limited situations. Approval of a cell phone stipend requires recommendation by the Department Head, and approval by the Director of Information Technology and Director of Human Resources or their designee.

## IV. ELIGIBILITY

- a. As determined by the Department Head, employees whose job duties include the frequent need for a cell phone may receive extra compensation, in the form of a monthly cell phone stipend, to cover business-related costs. An employee is eligible for a personal phone stipend if at least one of the following criteria is met:
  1. The job function of the employee requires considerable time outside of his/her assigned office or work area and it is important to the City/Department that s/he is accessible during those times;

2. The job function of the employee requires him/her to be accessible outside of scheduled or normal working hours where time sensitive decisions/notifications are required;
  3. The job function of the employee requires him/her to have wireless data and internet access; and/or
  4. The employee is designated as a "first responder" to emergencies.
- b. An employee who only occasionally is contacted for business purposes is not eligible for a stipend.
- c. An employee who receives "on call" pay is not eligible.

**V. STIPEND PLAN:**

- a. If an employee meets the eligibility requirements for a cell phone, as outlined above, the Department Head submit their recommendation for the cell phone stipend by completing the Cell Phone Stipend Agreement and forwarding to Human Resources and Information Technology for approval. If approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee and the Director of Information Technology the form will be provided to Finance for the stipend.
- b. If approved, the stipend amount will be added to the employee's regular pay. In order to meet IRS guidelines, any amount added for cell phone equipment or for cell phone service will be identified as a non-taxable benefit.
- c. The stipend will be paid as a flat rate per month, on the first pay period of each month, for the previous month's service, based on the selected service and outlined below. The Department will pay only the agreed upon amount. "Previous month" shall be the month in which the employee was originally approved, via the Cell Phone Stipend Agreement.
- d. The stipend allowance is neither permanent nor guaranteed. The City reserves the right to remove a participant from this plan and/or cancel the stipend for business reasons.
- e. The amount of the stipend will be determined based on the type of plan required of the employee's position to perform his or her job responsibilities. Employee's current cell phone must have the full capabilities of the recommended tier. The monthly stipend cannot exceed the employee's monthly cell phone plan cost. If employee's cell phone plan cost is less than the stipend amount for the required tier, the stipend will be paid at the next lower stipend amount. (For example, if an employee is required to have Tier 1 with a stipend of \$35.00 per month but has a cell phone plan costing \$20.00 per month, the stipend would be paid at \$10.00 per month.) A tiered model includes the following options:
  1. Tier 1 – Voice & Carrier provided Data – \$35.00 per month
  2. Tier 2 – Voice only, Or Voice and Text - \$10.00 per month
- f. If an employee's job duties do not include the need for a cell phone, the employee is not eligible for a cell phone stipend.
- g. An employee may only receive one stipend (even if multiple phones are owned).
- h. An employee may be required to provide documentation of their current cell phone plan to the Director of Information Technology to determine if they are eligible for the requested tier.

- i. This plan was revised with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

## **VI. EQUIPMENT PURCHASE**

- a. The City/Department will not pay for the purchase of personal cell phones, activation fees or insurance.

## **VII. OVERSIGHT, APPROVAL & FUNDING**

- a. The Department Head/designee is responsible for identifying employees who hold positions that include the need for a cell phone.
- b. The Department Head's recommendation of eligible employees for the cell phone stipend is subject to approval by the Director of Information Technology and Director of Human Resources or their designee.
- c. If approved, the Department Head/designee is responsible for overseeing employee cell phone needs and assessing each employee's continued need of a cell phone for business purposes. The need for a cell phone stipend should be reviewed annually by the Department Head, to determine if existing cell phone stipends should be continued as-is, changed, or discontinued.
- d. Stipends are funded by the department submitting the request.

## **VIII. EMPLOYEES RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- a. The employee acknowledges that their cell phone number may be shared internally via Intra-City telephone directories and on City emergency on-call lists as needed. The City will not share with the public employee cell phone numbers.
- b. The employee is responsible for purchasing a cell phone and establishing a service contract with the cell phone service provider of his/her choice. The cell phone contract is in the name of the employee, who is solely responsible for all payments to the service provider.
- c. Because the cell phone is owned personally by the employee the stipend provided is not considered taxable income and the employee may use the phone for both business and personal purposes, as needed. The employee may, at his or her own expense, add extra services or equipment features, as desired. If there are problems with service, the employee is expected to work directly with the carrier for resolution.
- d. The employee's cell phone is considered personal property. Should the cell phone malfunction, suffer damage or is lost, the cost for repair or replacement is at the expense of the employee; or to the extent as covered under personal property replacement in the collective bargaining contract(s) if the damage/loss was work related.
- e. Support from the City's Information Technology (IT) Department is limited to for connecting a personally-owned PDA/Smartphone to City-provided services, including email, calendar, and contacts.
- f. An employee receiving a cell phone stipend must be able to show, if requested by his/her supervisor, a copy of the monthly access plan charges confirming they continue to have a



contract for the cell phone. If the employee terminates the wireless contract at any point, s/he must notify his/her supervisor within 5 business days to terminate the stipend.

- g. The City does not accept any liability for claims, charges or disputes between the service provider and the employee. Use of the phone in any manner contrary to local, state, or federal laws will constitute misuse, and will result in immediate termination.
- h. Any cell phone that has data capabilities must be secured based on current security standards including password protection and encryption.
- i. If a cell phone with data capabilities is stolen or missing, it must be reported to the employee's supervisor, the wireless device service provider, and to IT as soon as possible.
- j. Employees must comply with the City's IS policy when using their cell phone for business purposes.
- k. Employees are not required to perform work via their personal cell phone during non-work hours or off days and as such are not entitled to compensation or overtime for checking and responding to work related emails when off-duty.
- l. Employees are expected to delete all City data from the cell phone when their employment with the City is severed, except when required to maintain that data in compliance with litigation hold notice. The City reserves the right to request to verify that all City data is deleted.
- m. The City only has the right to view /City related work content which is limited to city email, city calendar, city appointments, and outlook contacts stored on the city network and servers. This can normally be accomplished via the City network without need for the actual device.
- n. The City does not use any other 3<sup>rd</sup> party applications for business purposes such as messaging apps, photos apps, video apps and/or other applications and has no expectation or right to monitor or view personal use of these applications on the employee's cellphone, unless authorized by law or as part of an internal or criminal investigation.

#### **IX. CITY -OWNED CELL PHONES**

- a. The City/Department may own and assign a limited number of cellular devices for emergency, disaster recovery, or for other business purposes as deemed necessary by the Department Head.

#### **X. CANCELLATION**

- a. Any stipend agreement may be cancelled and/or suspended and stipend pro-rated for the month (based on weeks worked) if:
  - 1. An employee receiving a cell phone stipend terminates employment with the City.
  - 2. The employee changes positions within the City/Department which no longer requires the use of a cell phone for business reasons.
  - 3. There is misuse/misconduct with the phone when conducting City business.
  - 4. A decision by management (unrelated to employee misconduct) results in the need to end the program or there is a change in the employee's duties

5. The employee is off work for long-term medical, personal or administrative purposes and is no longer subject to needing cellular access for work purposes.
  6. The employee terminates their personal cell phone contract for personal purposes.
- b. Canceling a cellphone stipend requires the completion of the Cell Phone Stipend Agreement form and entering in the “end” date and distributing as required.

01/29/2015; R 02/06/2015; R 11/06/2017; R 01/01/2018; R 07/01/2019

## **CITY HALL SOLICITATION POLICY**

WHEREAS, occasionally City Hall employees, while performing work for the City and during business hours of City Hall, are solicited by peddlers or solicitors as defined in ordinance 20.21 (B), and

WHEREAS, such solicitation by peddlers or solicitor as defined in Ordinance 20.21 (B) of sales of goods, wares or merchandise which are not being purchased by the City but by City employees for their personal use, is disruptive and reduces productivity of the employees.

IT IS THEREFORE established as a policy for City Hall that during regular City Hall hours and while such employees are engaged in their duties as a City employee, solicitation by peddlers or solicitors who are within City Hall doing such solicitation, unless prior permission is obtained from the Mayor or Director of Public Works after a determination has been made that such solicitation will not interfere with the work of the City employees.

The prohibition contained within this policy does not prohibit the solicitation for sales of goods, ware and merchandise that are purchased by the City for City purposes of those persons within City Hall that deal on a day-to-day basis with the purchase of goods, wares or merchandise for the City.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS March 27, 1992

# CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION PLAN

## CLASSIFICATION PLAN

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### **Section 1. Adoption of Classification Plan**

The City will establish and maintain a Position Classification Plan. This position classification plan shall include all regular full-time and part-time positions in the City covered under the Employee Handbook, with the exception of LPPSA, LPPNSA, IAFF, and ATU positions. The classification plan shall be maintained, and reviewed at the time a vacancy occurs, to reflect the current responsibilities and requirements and other applicable factors for all covered City positions. For each position there shall be a written position or class description which will include the following:

- a. Position or classification title;
- b. FLSA status;
- c. A position summary which explains the nature of the work responsibilities of the position;
- d. The essential duties and responsibilities;
- e. Position requirements such as the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for performance of the work;
- f. A statement of the education, experience and training required, and desired (if different) for recruitment;
- g. Specialized requirements such as licensures, certifications, or registrations; and
- h. Physical requirements and working conditions in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### **Section 2. Maintenance of Classification Plan**

The Director of Human Resources shall be responsible for the preparation, administration, and maintenance of the classification plan to ensure that position classifications accurately reflect the essential duties and responsibilities, required knowledge, skills, and abilities, and other position requirements. Department Heads shall be responsible for notifying the Director of Human Resources of substantive changes in the nature of the duties, responsibilities, working conditions, or other factors affecting the classification of any existing position in their department.

The Director of Human Resources shall review and analyze changes in position classifications and determine whether the change in the nature or level of duties and responsibilities warrants a revision or reassignment of the position classification, establishing a new position classification to which the position is assigned, or taking other appropriate action.

The Director of Human Resources shall determine whether changes in a position classification warrants a review of the job evaluation points assigned to a position classification and if so, whether that review results in a change in the position classifications assigned grade in the Compensation Plan.

The Human Resources Department shall maintain all official position descriptions for all City positions.

### **Section 3. Classification of New Positions**

The Director of Human Resources shall be responsible for the process of analyzing and assigning new positions to existing position classifications or developing a new position classification and evaluating the new position classification for placement in the City's Compensation Plan. Evaluations of new positions and reclassification requests will be completed by an outside consultant. New positions must be approved by the Common Council. The Director of Human Resources shall be responsible for determining the qualifications and experience level of the new position, in consultation and review with the Department Head and Mayor. Requests for new positions must be submitted to the Director of Human Resources no

later than July 1 for the next calendar year operating budget consideration. The Director of Human Resources has the discretion to bring recommendations forward to Common Council, based on position vacancies or reorganizations and budget allocation, for new position additions outside of the operating budget cycle based on department need.

**Section 4. Amendments to the Classification Plan**

The Common Council shall approve amendments to the Classification Plan by adding, changing, or deleting positions or classes of positions and salary grades based on internal analysis, market comparisons, authorized budget allocation and other relevant factors, based upon the Director of Human Resources recommendations.

**Section 5. Use of the Classification Plan**

The classification plan is used for the following:

- a. As a guide for recruiting and determining eligibility of applicants for employment in City positions.
- b. In determining lines of promotion and promotion eligibility.
- c. Determining compensation levels for position classifications, and;
- d. Providing uniform job terminology

**Section 6. Administration**

The City of La Crosse Common Council authorizes the Director of Human Resources to implement the Classification Plan.

**Section 7. Request for Reclassification**

Requests for reclassification of a position to a higher classification grade should be submitted, in writing, by the Department Head to the Human Resources Department. The request should include the specific reasons for the request for reclassification and must clearly demonstrate increased complexity and/or responsibility within their respective position. Upon receipt of the request the Director of Human Resources shall study the request and determine the merit of the request for reclassification. If the Director of Human Resources determines a reclassification is justified, a recommendation shall be presented to the Common Council. If approved by Common Council, the Director of Human Resources or their designee shall make the necessary changes to maintain a fair, equitable and accurate classification plan.

**COMPENSATION PLAN**

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**Section 1. Coverage of the Compensation**

Employees shall be compensated in accordance with the Compensation Plan established by the City and adopted by the Common Council and administered by the Human Resources Department. Positions covered by LPPSA, LPPNSA, IAFF and ATU are not included in the City's Compensation Plan. The City shall develop and maintain a compensation plan based on equitable compensation relationships for all position classifications covered by the Compensation Plan in accordance with state and federal laws. The compensation plan shall include all regular full time and regular part-time position classifications covered under the Employee Handbook of the City.

**Section 2. Objectives**

The City recognizes that employees play a significant role in the provision of services in the community. The City strives to recruit and retain high quality employees to provide public services. The City has identified the following objectives in its Compensation Plan:

- Provide fair and equitable rates of pay to employees

- Develop a system that establishes a market rate and salary range for each position.
- Establishes rates of pay that allows the City to successfully compete for, recruit and retain qualified employees.
- Establishes a market position which is fiscally responsible with public resources.
- Ensures consistent administration throughout the City.

The City upholds the principal of equal employment opportunity (EEO), basing differentials in pay solely on qualifications, position responsibilities and individual performance without regard to non-position related attributes. No individual shall be discriminated against with respect to compensation because of race, color, creed, religion, political affiliation, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran's status, disability or any other group or class against which discrimination is prohibited by state or federal law.

### **Section 3. Compensation Plan**

The compensation plan is designed to establish and maintain a salary structure which attracts, motivates, recruits and retains qualified employees and is competitive with the local labor market. These objectives are accomplished through the use of:

- a. Formal job evaluation system.
- b. Competitive compensation structure with salary increases based on factors as determined by the Common Council.
- c. The compensation plan will consist of salary grades with an established minimum, midpoint, and maximum rate. Position classifications will be placed in a salary grade based on the formal job evaluation ranking of the position classification and upon market considerations.
- d. The overall compensation plan (pay and benefits) will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis. Recommended changes shall be communicated to the Common Council and employees.
- e. The overall compensation (pay and benefits) may be limited by budgetary constraints (available revenues) and be structured accordingly.

The compensation plan is structured with twenty (20) grades with an approximate seven (7%) percent spread between grades. Each grade is comprised of eleven (11) steps with a 2.75% spread between steps.

### **Section 4. Maintenance of Compensation**

The Director of Human Resources or their designee shall review the status of the compensation plan annually and evaluate any amendment(s) necessary to maintain an up-to-date and competitive compensation structure.

The Director of Human Resources or their designee, in consultation with the Mayor, shall make recommendations for modifications to the plan to the Common Council based upon a study of local economic conditions, the financial state of City government, and market conditions of position classifications and other relevant factors deemed appropriate for consideration.

### **Section 5. Payment at Listed Rate**

All employees covered by the compensation plan shall be paid within the pay range established for their respective position classification.

### **Section 6. Rate of Pay upon Hire (New employee)**

Employees will start at the Minimum Rate of the Pay Grade if the employee has the minimum skills and abilities required in the job description. The hiring supervisor, with the approval of the Human Resources

Director, can start experienced individuals up to Step 6. Any requests for placement above Step 6 may occur only with the approval of the Common Council. Exceptions to this Step 6 limitation will be granted for public safety command positions, IT positions and Attorney positions. These positions may hire above Step 6 without Council approval.

Human Resources shall consider internal equity of incumbent employees in the classification and department when making an employment offer for compensation above the minimum rate established for the classification. The salary may not exceed the maximum rate of the range of the salary grade to which the position is assigned.

A starting wage above step 6 (midpoint) in the compensation plan for “new employees” shall require the approval of the Common Council upon the recommendation of the Director of Human Resources, the Department Head and the Mayor. The compensation level of current employees in the same classification will not be increased to provide a higher rate of pay for a new hire. Department Heads are not authorized to present compensation offers to potential candidates. It is the responsibility of the Human Resources Department to present all employment offers to potential employees, including wage and benefit levels.

### **Section 7. Salary Adjustments**

The Director of Human Resources or their designee shall be responsible for implementing all salary adjustments. Employees shall be advised of all salary changes. Salary adjustments may occur as a result of the following:

- a. **Across the Board Increase:** The Common Council may grant an across-the-board adjustment each fiscal year based on the recommendation of the Director of Human Resources or their designee and the Mayor, and budgetary considerations. The increase shall be applied to the midpoint (step 6) of each grade; the remaining steps are calculated from the midpoint, maintaining a 2.75% differential between steps. Subject to funding, changes to the compensation plan shall take effect on the first full pay period in January of each year.
- b. **Step Increase:** Step increases for those employees who have not reached the maximum of the range assigned to their position may be authorized by the Common Council. Annual performance will be the determining factor for a step increase. Employees who leave City employment prior to the first day of the pay period of the first full pay period in July are not be eligible for a step increase or stipend.
- c. **Demotion – Performance Related:** An employee may receive a decrease in salary due to a demotion to a lower-level position assigned to a lower salary grade. The new salary must fall within the range of the new position classification and be an established step within the salary grade.
- d. **Promotion:** The salary of an employee promoted, or assigned an interim appointment, will be placed at the Minimum Rate of the new salary range; OR the step closest that provides a 5.5% increase, if over the Minimum Rate. There may be situations in which a 5.5% increase may be insufficient, and compression may be a problem. In those situations, the Human Resources Director may grant up to 10% to alleviate a compression situation. Consideration for an exception shall include current market of qualified candidates for the position and delayed eligibility for step increase of more than 16 months. The new salary must fall within the range of the new position classification and be an established step within the salary grade. Promotion or interim assignment may only occur when a position is vacated. At the completion of the interim assignment the employee would return to their former position, at the step they would have been placed at had they remained in the position.

- e. **Reclassification:** When a position is reclassified resulting in the assignment of the position to a different salary grade, the Director of Human Resources or their designee has the discretion to adjust the salary upward, provided that the adjusted salary does not exceed the maximum of the new salary range. The salary will be adjusted by placing it in the step which is closest to, or equal to, the employee's current rate however it shall not result in a pay decrease. In cases where the current salary is below the minimum of the new grade the salary shall be brought up to the minimum of the new salary grade. Employees who experience a *negative* change in pay grade as a result of reclassification may not experience a reduction in pay. If the employee's present pay falls within the new range, the employee will be placed in the new range at the step closest to their current pay, without a decrease. If the employee's current pay exceeds the new range maximum, the employee will maintain their current rate of pay however would not be eligible for further base-accumulating pay increases until his/her pay is again within the pay range for the new position.
- f. **Transfer:** The Director of Human Resources or their designee may adjust the salary of an employee transferred to a new position based on qualifications and relevant prior experience, within the established pay grade. Human Resources shall consider internal equity of incumbent employees in the classification and department when making an employment offer for compensation above the minimum rate established for the classification. Employees who transfer to a position with the same job title shall receive no adjustment in base pay.

#### **Section 8. Performance Evaluations and Step Increases**

Performance evaluations are conducted on an annual basis to provide a planned and orderly means of evaluating individual performance. The performance evaluation provides an opportunity for performance feedback and to establish goals and objectives for the upcoming performance period. It is meant to improve employee performance at virtually any level of performance. The following principles shall be followed for the administration of the performance evaluation program:

- a. Step increases are subject to funding by Common Council through the budgetary process.
- b. Subject to funding and eligibility requirements for step increases, step increases shall be effective the first full pay period in July.
- c. Performance evaluations shall be conducted annually and shall serve the evaluation period of June 1 (previous year) through May 31 (present year). Human Resources will provide Performance Evaluation forms to be used in evaluating employee's performance. All evaluations must be received in Human Resources by the end of June. Failure to do so will result in the delay of the step increase for the employee.
- d. An employee must receive an overall rating of "exceptional", "exceeds expectations" or "meets expectations" to be eligible for a step increase. Progression shall be limited to one step. Employees at or above the top step who meet the established performance factors shall receive a \$750 performance stipend, subject to Common Council funding. The stipend shall be received in the paycheck representing the first full pay period in July. Employees who leave City employment prior to the first day of the pay period of the first full pay period in July are not eligible for a step increase or stipend.
- e. The responsibility for conducting performance evaluations is delegated to the employee's immediate supervisor. The Department Head is responsible for reviewing the completed performance evaluations to ensure accuracy and consistency within the Department. The Human Resources Department will review all evaluations to ensure consistency city-wide.
- f. Department Heads will be evaluated in a closed session by the Mayor and designated member(s) of the Executive Committee. Members of the Common Council may provide



- written input to the evaluators. While in closed session only the Mayor and member(s) of the Executive Committee may participate in the performance evaluation.
- g. Guidelines for conducting effective performance reviews are available in Human Resources.
  - h. The original performance evaluation, as well as employee self-evaluation or comments, shall be maintained in the employee's personnel file.
  - i. All personnel should understand clearly that step increases are based upon performance and not upon the mere passage of time.
  - j. If no increase has been recommended, the reason for this will be communicated to the employee by their immediate supervisor. A performance improvement plan will be initiated.
  - k. Any new, transferred or promoted employee placed into their position on or after January 1 will not be eligible for the initial step advancement.

**Section 9. Effective Date of Salary Changes**

Salary changes shall become effective on the date of the transfer, promotion, or demotion, and if possible, occur on the first day of a pay period.

**Section 10. Advance on Wages**

There shall be no advance on wages and no paycheck will be released early.

**Section 11. Amendments to the Compensation Plan**

The Common Council reserves the right to modify or eliminate all or any portion of the Compensation Plan at any time.

**Effective Nov. 2014; R 03/2015 R 02/2017; R 01/01/2018; R 01/01/2023; R 01/01/2024**

## CODE OF ETHICS POLICY

### A. DEFINITIONS

1. Anything of value - means any money or property, favor, service, payment, advance, forbearance, loan or promise of future employment, but does not include compensation and expenses paid by the City, fees, honorariums and expenses which are permitted and reported under Section 19.56, Wis. Stats., political contributions which are reported under Chapter 11 of the Wisconsin Statutes, or hospitality extended for a purpose unrelated to city business by a person other than an organization.
2. Public Employee - means any person excluded from the definition of a public officer who is employed by the City of La Crosse.
3. Public Officer - means all City officers as defined in Section 62.09 under Wisconsin Statutes and all members of Boards, Commissions and Agencies established or appointed by the Mayor or Common Council, whether paid or unpaid.

### B. DECLARATION OF POLICY.

It is declared that high moral and ethical standards among City officers and employees are essential to the conduct of good representative government and that a Code of Ethics for the guidance of Public officers and employees will help them avoid conflicts with improved standards of public service and will promote and strengthen the confidence of the residents of this City in their public officers and employees.

### C. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.

There are certain provisions of the Wisconsin Statutes which should, while not set forth herein, be considered an integral part of any Code of Ethics.

Accordingly, the provisions of the following sections of the Wisconsin Statutes are made a part of this Code of Ethics and shall apply to public officers and public employees whenever applicable, to-wit:

- Section 946.10 - Bribery of Public Officers and Employees
- Section 946.11 - Special Privileges from Public Utilities
- Section 946.12 - Misconduct in Public Office
- Section 946.13 - Private Interest in Public Contract Prohibited

### D. DISCLOSURES.

In addition to the foregoing statutory provisions, the following disclosure and related requirements are hereby established:

1. Disclosure of interest in legislation - To the extent that he knows thereof a member of the Common Council and any public officer or employee of the City of La Crosse, whenever paid or unpaid, who participates in the discussion or gives official opinion to the Council on any legislation before the Council, shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest he has in such legislation.

2. Disclosure of interest in other matters - To the extent that he knows thereof a member of a Board, Commission or Agency and any other public officer or public employee of the City of La Crosse, whether paid or unpaid, who participates in discussion or gives official opinion to any such Board, Commission or Agency on any matter before it, shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of any direct or indirect financial or other private interest he has in such matters.
3. Confidential Information - No public officer or employee may intentionally use or disclose information gained in the course of or by reason of his or her official position or activities in any way that could result in receipt of anything of value for himself or herself, or his or her immediate family as defined by Section 19.42, Wisconsin Statutes, or for any other person or organization, if the information has not been communicated to the public or is not public information.
4. Special Privileges - No public officer or employee may use or attempt to use his public position to influence or gain unlawful benefits, advantages or privileges for himself or others.
5. Conduct after termination of Employment - No public officer or employee, after the termination of service or employment with the City, shall appear before any Board or Agency of the City of La Crosse in relation to any case, proceeding or application in which he personally participated during the period of his service or employment, or which was under his active consideration.

#### **E. GIFTS AND GRATUITIES.**

1. No public officer or employee shall receive or offer to receive, either directly or indirectly, any gift, gratuity, or anything of value which he is not authorized to receive from any person, if such person:
  - a. Has or is seeking to obtain contractual or other business or financial relationships with such public employee's employer or the governmental body of the public official; or
  - b. Conducts operations or activities which are regulated by such public employee's employer or the governmental body of a public official; or
  - c. Has interests which may be substantially affected by such public employee's employer or the governmental body of the public official. The receipt of any gift, gratuity, or anything of value as denoted above is contrary to the public policy of the City of La Crosse.
2. The following is the policy to be followed in determining whether or not public officer or employees of the City of La Crosse may attend as a guest:
  - a. It will be the choice of the official or employee to accept or not accept guest status when such individual is the primary speaker or on the program agenda as a participant in the program;
  - b. It will be the choice of the official or employee to accept or not accept guest status when such individual is honored for distinguished service;

- c. It will be the choice of the official or employee to accept or not accept guest status when he attends functions in other capacities than that as an elected official or as an employee of the City.
- d. It will be the choice of the official or employee to accept or not accept a meal at meetings which are instructional and job-related and if the employee or official chooses to accept a meal, the cost of such should be submitted to the City of La Crosse for payment.

**F. DISTRIBUTION OF CODE OF ETHICS.**

- 1. The City Clerk shall cause to be distributed to each public officer and employee a copy of this Code of Ethics before entering upon the duties of his office or employment.
- 2. Each public officer, the President of the Common Council, the Chairman of each Board, Commission or Agency and the Head of each Department, shall between January 1st and January 31st, each year, review the provisions of this Code himself and with his fellow Council, Board, Commission, Agency members or Subordinates as the case may be, and certify to the City Clerk by February 15th that such annual review has been undertaken. A copy of this Code shall be continuously posted on each department bulletin board wherever situated.

**G. ETHICS BOARD.**

1. Membership.

- a. The Ethics Board shall be composed of five (5) voting members. The members shall be citizens chosen from the private sector who shall not have an affiliation with city government in any capacity. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the majority vote of the City Council.
- b. Terms of office of the citizen members shall be three years, except that when the initial appointments are made, one (1) member shall be appointed for one year, two (2) for two years and two (2) for three years.

2. Creation and Composition of the Ethics Board.

- a. The Ethics Board shall have its own Chair and Vice Chair.
- b. The City Attorney shall furnish the Ethics Board whatever legal assistance, which may become necessary. The Ethics Board may determine the need for private counsel.
- c. Duties and Powers.
  - i. **Advisory Opinions.** Any person governed by this code may apply in writing to the Ethics Board for an advisory opinion. Applicants shall present their interpretation of the facts at issue and of the applicability of the provision of this code before the advisory opinion is rendered. All opinions shall be in writing and adopted by the Ethics Board by resolution. The Ethics Board's deliberations and action upon such applications shall be in meetings not open to the public, but notice of such meetings shall be given pursuant to s. 19.84, Wis. Stats. Record of the Ethics Board opinions, opinion request and investigations of violations may be closed to public inspection, as permitted by Chapter 19, Wis. Stats. The Ethics Board, however, may make such records public with the consent of the applicant.

3. Complaints.

- a. The City Clerk shall accept from any person, except a member of the Ethics Board, a signed original complaint that states the name of the official or employee alleged to have violated this code and that sets forth the material facts involved in the allegation. The City

- Clerk shall forward the original complaint to the Ethics Board Chair within three (3) working days.
- b. **Time Limitations.** No action may be taken on any complaint that is filed more than one (1) year after a violation of the Ethics Code is alleged to have occurred.
4. **Ethic Board Procedures. Following the receipt of a complaint:**
    - a. The Ethics Board shall notify the accused within ten (10) calendar days.
    - b. The Ethics Board shall convene within 20 calendar days.
    - c. The Ethics Board may make preliminary investigations with respect to alleged violation of this code. A preliminary investigation shall not be initiated unless the accused official or employee is notified in writing within ten (10) calendar days from the initial meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the investigation and the individual's specific action or activities to be investigated.
    - d. The Ethics Board shall make every effort to conclude within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days.
  5. **Hearings.** If the Ethics Board finds that probable cause exists for believing the allegations of the complaint, the Ethics Board may issue an order setting a date for a hearing. If the Ethics Board elects to hold a hearing, the Ethics Board shall give the accused at least twenty (20) calendar days notice of the hearing date. Such hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the contested case hearing requirements of Chapter 227 Wis. Stats., at open session unless the accused petitions for a hearing closed to the public and good cause to close the hearing is shown.
  6. **Right of Representation.** During all states of an investigation or proceeding conducted under this section, the accused or any person whose activities are under investigation is entitled to be represented by counsel of personal choice and at personal expense.
  7. **Due Process. The accused or his/her representative shall have an adequate opportunity to:**
    - a. Examine all documents and records to be used at the hearing within a reasonable time before the date of the hearing as well as during the hearing.
    - b. Have witnesses heard.
    - c. Establish all pertinent facts and circumstances, and
    - d. Question or refute any testimony or evidence, including the opportunity to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses.
  8. **Power to subpoena and administer oaths.** The Ethics Board shall have the power to administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses by issuing subpoenas as granted other Boards and Commissions.
  9. **Vote of the Ethics Board.** The majority vote of the Ethics Board shall be required for any action taken by the Ethics Board.
  10. **Evidentiary Standard.** If the recommendation is that a violation of the ethics code has occurred, the Ethics Board must be convinced by clear and convincing evidence that such violation occurred.
  11. **Violations.**
    - a. If the Ethics Board finds that a violation of the ethics code has occurred, the Ethics Board shall report their findings in writing to the City Council, complainant, and accused, through the City Clerk, within ten (10) working days after reaching a conclusion.

- b. If the Ethics Board determines that an official or employee has violated any provision of this code, the Ethics Board may, as part of its report to the City Council, make any of the following recommendations:
  - i. In case of an official who is an elected City Council Member, that City Council considers sanctioning, censuring or removing the person.
  - ii. In the case of a citizen member or other elected or appointed City officer, that the City Council consider removing the person from the committee, board or office.
  - iii. In the case of an employee, that the employee's appointing authority consider discipline up to and including discharge of the employee.
  - iv. That the City Council consider imposing a civil forfeiture in an amount not exceeding \$1,000 for each offense.
- c. If the Ethics Board finds that no violation has occurred, the Ethics Board shall notify the complainant, the accused, and City Clerk in writing within five (5) working days.

12. Penalties.

- a. If the Ethics Board files a report with the City Council finding that an official or employee has violated the Ethics Code, such report shall be referred to the Judiciary and Administration Committee for a report. The Judiciary and Administration Committee may recommend to the City Council a penalty for the violation and/or recommendation that a hearing be held on the issue of the penalty. If a hearing is recommended by the Judiciary and Administration Committee, then the Mayor shall schedule a hearing before the City Council and cause notice to be mailed to the interested parties including the person or persons accused of the violation at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for the hearing. At the hearing, the evidence in support of the penalty recommendations by the Ethics Board an/or Judiciary and Administration Committee shall be presented by the City Attorney or by a member of the City Attorney's staff. The accused, who may appear in person or who may be represented by an attorney, shall be entitled to present the City Council such evidence as may be relevant, competent and material in regard to the penalty for the violation.
- b. Upon completion of the hearing or other proceeding by the City Council, judgment shall be entered by the City Council determining the penalty for the Ethics Code violation found by the Ethics Board and may include a recommendation of discipline of the person to his/her appointing authority up to and including discharge from employment or removal from office, in accordance with Chapter 17 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- c. Any person violating the Code of Ethics may be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 for each offense. (3<sup>rd</sup> Am. Ord. #4324 recreated 3/9/06)

## **POLICY ON COMPUTER SURVEILLANCE**

It is the intent of this policy to establish a process for the investigation of computer related misconduct by city employees.

Currently over four hundred (400) city employees have access to the VOIP, internet and the city's network while at work and some have access while at home. In the interest of protecting confidential and proprietary information, the city has computer forensics capability on the city's internal/external computerized communication equipment, cellular phones, laptops, desktops, and all other network information systems, which allows the city to monitor technology use by city employees.

Three persons are charged with the responsibility to protect the integrity of the city's internal/external computerized communication and data information systems, (to include VOIP), from inappropriate, illegal, and/or prohibited use. City officials and employees that believe the city's information technology policy is or has been violated shall notify one or more of the following: the Director of Human Resources, the City Attorney, or the Director of Information Technology.

In situations where one or more of the above referenced individuals is made aware of an example or circumstance in which there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the city's internal/external computerized communication and data information systems are being used in violation of city policy, such information shall be evaluated by Director of Human Resources, in consultation with the City Attorney and the Director of Information Services and Technology. If the Director of Human Resources is suspected of violating the city's information technology policy, then the City Attorney shall evaluate the circumstances with consultation from the Director of Information Technology. If the City Attorney is suspected of violating the city's information technology policy, then the Director of Human Resources shall evaluate the circumstances with consultation from the Director of Information Technology. If the Director of Information Technology is suspected of violating the city's information technology policy then the Director of Human Resources shall evaluate the circumstances with consultation from the City Attorney. In any cases where such persons believe that reasonable suspicion of a policy violation exists, a targeted investigation may be authorized.

The City reserves the right to conduct random investigations into employee's use of the city's internal/external computerized communication and data information systems without reasonable suspicion as directed by the Director of Human Resources upon consultation with the City Attorney and Director of Information Technology described herein.

R 1/2018

## DRESS FOR YOUR DAY GUIDELINES

Dress for Your Day provides employees with the flexibility to choose appropriate and professional work attire based upon their workday and anticipated meetings with customers. Employees will be expected to use good judgment when deciding what to wear to work using basic guidelines. These guidelines are intended for non-uniformed office workers at City Hall and other City office settings. These dress standards do not apply to those employees working in the field.

Dress for Your Day work attire is intended to be relaxed when employees have a workday that does not include meetings with external customers, clients, vendors, or the like. The expectation is that employees will wear professional clothing appropriate for the nature of our business and the type of work performed. We all share in the responsibility to portray a positive image for the City, and Department Heads are responsible for fairly and consistently administering these guidelines as described below.

### Guidelines for types of attire to avoid:

Sweatshirts or sweatpants

Shorts

Tank tops (worn alone), crop/halter tops, graphic t-shirts

Ripped jeans, revealing clothing

Exercise wear

Clothes with holes, frays or stains

Leggings with short tops or wild patterns

Rubber soled flip-flops

Please keep in mind that we all share in the responsibility to portray a positive image for the City, and managers are responsible for fairly and consistently administering these guidelines. (Rule of thumb: if in doubt whether something is appropriate, err on the side of caution and keep it for the weekend!)

We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining the City's positive and professional image every day—not only by your attire, but by your positive attitude and service.

03/2022



## **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY**

(Excluding Transit and Fire)

This policy is established to ensure a safe, healthy, and productive work environment and to deter drug usage, sale, or possession by city employees in the workplace. The goal of the City of La Crosse is to achieve a drug-free workplace.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that due to the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace of the City of La Crosse.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all employees of the City of La Crosse shall abide, as a condition of employment, by the terms of this notice. Employees who are convicted of any criminal drug statute violation occurring in the workplace of the City of La Crosse must notify, in writing, the City of La Crosse Director of Human Resources or their designee, City Hall, 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, no less than five (5) days after such conviction.

Failure to comply with the above requirement shall be grounds for appropriate disciplinary action against such employee up to and including termination. Additionally, such employee may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Employee assistance programs are available to all city employees.

For purposes of this notice, “controlled substance” means a controlled substance in Schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812); “conviction” means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, use or possession of any controlled substance; “criminal drug statute” means a criminal statute involving the manufacture, distribution, dispensation, use or possession of any controlled substance; “city employee” includes all full time and part-time union or non-represented, non-supervisory, supervisory and managerial employees employed by the City of La Crosse. “The workplace of the City of La Crosse” means all areas and property in which the City maintains control including the operation of city vehicles, all equipment, buildings, parking lots, structures or other real property owned, leased or otherwise used or operated by the City. This would also include any location where an employee is conducting city business. This policy would be applicable for all employees while on duty.

PLEASE BE FURTHER ADVISED that a drug-free workplace awareness program will be conducted in the near future to inform all city employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the City of La Crosse’s policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, available drug counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace while on duty.

The above requirements shall take effect May 1, 2001.

R  
01/01/2018

# EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARD PROGRAM

## POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of having an employee identification card program is to enhance customer service by providing a welcoming environment for the public to interact with City employees. Additionally, an employee identification card program can assist in providing safety for the public and a safe working environment for the employees of the City of La Crosse. This policy is not intended to lessen City employee access to City facilities, but for the purpose of providing enhanced security and to aid in the public's recognition of those employees that serve the public in various functions.

## EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

All full-time, permanent part-time and other designated City employees will be issued an employee ID card to be used during their employment with the City. All office personnel are required to wear their ID cards during the work day either clipped on or hanging from a lanyard. Employees that conduct City business outside on private property, including businesses and schools are required to wear their ID cards during their visits. All laboring positions or positions where wearing the City issued I.D. causes a safety concern are required to have their city issued ID cards on their person during the workday in a wallet or other safe place that does not interfere with work. Police and fire personnel including airport employees shall wear identification badges pursuant to existing department policies. When employees are not at work, they should take off their ID card.

## MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of all management personnel to ensure compliance with the employee identification card program. The Director of Human Resources or their designee shall implement procedures to ensure that compliance occurs.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

The employee identification card program described herein shall become effective September 23rd, 2002, and revised effective August 4, 2006.

R 12/2/13; R 01/01/2018

## **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY**

A leave of absence for birth, adoption, or foster care placement; employee medical/illness; or family medical illness that is determined to be a serious health condition is available to employees as specified below. In addition to Family and Medical Leave a provision is provided for Military Family Leave for a qualifying exigency and to care for a seriously ill/injured military member (see attached policy). The intent of this policy is to comply with both the Wisconsin and Federal Family and Medical Leave Acts. Should this policy conflict in any way with the applicable Federal and State statutes or regulations, the statutes or regulations shall control. In addition, the employer-provided leaves of absence will run concurrently, and are not to be taken in addition to, the statutory leaves provided for under the Wisconsin and Federal Acts. All or part of this leave may be paid in certain instances. Use of authorized leave in conformance with this policy will not provide the basis for any adverse employment decision with respect to any employee, including decisions related to compensation or discipline. Employees must follow the same sick leave call-in procedures to be eligible for FMLA.

For purposes of ease and understanding, this Family and Medical Leave policy is divided into two sections as follows:

1. General Requirements for Family and Medical Leave (page 1 – 10)
2. General Requirements for Military Family Leave (page 11 - 17)

### **I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE:**

- A. **Eligibility:** Eligibility requirements vary between Wisconsin FMLA and Federal FMLA. Such eligibility is for request of birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave; family medical illness leave; or employee medical illness leave as provided under this policy.
1. To be eligible under Wisconsin FMLA (WFMLA) the employee must meet each of the following criteria:
    - Must have worked for the City for more than 52 consecutive weeks
    - Must have worked for at least 1000 hours during the 52-week period preceding the beginning of the leave. You may include vacation, sick leave, and other paid leave to count toward the minimum 1000 hours.
  2. To be eligible under Federal FMLA (FMLA) the employee must meet each of the following criteria:
    - Must have worked for the City for at least 12 months (need not be consecutive, however within the last 7 years of actual work. 12 months is calculated via a look back of 12 months in reverse chronological order up to a period of 7 years)
    - Must have worked for the City for at least 1250 hours of service during the 12 month period preceding the beginning of the leave. Count only actual hours worked.
- B. **Length of Leave:** Generally, no employee may take more than twelve (12) weeks in a calendar year for any one leave or combination of leaves for birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave; family medical/illness leave; or employee medical/illness leave. (Note: two weeks of leave are available under State law for the serious illness of a parent-in-law, domestic partner, or domestic partners' parent). Leave will be calculated on a 12-month calendar year (January – December) period.

If the leave qualifies as both a City-provided leave, and FMLA and/or WFMLA leave, the leaves will run concurrently. (For example, City sick leave used for a serious illness of an employee

qualifies as employee medical/illness leave under State and Federal law and, as such, shall be deducted from an employee's leave entitlement under State and Federal laws.)

If an employee does not apply for family and medical leave and his or her leave usage appears to qualify for FMLA or WFMLA, the City shall notify the employee in writing that the leave will be classified as FMLA leave and run the benefits concurrently.

*\*\*If, after exhausting the family and medical leave entitlement, the employee has additional accrued leave available, employee will be allowed to continue leave utilizing remaining accrued leave.*

- C. **Partial Absence or Intermittent Leave:** For employees using partial absence or intermittent leave, the specific amount taken will be deducted in increments of not less than fifteen minutes for purposes of computing leave taken and leave remaining. If partial absence or intermittent leave is taken while on WFMLA, the employee may be temporarily transferred to an alternative position that better accommodates recurring periods of leave, however it shall be with the employee's approval. Once WFMLA is exhausted, the employer may require a temporary transfer to another position while leave is under the Federal FMLA.

D. Definitions:

1. **12-month period/calendar year.** 12-month calendar year (January – December).
2. **Health care provider.** Acupuncturist, audiologist, Christian Science practitioner, dentist, chiropractor, D. O., D. D. S., D. P.M., health care provider in foreign country, hospice, inpatient care facility, MD., marriage and family counselor or therapist, nurse-midwife, nurse, optometrist, O. T., P. T. psychologist, respiratory care practitioner, social worker, speech pathologist or Wisconsin-licensed CBRF, podiatrist, clinical psychologist, and professional counselor.
3. **In loco parentis.** "In loco parentis" means an individual, other than a parent, who acts in the parent's place and has day-to-day responsibilities to provide care or financially supports the child, including providing for the child's needs and making decisions regarding the child's welfare.
4. **Spouse** – A husband or wife as defined or recognized under state law for purpose of marriage includes common law marriage and same sex marriage regardless of where they live.
5. **Child** - Biological, adopted, foster child, stepchild, or legal ward or child for which employee stands "in loco parentis" who is under eighteen (18) years of age; or eighteen (18) years of age or older and incapable of self-care at the time leave is to commence because of a "physical or mental disability." A "physical or mental disability" is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual's major life activities.

For purposes of the Wisconsin FMLA, however, a child over 18 must be incapable of self-care because of a serious health condition.

6. **Parent** - Biological, adoptive, step, foster parent or parent who stood "in loco parentis" to the employee when the employee was a child.

7. **Parent-in-law** - Spouse's parent - two (2) weeks (Wisconsin FMLA– not included within the 12-week Federal FMLA limit). Includes domestic partners' parents.
8. **Domestic Partner** – two (2) weeks (Wisconsin FMLA) Same sex couples and opposite sex couples
  - a. That meet the following criteria: at least 18 years of age and capable of consenting to the relationship, not married to, or in a domestic partnership with another individual, they must share a common residence, they must not be related by blood in a way that would prohibit marriage under Wis. Stat. 763.03, they must consider themselves to be members of each other's immediate family; and they must agree to be responsible for each other's basic living expenses.

E. **Serious Health Condition.** Under this policy a “serious health condition” is a disabling physical or mental illness, injury, impairment, or condition involving any of the following:

- a. Inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, nursing home or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment therefor, or recovery therefrom, or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or
- b. Outpatient care requiring continuing treatment or supervision by a health care provider: direct, continuous and firsthand contact by a health care provider subsequent to the initial outpatient contact. A serious health condition involving continuing treatment (defined as a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive days or treatment by the health care provider within 7 days from the onset of the incapacity, and at least two visits with a health care provider within 30 days of the first day of incapacity) by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:
  - i. A period of incapacity i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment therefor, or recovery therefrom, and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition that also involves:
    - a. Treatment two or more times, (see definition above) by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (i.e., physical therapist) under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, or
    - b. Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment (see definition of Treatment on page 4) under the supervision of the health care provider within the 30 day period.
  - ii. Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy, or for prenatal care.
  - iii. Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
    - a. Requires periodic visits (defined as at least 2 times per year) for treatment by a health care provider, or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
    - b. Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and

- c. May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)
- iv. A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke, or the terminal stages of a disease.
- v. Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery therefrom) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity in the absence of medical intervention or treatment such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Disabling means “incapacitation, or inability to pursue an occupation or perform services for wages because of physical or mental impairment”, or, as to family member, “interference with normal daily function.”

Treatment includes but is not limited to examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluations of the condition. **Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations, or dental examinations.** A regimen of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., an antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g., oxygen). **A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed-rest, drinking fluids, exercise, and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.**

Conditions for which cosmetic treatments are administered (such as most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not “serious health conditions” unless inpatient hospital care is required or unless complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomach, minor ulcers, headaches other than migraine, routine dental or orthodontic problems, periodontal disease, etc., are examples of conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave. Restorative dental or plastic surgeries after an injury or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this definition are met. Mental illness resulting from stress or allergies may be serious health conditions, but only if all the conditions of this section are met.

Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met. However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand, absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.

Absences attributable to incapacity under subsections (b)(ii) or (iii) above, qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

## II. BIRTH, FOSTER CARE PLACEMENT OR ADOPTION LEAVE

- A. Purpose: Unpaid birth, or adoption leave under state law may be used within sixteen (16) weeks before or after the following:
1. The birth of the employee's natural child; or
  2. The placement of a child with the employee for adoption or as a precondition to adoption under Wisconsin Statutes; or
  3. The placement of a child with the employee for 24 hour foster care that is made by or with agreement of a licensed child welfare agency or County Social Services/Human Services Department (Available under Federal FMLA only - allowable within a 12 month period beginning on the date of the placement).

Leave must be completed within twelve (12) months of commencement under Federal Law.

- B. Length of Birth, Foster Care Placement or Adoption leave: In a calendar year period, generally no employee may take more than twelve (12) work weeks of birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave. If both spouses work for the City, they are each entitled to twelve (12) work weeks leave for birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care.
- C. Substitution: In lieu of unpaid leave, an employee may substitute a maximum of six (6) weeks of accrued paid sick or other accrued leave for the first six (6) weeks (state FMLA) of the otherwise unpaid twelve (12) week leave period for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child (Federal FMLA only for foster placement). After the first six (6) weeks of state leave (for birth or adoption), the City requires any accrued vacation, or personal day(s) be substituted, for all of the remaining leave period until leave terminates or paid benefits are exhausted. The employee would also have the option, at their discretion, to use sick leave, floating holiday, banked holidays or compensatory time, in accordance with policy or collective bargaining agreements. The choice of the particular paid benefit to be used may be made by the employee; however, as one paid benefit is exhausted another will be substituted until all paid benefits are exhausted or leave terminates, whichever is first. The City will assign the form of paid leave in the absence of the employee's selection.

\*\*See page 1 of General Requirements.

- D. Scheduling Birth, Foster Care Placement, or Adoption Leave: Except in cases of emergency, an employee must submit a written request for birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave not less than fourteen (14) days before the leave is to commence. This may be waived for medical reasons or unscheduled births. If the date of the birth, foster care placement, or adoption requires leave to begin sooner, the employee shall provide notice as soon as possible, but no later than two workdays after the commencement of the leave. The employee shall identify if and what type of paid accrued leave he/she intends to substitute as provided above.

An employee may take birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave as partial absence or intermittent leave from employment in increments of not less than fifteen minutes. An employee who uses partial absence or intermittent leave shall make reasonable effort to schedule the leave so it does not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. To comply with this requirement, an employee must provide to the City, in writing, his or her proposed schedule of partial absence or intermittent leave not less than two (2) weeks before the leave is to begin. The schedule must be of sufficient definiteness that the City is able to

schedule replacement employees, if necessary, to cover the absences. Any Partial absence or intermittent leave under WFMLA must begin within the sixteen (16) weeks prior to or following the birth, foster care placement, or adoption of a child. The last noncontinuous increment of leave must begin prior to the 16<sup>th</sup> week following the birth, care, placement, or adoption of a child. Schedule for intermittent leave taken after 16 weeks following the birth, placement or adoption of a child is subject to department head approval.

### III. FAMILY MEDICAL ILLNESS LEAVE

- A. Purpose: Unpaid family medical/illness leave may be used to care for an individual who has a serious health condition and is the employee's spouse, child, parent and under Wisconsin law, parent-in-law, domestic partner or domestic partners' parent.

\*\* See page 2 Definitions.

- B. Length of Family Medical/Illness Leave: In a 12-month calendar year period, no employee may take more than twelve (12) weeks of family medical/illness leave for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition. If both the employee and his/her spouse are employed with the City, each spouse is eligible for the full twelve (12) weeks within the calendar year period to care for a son, daughter, parent or spouse with a serious health condition. A maximum of two (2) weeks of family medical/illness leave may be taken for a spouse's parent, domestic partner or domestic partners' parents. Care for child does not include the children of the employee's domestic partner.

- C. Substitution: In lieu of unpaid leave, an employee may substitute a maximum of two (2) weeks of accrued sick or other paid leave for the first two (2) weeks (Wisconsin FMLA) of the otherwise unpaid twelve (12) week leave period. After the first two (2) weeks, the City requires that any vacation, personal day(s), or sick leave must be substituted, for all of the remaining leave period until the leave terminates or paid benefits are exhausted. The employee would also have the option, at their discretion, to use floating holiday, banked holidays or compensatory time, in accordance with policy or collective bargaining agreements. The choice of the particular paid benefit to be used may be made by the employee; however, as one paid benefit is exhausted another will be substituted until all paid benefits are exhausted or leave terminates, whichever is first. The City will assign the form of paid leave in the absence of the employee's selection.

\*\*See page 1 under General requirements.

#### D. Scheduling Family Medical/Illness Leave:

1. If an employee intends to use family medical/illness leave for planned medical treatment or supervision of a family member, as defined above, the employee must do the following:
  - a. Give the City fourteen (14) days of advanced written notice of the intent to take such leave and the reason for the needed leave. The notice must identify the planned dates of the leave. In the case of an emergency, the written notice must be given as soon as practicable. At the same time, the employee shall identify if and what type of paid accrued leave he or she intends to substitute as provided above.
  - b. Schedule the medical treatment or supervision so that it does not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. Provide the City with a proposed schedule for the leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of the leave. The



schedule must be of sufficient definiteness that the City can schedule replacement employees, if necessary.

- c. Provide medical certification, as required.
- 2. When medically necessary, an employee may take family medical/illness leave as partial absence or intermittent leave from employment in increments of not less than-fifteen minutes and to make reasonable effort as to not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. To comply with this requirement, an employee must provide to the City, in writing, the employee's proposed schedule of partial absence or intermittent leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of such leave. Only leave at the time of the family medical/illness incident will be allowed.

#### IV. EMPLOYEE MEDICAL/ILLNESS LEAVE

- A. Purpose: Unpaid medical leave may be used by an employee who has a serious health condition which makes the employee unable to perform his or her job duties.
- B. Length of Medical/Illness Leave: Unless otherwise required by law, no employee may take more than twelve (12) weeks of medical/illness leave in a 12 month calendar year period.
- C. Substitution: In lieu of unpaid leave, an employee may substitute a maximum of two (2) weeks accrued sick or other leave for the first two (2) weeks (Wisconsin FMLA) of the otherwise unpaid twelve (12) week leave. After the first two (2) weeks, the City requires that any vacation, personal day(s), or sick leave be substituted for the remaining leave period. The employee would also have the option, at their discretion, to use floating holiday, banked holidays or compensatory time, in accordance with policy or collective bargaining agreements. The choice of the particular paid benefit to be used may be made by the employee; however, as one paid benefit is exhausted another will be substituted until all paid benefits are exhausted or leave terminates, whichever is first. The City will assign the form of paid leave in the absence of the employee's selection.
- D. FMLA Under Worker's Compensation: A serious health condition may arise from a work-related injury and employee medical/illness leave may run concurrently with such worker's compensation absence. If the worker's compensation injury extends beyond the twelve (12) weeks entitlement for employee medical/illness leave, the employee shall be eligible for workers compensation provided under State Statutes or as otherwise applicable under the labor agreement.
- E. Use of Paid Leave: Use of paid sick leave, vacation, floating holidays, banked holidays, personal days, workers compensation benefits or compensatory time by an employee for a serious health condition will be deemed to be concurrent use of medical leave under both the State and Federal FMLA acts.
- F. Scheduling Employee Medical/Illness Leave: An employee may schedule medical/illness leave as medically necessary.
  - 1. If an employee intends to take medical/illness leave for a planned medical treatment or supervision, the employee must:
    - a. Give the City fourteen (14) days advance written notice of the intent to take such leave and the reason for the needed leave. The notice must identify the

planned dates of the leave. (This requirement may be waived in emergency situations.) At the same time the employee shall identify if and what type of paid accrued leave the employee intends to substitute as provided under the law.

- b. Schedule the medical treatment or supervision so that it does not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. Provide the City with a proposed schedule for the leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of the leave. The schedule must be of sufficient definiteness that the City can schedule replacement employees, if necessary.
  - c. Provide medical certification as required.
2. When medically necessary, an employee may take employee medical/illness leave as partial absence or intermittent leave from employment in increments of not less than fifteen minutes and to make reasonable effort as to not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. To comply with this requirement, an employee must provide to the City, in writing, the employee's proposed schedule of partial absence or intermittent leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of such leave. If leave in increments of less than one-half (1/2) hour is medically necessary, the employee will provide appropriate medical certification of the necessity. If partial absences or intermittent leave is taken while on state FMLA, the employee may be temporarily transferred to an alternative position that better accommodates recurring periods of leave, however it shall be with the employee's approval. Once state FMLA is exhausted, the employer may require a temporary transfer to another position while leave is under the federal FMLA.

#### V. MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

- A. Certification of Health Care Provider form: The employee may be required to complete a Certification of Health Care Provider form when an employee requests family medical/illness leave or employee medical/illness leave under this policy or the employer determines such medical information is necessary to determine whether a leave request qualifies as an FMLA leave. This form must be completed by the employee and the health care provider treating the family member or employee. An employee must provide the certification within fifteen (15) calendar days following notification of this requirement, unless it is not practicable under the circumstances despite the employee's good faith efforts.
- B. Incomplete Certification: If requirements for certification are not completed, Human Resources may delay or deny family medical/illness leave or employee medical/illness leave. The employee will be notified if a certification is incomplete or insufficient and be given 7 calendar days to cure the deficiency. If the deficiencies are not corrected, the City may deny the request for leave.
- C. Additional Certification: Human Resources staff may contact the health care provider for information necessary to authenticate or clarify insufficient medical certification. The City may request a second health care provider opinion at the expense of the City. If the second opinion differs from the initial certification, a third opinion may be obtained at the expense of the City from a mutually (employer/employee) agreed upon health care provider.
  1. Human Resources may request subsequent recertification on a reasonable basis. For chronic conditions lasting for an extended period of time (i.e. one year, "unknown," "indefinite," or "lifetime"), Human Resources may request to obtain recertification every 6 months.

- D. If an employee does not apply for FMLA and his or her leave usage appears to qualify for FMLA, the City shall notify the employee in writing that the leave will be classified as FMLA leave, and run the benefits concurrently.

VI. INSURANCE AND BENEFITS: While an employee is on birth, foster care placement, or adoption leave; family medical/illness leave; employee medical/illness leave:

- A. The City will maintain group health insurance coverage under the same conditions that are in effect for active employees.

The City's obligation to maintain health benefits will stop if and when an employee informs the City of an intent not to return to work at the end of the leave period, if the employee fails to return to work when leave entitlement is used up, or if the employee fails to make any required payments while on leave.

It is the employee responsibility to pay the employee portion of any benefits which they are currently enrolled in to maintain coverage. Failure to do so will cause termination of applicable benefit.

If the employee does not return to work after the leave entitlement has been exhausted, and does not qualify for continuing disability insurance, the City has the right to recover from him/her any applicable benefit premiums (i.e. life insurance, ICI, Section #125) the City paid during the period of unpaid leave.

- B. The employee will continue to accrue employment benefits if paid leave is substituted.

I. RETURN FROM LEAVE

- A. An employee returning from employee medical/ illness leave may be required to return the Fitness For Duty Certification before being allowed to return to work. If the Fitness For Duty Certificate is not provided, the employee's return to work may be delayed or denied.
- B. An employee returning from leave as provided under this policy can return to his or her position if vacant at the time the employee returns to work. If the position is no longer vacant, the employee shall be offered an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.
- C. An employee may return to work prior to the scheduled end of the leave. An employee may be required to notify the Human Resources Department two (2) days prior to the desired return date. If the leave was for the employee's own serious health condition, a medical release may be required by the City prior to the employee's return. An employee shall be returned to his or her prior position or an equivalent position within a reasonable time after the request to return to work early is made.

II. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: With the concurrence of the Human Resources Department, City departments may adopt additional administrative rules and procedures related to administration of the Family and Medical Leave Acts, in order to address unique operational circumstances within the department. Department rules and procedures may not contravene the provisions of either the federal or state FMLA Acts.

III. FAILURE TO MEET POLICY REQUIREMENTS: If employees fail to meet the requirements of this policy, requests for leave may be delayed or denied.

IV. FORMS: All FMLA forms must be obtained from Human Resources. Outdated FMLA forms will not be accepted. FMLA forms are:

- Request for Leave
- Certification of Health Care Provider (Forms WH-380E for employees)
- Certification of Health Care Provider (Forms WH380F for covered family members)
- Notice to Employees of Rights Under FMLA
- Notice of Eligibility and Rights and Responsibilities
- Designation Notice to Employee of FMLA Leave
- Certification of Domestic Partnership
- Notice to Employer of Changes in Leave Plans
- Fitness for Duty Certification

## **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY - MILITARY**

A leave of absence for a qualifying exigency or a family member medical illness of covered service member or veteran that is determined to be a serious illness or injury is available to employees as specified below. The intent of this policy is to comply with the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act. Should this policy conflict in any way with the applicable Federal regulations, the regulations shall control. In addition, the employer-provided leaves of absence will run concurrently, and are not to be taken in addition to, the statutory leaves provided for under the Wisconsin and Federal Acts. All or part of this leave may be paid in certain instances. Use of authorized leave in conformance with this policy will not provide the basis for any adverse employment decision with respect to any employee, including decisions related to compensation or discipline. Employees must follow the same sick leave call-in procedures to be eligible for FMLA-Military.

For purposes of ease and understanding, this Family and Medical Leave policy is divided into two sections as follows:

1. General Requirements for Family and Medical Leave (page 1 - 10)
2. General Requirements for Military Family Leave (page 11 - 17)

### **I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE – MILITARY**

- A. **Eligibility:** To be eligible under Federal FMLA Military (FMLA-Military), the employee must meet each of the criteria:
  1. Must have worked for the City for more than 12 months (need not be consecutive, however within the last 7 years of actual work. 12 months is calculated via a look back of 12 months in reverse chronological order up to a period of 7 years).
  2. Must have worked for the City for at least 1250 hours of service during the 12 month period preceding the beginning of the leave. Count only actual hours worked.
- B. **Family and Medical Leave - Military (FMLA-M):** This leave is applicable only to Federal leave entitlements. There are two types of Military Family Leave available.
  1. **Qualifying exigency leave:** Eligible employees may be entitled to use up to 12 weeks of their FMLA Leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Leave may be used if the employee's spouse, son or daughter (of any age), or parent who is a member of the National Guard or Reserves and called to covered active duty. Covered active duty is defined as a call or order to active duty to a foreign country under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) of title 10, United States Code. Qualifying exigencies may include:
    - a. **Short notice deployment:**
      - i. Up to 7 calendar days of leave, beginning on the date a military member is notified of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation.
    - b. **Attending certain military events:**
      - i. Any official ceremony, program or event sponsored by the military that is related to the active duty or call to active duty status of a military member;  
*and*
      - ii. To attend family support or assistance programs and informational briefings sponsored or promoted by the military, military service organizations, or the

American Red Cross that are related to the covered active duty or call to active-duty status of a military member.

- c. Childcare and school activities:
  - i. To arrange for alternative childcare when covered active duty or call to active duty status necessitates a change in the existing childcare arrangement for a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, or a legal ward of a covered military member, or a child for whom a covered military member stands in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self care because of a mental or physical disability at the time that FMLA leave is to commence.
  - ii. To provide childcare on an urgent, immediate need basis (but not on a routine, regular, or everyday basis) when the need to provide such care arises from the active duty or call to active duty status of a military member for a covered child.
  - iii. To enroll in or transfer to a new school or day care facility a covered child, when enrollment or transfer is necessitated by the active duty or call to active duty status of a military member; *and*
  - iv. To attend meetings with staff at a school or a daycare facility, such as meetings with school officials regarding disciplinary measures, parent-teacher conferences, or meetings with school counselors, for a covered child, when such meetings are necessary due to circumstances arising from the active duty or call to active duty status of a military member.
  
- d. Financial and Legal arrangements:
  - i. To make or update financial or legal arrangements to address the military member's absence while on active duty or call to active duty status, such as preparing and executing financial and healthcare powers of attorney, transferring bank account signature authority, enrolling in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), obtaining military identification cards, or preparing or updating a will or living trust; *and*
  - ii. To act as the covered military member's representative before a federal, state or local agency for purposes of obtaining, arranging, or appealing military service benefits while the covered military member is on active duty or call of active duty status, and for a period of 90 days following the termination of the covered military member's active duty status.
  
- e. Rest and recuperation:
  - i. To spend time with a military member who is on short-term, temporary, rest and recuperation leave during the period of deployment. Eligible employees may take up to 15 days of leave for each instance of rest and recuperation.
  
- f. Counseling:
  - i. To attend counseling provided by someone other than a healthcare provider for oneself, for the military member, or for a covered child, provided that the need for counseling arise from the active duty or call to active duty status of a military member.
  
- g. Post deployment activities:
  - i. For up to 90 days after termination of the military member's active duty status.

1. To attend arrival ceremonies, reintegration briefings and events, and any other official ceremony or program sponsored by the military for a period of 90 days following the termination of the military member's active duty status; *and*
  2. To address issues that arise from the death of a military member while on active duty status, such as meeting and recovering the body of the military member and making funeral arrangements.
- h. Other activities:
- i. To address other events which arise out of the military member's active duty or call to active duty status provided that the employer and the employee agree that such leave shall qualify as an exigency, and agree to both the timing and duration of such leave.
  - i. Certain activities arising from the military member's covered active duty related to care of the military member's parent who is incapable of self-care
    - i. To arrange for alternative care, provide care on a non-routine, urgent, immediate need basis, admit or transfer a parent to a new care facility, and attend certain meetings with staff at a care facility, such as meetings with hospice or social service providers.
    - ii. The employee taking leave for this purpose does not need to be related to the military member's parent.
2. Leave to care for a military member: There is also a special leave entitlement that permits employees who meet the eligibility requirements for FMLA-Military leave to take up to 26 weeks of leave during a single 12 month period to care for a military member which is the employee's parent (biological, adoptive, step or foster father, mother or parent who stood "in loco parentis" to the employee when the employee was a child.), spouse, son or daughter, or next of kin. A service member is a certain veteran or current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has been rendered medically unfit to perform his or her duties due to a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty) while on covered active duty for which the service member is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

In case of a veteran, who was a member of the Armed Forces (including a member of National Guard or Reserves) who is discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable and is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a qualified serious injury or illness at any time during the previous 5 years preceding the date of treatment.

When both husband and wife work for the same employer, the aggregate amount of leave that can be taken by the husband and wife to care for a military member is 26 weeks in a single 12 month period. The 26 weeks allotment will be limited by any FMLA leave taken for other qualifying reasons (it is not in addition to the existing 12 weeks of FMLA entitlement).

- C. Length of Leave: Generally, no employee may take more than twelve (12) weeks in a calendar year for any one leave or combination of leaves and up to 26 weeks as noted above to care for an ill/injured military member. Leave for qualifying exigencies will be calculated on a 12 month

calendar year (January – December) period. Leave to care for a military member will be calculated on a rolling year looking back from the first date leave is needed.

If the leave qualifies as both a City-provided leave and FMLA-Military, the leaves will run concurrently. (For example, City sick leave used to care for a serious illness/injury of a military member of an employee qualifies as employee medical/illness leave under Federal law and, as such, shall be deducted from an employee's leave entitlement under Federal laws.)

If an employee does not apply for Family and Medical Leave – Military (FMLA-M) and his or her leave usage appears to qualify for FMLA-M, the City shall notify the employee in writing that the leave will be classified as FMLA-M leave.

*\*\*If, after exhausting the family and medical leave entitlement, the employee has additional accrued leave available, the employee will be allowed to continue on leave utilizing remaining accrued leave.*

- D. Partial Absence or Intermittent Leave: For employees using partial absence or intermittent leave, the specific amount taken will be deducted in increments of not less than fifteen minutes for purposes of computing leave taken and leave remaining. If partial absence or intermittent leave is taken the employee may be temporarily transferred to an alternative position that better accommodates recurring periods of leave.

D. Definitions:

1. **12 month period/calendar year.** 12 month calendar year (January – December).
2. **Health care provider for covered service member certification purposes.** D.O.D. health care provider, V.A. health care provider, D.O.D. TRICARE network authorized private health care provider, or a D.O.D. non-network TRICARE authorized private health care provider. A non-military affiliated health care provider. The following documents may be substituted for the required certification of need to care for a military member: Invitational Travel Order ITO, an Invitational Travel Authorization ITA or other documentation issued by the military that sets forth the dates of the military member's leave.
3. **Spouse.** A husband or wife as defined or recognized under state law for purpose of marriage.
4. **In loco parentis.** "In loco parentis" means an individual, other than a parent, who acts in the parent's place and has day-to-day responsibilities to provide care or financially supports the child, including providing for the child's needs and making decisions regarding the child's welfare.
5. **Son or Daughter of a covered service member.** Biological, adopted, foster child, stepchild, legal ward or a child of a person standing in loco parentis (of any age).
6. **Parent** - Biological, adoptive, step, foster parent or parent who stood "in loco parentis" to the employee when the employee was a child.
7. **"Next of kin"** of a covered service member means the nearest blood relative other than the military member's spouse, parent, son or daughter, in the following order of priority:



- Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the military member by court decree or statutory provisions;
- Brothers and sisters;
- Grandparents;
- Aunts and uncles;
- and first cousins,
- unless the military member has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA.

8. **Serious Injury or Illness.** Defined as an injury or illness that was incurred in the line of duty (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty) on active duty that may render the service member or certain veteran medically unfit to perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank or rating. A serious health condition for which the covered veteran has received a VA Service Related Disability Rating (VASRD) of 50% or greater, substantially impairs the veteran's ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service or would do so absent treatment; or an injury including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance For Family Caregivers.

## II. EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE - MILITARY

- A. Purpose: Family and Medical Leave-Military may be used by an employee to care for a seriously ill/injured covered service member or for a qualifying exigency.
- B. Length of Medical/Illness Leave: No employee may take more than twelve (12) weeks of family and medical leave in a 12 month calendar year period for a qualifying exigency and no more than twenty-six (26) weeks in a rolling-12 month calendar year period to care for a seriously ill/injured covered service member. The total amount of leave the employee takes for reasons other than care of an ill/injured service member cannot exceed twelve (12) weeks. During the same period, the employee may take up to twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave for any other qualifying reason (see FMLA policy).
- C. Substitution: For a qualifying exigency or leave to care for an ill/injured military member the City requires that any vacation, personal day(s), or sick leave be substituted for the leave period. The employee would also have the option, at their discretion, to use floating holiday, banked holidays, or compensatory time, in accordance with policy or collective bargaining agreements. The choice of the particular paid benefit to be used may be made by the employee; however, as one paid benefit is exhausted another will be substituted until all paid benefits are exhausted or leave terminates, whichever is first. The City will assign the form of paid leave in the absence of the employee's selection.
- D. Use of Paid Leave: Use of paid sick leave, vacation, floating holidays, banked holidays, personal days, or compensatory time, will be deemed to be concurrent use of family and medical leave to care for a military member or for qualifying exigency leave under Federal FMLA acts.
- E. Scheduling Family and Medical Leave-Military – An employee may schedule family medical leave - military as necessary.

1. If an employee intends to take medical/illness leave for planned medical treatment of a serious ill/injured military member or exigency leave, the employee must:
  - a. Give the City fourteen (14) days advance written notice of the intent to take such leave and the reason for the needed leave. The notice must identify the planned dates of the leave. (This requirement may be waived in emergency situations.) At the same time the employee shall identify if and what type of paid accrued leave the employee intends to substitute as provided under the law.
  - b. Schedule the medical treatment or supervision leave when possible so that it does not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. Provide the City with a proposed schedule for the leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of the leave. The schedule must be of sufficient definiteness that the City can schedule replacement employees, if necessary.
  - c. Provide medical or other certification as required.
2. When medically necessary, an employee may take family and medical/illness leave-military as partial absence or intermittent leave from employment in increments of not less than fifteen minutes and to make reasonable effort as to not unduly disrupt the operations of the City. To comply with this requirement, an employee must provide to the City, in writing, the employees proposed schedule of partial absence or intermittent leave with reasonable promptness after the employee learns of the probable necessity of such leave. If leave in increments of less than one-half (1/2) hour is necessary, the employee will provide appropriate certification of the necessity. If partial absences or intermittent leave is taken, the employee may be temporarily transferred to an alternative position that better accommodates recurring periods of leave.

### III. MEDICAL OR OTHER CERTIFICATE

- A. The employee may be required to complete a certification form when an employee requests family medical/illness leave to care for an ill/injured military member or for a qualifying exigency leave under this policy or the employer determines such information is necessary to determine whether a leave request qualifies as an FMLA leave.
  1. For an ill/injured military member a Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of a military member – for Military Family Leave (WH385) form must be completed by the employee and/or the military member and the health care provider treating the family member. An employee must provide the certification within fifteen (15) calendar days following notification of this requirement, unless it is not practicable under the circumstances despite the employee’s good faith efforts.
  2. For a qualifying exigency a Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave (WH-385) form must be completed by the employee. The employee may be required to submit a timely, complete and sufficient certification to support the request (i.e. a copy of the military member’s active duty orders or other documentation from the military of impending call to active duty).
- B. If requirements for certification are not completed, the City may delay or deny family medical/illness leave or employee medical/illness leave. Human Resources may contact the

health care provider or designated agency for all information necessary to process this request. Human Resources may seek authentication or clarification of a certification form.

If an employee does not apply for FMLA and his or her leave usage appears to qualify for FMLA, the City shall notify the employee in writing that the leave will be classified as FMLA-Military Leave, and run the benefits concurrently.

IV. INSURANCE AND BENEFITS: While an employee is on family and medical leave - military:

- A. The City will maintain group health insurance coverage under the same conditions that are in effect for active employees.

The City's obligation to maintain health benefits will stop if and when an employee informs the City of an intent not to return to work at the end of the leave period, if the employee fails to return to work when leave entitlement is used up, or if the employee fails to make any required payments while on leave.

It is the employee's responsibility to pay the employee portion of any benefits which they are currently enrolled in to maintain coverage. Failure to do so will cause termination of applicable benefit.

If the employee does not return to work after the leave entitlement has been exhausted, the City has the right to recover from him/her any applicable benefit premiums (i.e. life insurance, ICI, Section #125) the City paid during the period of unpaid leave.

- B. The employee will continue to accrue employment benefits if paid leave is substituted.

V. RETURN FROM LEAVE

- A. An employee returning from leave as provided under this policy can return to his or her position if vacant at the time the employee returns to work. If the position is no longer vacant, the employee shall be offered an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

- B. An employee may return to work prior to the scheduled end of the leave. An employee may be required to notify the Human Resources Department two (2) days prior to the desired return date. An employee shall be returned to his or her prior position or an equivalent position within a reasonable time after the request to return to work early is made.

VI. OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES: With the concurrence of the Human Resources Department, City departments may adopt additional administrative rules and procedures related to administration of the Family and Medical Leave Acts, in order to address unique operational circumstances within the department. Department rules and procedures may not contravene the provisions of either the federal or state FMLA Acts.

VII. FAILURE TO MEET POLICY REQUIREMENTS: If employees fail to meet the requirements of this policy, requests for leave may be delayed or denied.

VIII. FORMS: All FMLA forms must be obtained from Human Resources. Outdated FMLA forms will not be accepted. FMLA forms are:

- Request for Leave
- Notice to Employees of Rights Under FMLA
- Notice of Eligibility and Rights and Responsibilities
- Designation Notice to Employee of FMLA Leave
- Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave (Form WH-384)
- Certification of Serious Injury/Illness of Covered Service Member for Military Family Leave (Form WH-385)
- Certification for Serious Injury/Illness of a Veteran – Military Caregiver Leave (Form WH-385V)

FMLA 2/01; R 11/09; R 6/15/15

## **FLEX TIME POLICY**

**POLICY INTENT:** To establish flex time regulations for employees that are exempt from overtime.

**APPLIES TO:** Managers, supervisors and professional employees covered under the Employee Handbook. City executives are excluded from this policy.

Managers, supervisors and professional employees, who are exempt from overtime, are expected to minimally work the normal full-time workweek and any additional hours as may be necessary to accomplish their assigned duties including attendance at special and regular meetings and events outside of the normal scheduled work hours. Flex time is not a right, but a privilege. **Employees should not expect that they will automatically be entitled to flex time for additional hours worked.**

Managers, supervisors and professional employees may, however, be permitted paid time off (flex time) when the workload of their department permits. Paid flex time is subject to the following:

- Paid flex time taken off for hours worked outside of the normal scheduled hours must occur within thirty (30) days. Exceptions to the 30-day timeframe *may* be considered due to extraordinary workload circumstances wherein the Department Head *precluded* the employee from using paid flex time within the initial 30 days.
- There shall be no carryover of flex time beyond the thirty (30) days (unless it is noted as an exception as defined in previous bullet).
- Paid flex time must be approved in advance by the respective City Executive for hours already worked..
- Flex time is not an employee entitlement.
- Approved flex time may be taken in increments of *up to* one (1) day at a time.
- Paid flex time may not be applied for approved FMLA time off.
- Paid flex time is not on an hour for hour basis.

**Managers, supervisors and professional employees are exempt from overtime eligibility and as such, tracking of additional hours worked for the purpose of taking paid time off later in the year is prohibited. Any and all existing informal compensatory time banks are not recognized.**

RE: Flex Time for City Executives

A Flex Time policy has been created for the exempt non-represented employees. This policy has established set timeframes for which the employee is eligible to use paid flex time.

Due to the additional hours City Executives put in, you will not be held to the same structured timeframe (same pay period) for which you are eligible to use paid flex time. If your workload and department operations allow the ability to use flex time, you would be eligible.

4/03; R 12/2/13; R6/8/15

## **FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT WORK TIME VERIFICATION POLICY**

It is the City of La Crosse policy and practice to accurately compensate employees and to do so in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws.

### Review Your Pay Stub

The City of La Crosse makes every effort to ensure our employees are paid correctly. Occasionally, however, inadvertent mistakes can happen. When mistakes do happen and are called to our attention, action will be taken to address any corrections necessary. If an overpayment has been made to the employee, repayment is due to the City, however to avoid significant disruption to the employee a payment plan may be arranged. Please review your pay stub when you receive it to make sure it is correct. If you believe a mistake has occurred, or if you have any questions, please use the reporting procedure outlined below.

### Non-Exempt Employees

If you are classified as a non-exempt employee (eligible for overtime pay) you must maintain a record of the total hours you work each day. These hours must be accurately recorded on the timesheet/time card to verify that the reported hours worked are complete and accurate. Your timesheet/ time card must accurately reflect all regular and overtime/compensatory hours worked, authorized paid time off used, early or late arrivals, and early or late departures. At the end of every other week, you should submit your completed timesheet/ time card to your supervisor for verification and approval. (Exception: Reporting of hours for Transit employees is completed by Transit Management.)

Non-Exempt employees are prohibited from performing any “off the clock” work or “unauthorized” work. “Off the clock” work means work you may perform but fail to report on your timesheet.

Examples of prohibited off-the-clock work include but are not limited to:

- Performing work before you have clocked in or after you have clocked out;
- Performing work during your meal period and not reporting the missed or interrupted meal period;
- Performing work at home and not reporting the time worked; and
- Sending or responding to work-related e-mails or voicemails while at home.

“Unauthorized” work is work performed without authorization from your supervisor. Any employee who fails to report or inaccurately reports information on their timesheet/time card may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. When you receive your paycheck, please verify immediately that you were paid correctly for all regular and overtime/compensatory hours worked. (Note, the policy provision for reporting of hours does not apply to Fire Department trade days.)

### Exempt Employees

If you are classified as an exempt employee you will receive a salary which is intended to compensate you for hours you may work for the City of La Crosse. The salary is established at the time of hire or when you become classified as an exempt employee.

### To Report Concerns, Violations or Obtain More Information

Please contact Finance/Payroll at 789-7579 if (1) you have any questions regarding deductions from your pay, (2) if you believe your wages have been subject to any improper deductions or (3) your pay does not accurately reflect all hours worked.

It is a violation for any employee to falsify a timesheet/time card, or to alter another employee's timesheet/time card. It is also a serious violation for any employee or manager to instruct another employee to incorrectly or falsely report information on their timesheet/time card or alter another employee's timesheet/ time card (example: to under – or over – report hours worked). If any manager instructs you to (1) incorrectly or falsely report information on your timesheet/time card; (2) alter another employee's timesheet/time card records to inaccurately or falsely report information on the timesheet/time card, or (3) conceal any falsification of time records or to violate this policy, do not do so. Instead, report it immediately to Human Resources, 789-7595.

Every report will be fully investigated and corrective action will be taken, up to and including discharge of any employee(s) who violates this policy.

The City will not allow any form of retaliation against individuals who report alleged violations of this policy or who cooperate in the City's investigation of such reports. Retaliation is unacceptable. Any form of retaliation in violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

## **EMPLOYEE CONDUCT, DISCIPLINE, AND DISCHARGE POLICY**

The City of La Crosse expects all employees to perform their jobs at a quality level that exceeds the expectations of our citizens. Because of this, the City has established policies and procedures and its rules of conduct to ensure the effective operation of the City and to provide high quality service to all of its citizens, those persons interacting with the City, and visitors. The City expects all employees to demonstrate professional, competent and reasonable behavior, and to continually serve, both on-duty and off-duty, as positive examples of the high-quality personnel affiliated with this organization and consistent with the high expectations of the public;

Compliance with the policies, rules and general expectations of conduct is of paramount importance in order to fulfill these objectives and for the employee to have a successful career in the City. Failure to comply with these policies, rules and general expectations of conduct can undermine these objectives, and the trust and confidence that the public, businesses, employees and officers of the County must have in that employee.

The City treats all violations of policy, the rules and general expectations of conduct very seriously. Violations of these policies, the rules, and general expectations of conduct can subject an employee to discipline, up to and including discharge.

Examples of Behaviors or Actions. Listed below are examples of behaviors or actions, which may result in discipline or discharge. No list of rules or types of unacceptable conduct can substitute for the sound and reasonable judgment expected of each employee. It is impossible to list every conceivable type of unacceptable conduct contrary to the interests of the City. While it is impossible to list all types of unacceptable conduct, the City believes certain acts of misconduct, standing alone, warrant serious discipline up to and including discharge, such as the following:

- Incompetence or inefficiency in the performance of duties, substandard quality or quantity of work, including deliberate reduction of output, or failure to complete assignments promptly and accurately;
- Possession, use, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while on duty;
- Violation of smoke, alcohol, and drug-free workplace policies or regulations;
- Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor directly related to the employee's duties;
- Insubordination or failure to perform duties or directives as instructed; arguing, verbal abuse or assault of others;
- Unauthorized possession of weapons or firearms during work time or on City premises or property;
- Fighting, disturbing or violent behavior, threatening, humiliating, intimidation or harassment of others;
- Retaliation and/or reprisal against an employee who genuinely, and in good faith, reports threats of bullying or workplace violence;
- Use of offensive, profane or abusive language, disrespectful discourteous, insulting, abusive or inflammatory conduct toward others;
- Unauthorized or inappropriate use of identification cards or keys, or unauthorized access to data, e-mails, or restricted areas;
- Failing to completely and accurately document relevant information, including falsification of a time card or other records;
- Theft or misappropriation of City property or the property of others, including theft of work time, excessive time at break periods, misuse of sick leave or other designated leave, misrepresenting or failing to accurately record work time;



- Failure to work scheduled overtime, or overtime worked without prior authorization from the supervisor;
- Misuse, excessive personal use, carelessness, negligence, or unauthorized use in the handling or control of City property;
- Excessive absenteeism or tardiness, including excessive unscheduled or unexcused absences;
- Failing to promptly report absence or tardiness;
- Working another job while absent due to an unscheduled or unexcused absence;
- Engaging in illegal or immoral conduct;
- Unauthorized solicitations or distributions;
- Dishonest, misleading, or deceptive conduct;
- Horseplay, violating of safety rules, or engaging in conduct that creates an unsafe work environment;
- Engaging in conduct or activities which serve to lengthen the healing period for a work-related injury;
- Failure to promptly report defective equipment, safety hazards, or failure to report and injury or accident immediately;
- Loafing or sleeping during working hours;
- Engaging in illegal discrimination or harassing conduct;
- Unauthorized release or disclosure of confidential information;
- Making intimidating, threatening, hostile, false or malicious statements, including rumor-mongering, gossiping, and false reports for harassment or violence;
- Conducting personal business on City time or property;
- Failing to fully comply with, or violation of, expectations of conduct, City or departmental policies, regulations, or procedures.

This list is not inclusive and the City reserves the right to modify this list at any time or determine whether any other conduct is contrary to the interests of the City and warranting of disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

**Disciplinary Procedure.** Discipline may be applied to City employees for violation of City policies, or other reasonable work standards not specifically defined herein, but only after consultation with Human Resources. As part of the disciplinary process, the City may conduct an investigation to review the allegations and conduct any necessary interviews. The action chosen by the City may involve varying degrees of disciplinary action up to and including immediate termination, if warranted. Repeated infractions of even minor offenses can and will result in increasingly severe disciplinary actions. The City reserves the right to take any such disciplinary action it considers appropriate.

# Grievance Procedure

Effective October 1, 2011

Revised April 11, 2014

*The revisions contained herein are applicable to any termination or employee discipline rendered on or after April 11, 2014; or for workplace safety issues reported on or after April 11, 2014.*

## I. PURPOSE:

The City of La Crosse has established this Grievance Procedure for an employee to utilize for matters concerning discipline, termination, or workplace safety covered by this Grievance Procedure. This Procedure provides an employee with the individual opportunity to address concerns regarding discipline, termination or workplace safety matters, to have those matters reviewed by an Impartial Hearing Officer, and to appeal to the Common Council.

An employee shall use the Grievance Procedure for resolving disputes regarding employee termination, employee discipline or workplace safety issues covered by this Procedure. The City of La Crosse expects an employee and management to exercise reasonable efforts to resolve any questions, problems or misunderstandings prior to utilizing the Grievance Procedure. An employee subject to a contractual grievance procedure shall follow the contractual grievance procedure to the extent those procedures cover the matters covered by the Grievance Procedure. An employee subject to statutory dispute resolution procedures shall be subject to those procedures to the extent those procedures cover the matters covered by the Grievance Procedure.

The City of La Crosse reserves all rights and this procedure does not create a contract of employment. Unless required by statute, city ordinance, contract or Employee Handbook, employees of the City of La Crosse are employed at-will and may resign with or without reason. The Employer may terminate the at-will employment relationship at any time with or without reason and without violation of applicable law.

## II. DEFINITIONS:

“Termination” means a separation from employment by the employer for disciplinary or quality of performance reasons. “Termination” does not include layoff, furlough or reduction in workforce, job transfer, non-disciplinary demotion, resignation, abandonment, retirement, nonrenewal of contract, death, separation as a result of disability, action taken pursuant to an ordinance created under s. 19.59 (1m), elimination of position due to loss of grant funding, or the end or completion of temporary employment, seasonal employment, contract employment, or assignment.

“Employee Discipline” means an employment action that results in disciplinary suspension, with or without pay, disciplinary termination, or disciplinary demotion. “Employee discipline” does not include counseling, oral reprimands or warnings, written reprimands or warnings, performance improvement plans, performance evaluations or reviews, documentation of employee acts or omissions, administrative leave, non-disciplinary wage, benefit or salary adjustments, changes in assignment, action taken pursuant to an ordinance created under s. 19.59 (1m), or other non-material employment actions.

“Employee” shall not include limited term employees, seasonal employees, employees subject to a collective bargaining agreement addressing employee discipline, termination and workplace safety, statutorily appointed individuals serving as employees identified specifically in statute as serving at the pleasure of an appointing authority or who are subject to removal under Wis. Stats Chapter 17 or Chapter 62, elected officials, and independent contractors. Those individuals who do not have a process for grieving workplace safety matters shall follow this grievance procedure for workplace safety grievances.

“Administration” means the person or person designated by the City to represent the interests of management in a Grievance matter. The Administration may be represented by counsel at any point in the procedure.

“Workplace Safety” shall be narrowly construed and is not construed to include basic conditions of employment unrelated to physical health and safety. “Workplace Safety” means conditions of employment related to the physical health and safety of employees, as long as such conditions are not enforceable under state or federal law, and includes safety of the physical work environment, the safe operation of workplace equipment and tools, provision of protective equipment, training and warning requirements, workplace violence and accident risk. “Workplace Safety” does not include conditions of employment unrelated to physical health and safety matters, including, but not limited to, hours, overtime, sick, family, or medical leave, work schedules, breaks, termination, vacation, performance reviews, and compensation.

“Cause” means a lawful rational reason, including but not limited to inefficiency, neglect of duty, misfeasance, malfeasance, violation of city policies or work rules, or communicated expectation of conduct, or other conduct, or the failure to act that is detrimental to the interest of the City.

### **III. TIMELINES AND GRIEVANCE FORMAT:**

1. Written Grievance Submission. The employee must file a written Grievance within twenty (20) calendar days of the termination, employee discipline or actual or reasonable knowledge of the workplace safety issue. The Grievance must be in writing and must be filed with the supervisor and with a copy to the Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Human Resources or their designee. The Grievance shall contain a clear and concise statement of the pertinent facts, the dates the incidents occurred, the identities of the persons involved, documentation related to the Grievance in possession of the Grievant, the steps taken to informally resolve the dispute and the results of those discussions, all reasons why the actions of the supervisor should be overturned, if applicable, and the remedy that should be issued.
2. Administrative Response. The Director of Human Resources or their designee and the Department Head shall meet with the Grievant within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the written Grievance to discuss voluntary resolution of the Grievance. If those discussions do not resolve the Grievance, then the Director of Human Resources or their designee will provide a brief written response to the Grievance within ten (10) calendar days of the meeting. The written response shall contain a statement of the date the meeting between the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the Department Head and the Grievant occurred, the decision to sustain or deny the Grievance, and the deadline for the Grievant to appeal the Grievance to an Impartial Hearing Officer.
3. Impartial Hearing. The decision of the Director of Human Resources or their designee shall be final unless the Grievant files a written appeal requesting a hearing before an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO). The written appeal shall be filed with the Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Human Resources or their designee and within ten (10) calendar days of the Administrative Response.
4. Appeal for Review. Either party may file a written request for review by the Common Council within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the IHO’s written decision.
5. Decision of Common Council. A decision by the Common Council will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the filing of the appeal unless the Common Council extends this timeframe.

6. Importance of Timelines and Process. A Grievance will be processed pursuant to the established timelines. A Grievant may not file or advance a Grievance outside of the designated timeframes. The failure of the Grievant to follow the timelines and other requirements in this policy shall result in the IHO not having jurisdiction over this matter. If the Grievant fails to follow the established timeline in this procedure, then the Grievance is considered resolved, and no further action is available. The IHO shall have the authority to determine whether the IHO has jurisdiction, which may be subject to review by the Common Council.

Any period of time described in the Grievance Procedure by reference to a number of days includes Saturdays, Sundays and any City observed holidays. Any period of time described in this procedure by reference to business day does not include Saturdays, Sundays or any City observed holiday. If the date or last date to perform any act or give notice is a Saturday, Sunday or City observed holiday, the act or notice may be timely performed or given on the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or City observed holiday.

7. Scheduling. Grievance meetings and hearings may be held during the Grievant's off-duty hours. Time spent in Grievance meetings and hearings on off-duty hours will not be considered as compensable work time.
8. Individual claim. Any Grievance filed regarding workplace safety must relate to issues personal to the Grievant filing the Grievance and may not relate to, without limitation by enumeration, safety of property or third parties. A Grievance filed regarding workplace safety must be filed by the Grievant claiming the grievant has been personally affected by the alleged workplace safety violation.

A Grievance filed for discipline or termination may only be filed by the employee who is the subject of the discipline or termination.

#### **IV. HEARING PROCEDURE:**

1. Selection of the Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO). Following receipt of the appeal requesting a hearing before an IHO, the Director of Human Resources or their designee shall conduct a search and provide the names of three (3) persons, not employees of the City of La Crosse, whom he or she determines are impartial, having no interest in the grievance. This list of the three (3) IHOs shall be provided to the grievant within thirty (30) calendar days of the filing of the employee's appeal.

Within fifteen (15) calendar days of receipt of the IHO list from Human Resources the grievant must notify Human Resources, in writing, as to the selection of the IHO. The list of IHO's may not be appealed. If the grievant fails to select an IHO from the established list and notify Human Resources by the close of the regular business hours on the 15<sup>th</sup> day, then the grievance shall be considered resolved.

2. Pre-Hearing Conference and Timelines. The Administration, Grievant and IHO shall conduct a pre-hearing conference. The IHO shall determine the date for hearing. The IHO shall also assign dates for preliminary matters that may arise prior to the hearing.
3. Conciliation. Prior to the Hearing, the parties and IHO will engage in conciliation meetings to resolve the dispute. In cases involving allegations of workplace safety, the conciliation meeting shall occur not more than ten (10) calendar days after assignment to the IHO. The IHO's involvement in any conciliation process shall not disqualify the IHO from hearing the merits of

the Grievance unless all parties agree to replacing the IHO. The replacement of any IHO shall be made from the remaining two IHO's from the original list, in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 1 of this Grievance Procedure.

4. Representation. The Grievant shall have the right to representation during the Grievance Procedure at the Grievant's expense. The representative shall not be a material witness to the dispute.
5. Record of Proceedings. The IHO shall conduct the proceedings and make a record of the proceedings. Following the issuance of the decision, the record shall be provided to the Director of Human Resources or their designee of the City of La Crosse for preservation. If a court reporter is utilized the costs shall be equally shared by the grievant and the employer.
6. Burdens of Proof and Procedure. The rules of evidence shall not be strictly followed. Evidence must be relevant, reliable and probative.
  - a. In disciplinary and termination matters of employees who are not at-will employees, the Administration shall bear the burden of production and burden of proof. The Administration must persuade the IHO that "cause" exists to discipline or terminate the grievant.
  - b. For at-will employees the Grievant shall bear the burden of production and burden of proof. The Grievant must persuade the IHO that the City had an unlawful reason for the termination or discipline.
  - c. In grievances due to workplace safety, the Grievant shall bear the burden of production and burden of proof.

In all cases, the IHO shall require the Grievant and Administration to provide a list of witnesses and exhibits that each intends to produce at the hearing no later than 10 calendar days prior to the hearing.

7. Cost: The grievant shall pay \$400 as payment towards the IHO services. The payment shall be made payable to the City of La Crosse, and must be submitted with the notice to the City of the selected IHO as described in paragraph IV (1).
8. Powers and Decision of the Impartial Hearing Officer.
  - a. Written Decision: After receiving the evidence and within 30 calendar days of the close of the hearing, the IHO shall issue a written decision. The IHO has the authority to extend the timeframe for the written decision as needed. The IHO may request oral or written arguments and replies. The IHO may set deadlines for pre-hearing motions. The decision shall contain findings of fact, analysis and a recommendation. The IHO must answer the following questions:
    - i. Based on the preponderance of the evidence presented, has the Administration proven the evidence in support of cause for discipline or termination?
    - ii. In the case of workplace safety, has the Grievant shown a workplace safety that may cause harm to the physical health of the employee which requires immediate and necessary action by the employer.
    - iii. In the case of termination or discipline of an at-will employee, has the Grievant shown that the decision of the employer was unlawful.

- a. Powers of the Hearing Officer: The IHO shall have the power to sustain or deny the Grievance. The IHO shall have no power to issue any remedy, but the IHO may recommend a remedy. Remedial authority shall be subject to the determination and approval of the Common Council, and shall be addressed by the Common Council in the event the Grievance is sustained.

9. Appeal to Common Council.

- a. Written Appeal: Either party may file a written notice of appeal requesting a Common Council review of the IHO decision. The written notice of appeal shall be filed within 15 calendar days following the issuance of the IHO decision. The written notice shall contain a statement explaining the reasons for the appeal and a copy of the Grievance, the Administration's response to the Grievance, and the IHO's response. The parties are prohibited from presenting new information in the written notice that was not presented at the Hearing. The request shall be filed with the City Clerk, and with a copy to the City Attorney, Director of Human Resources or their designee, Mayor and Council President.
- b. Review by Common Council: Upon receipt of an appeal, a copy of the record, including all exhibits, will be forwarded to the Common Council President. As soon as practicable the Common Council President shall schedule a meeting of the Common Council to consider the record and the appeal. The meeting shall be in closed session unless the employee requests, in writing, that the meeting be conducted in open session with deliberation in closed session in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings law. The Common Council may decide, in each situation whether it will make a decision based upon the record, or assign an IHO to create a recommendation based upon the record for the Common Council's consideration prior to rendering its decision. The manner and process of review is the sole choice of the Common Council. As an administrative procedure this review by the Common Council is not subject to public hearings or veto by the Mayor;
- c. Decision: All decisions of the Common Council involving the Grievance shall be by simple majority vote and in writing and filed with the City Clerk or secretary of the Common Council within five (5) calendar days of the date of the final decision. A copy of the final decision shall be delivered to the Grievant, Director of Human Resources or their designee and the Administration. The Common Council's decision is final and is not subject to appeal or veto by the Mayor.

V. **LIMITATIONS OF THE SCOPE OF THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE:**

The scope of a grievance that is subject to the jurisdiction of a governmental body or specific procedure by other Wisconsin Statutes shall be governed by those statutes and not the Grievance Procedure.

The scope of a Grievance that is subject to a grievance procedure in a collective bargaining agreement may not be brought forth under this Policy.

The scope of a Grievance that is subject to other Policy or Ordinances for formal or informal investigation or dispute resolution procedures may not be brought forth under this Policy.

Any process available under Chapter 68, Wis. Stats., shall not apply and this grievance procedure shall be the exclusive process for all employees.

R 01/01/2018

# HIPAA PRIVACY POLICY

## Introduction

City of La Crosse (the “Employer”) sponsors the following group health plans:

- City of La Crosse Self-Funded Medical Benefit Plan (Two networks administered by Gundersen Lutheran Health Plan & Custom Benefit Administrators)
- City of La Crosse Section 125 Cafeteria Plan

Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) these plans are considered to be “covered entities.” For purposes of this Privacy Policy, the plans listed above are referred to collectively and singularly as the “Plan.” Members of the Employer’s workforce may have access to the individually identifiable health information of Plan participants (1) on behalf of the Plan; or (2) on behalf of the Employer, for administrative functions of the Plan.

HIPAA as amended by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act and its implementing regulations restrict the Employer’ ability to use and disclose protected health information (PHI).

*Protected Health Information.* Protected health information means information that is created or received by the Plan and relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of a participant; the provision of health care to a participant; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to a participant; and that identifies the participant or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the participant. Protected health information includes information of persons living or deceased.

It is the Employer’s policy to comply fully with HIPAA’s requirements for the privacy of PHI. To that end, all members of the Employer’s workforce who have access to PHI must comply with this Privacy Policy. For purposes of this Policy and the Employer’s more detailed use and disclosure procedures, the Employer’s workforce includes individuals who would be considered part of the workforce under HIPAA such as employees, volunteers, trainees, and other persons whose work performance is under the direct control of the Employer, whether or not they are paid by the Employer. The term “employee” includes all of these types of workers.

No third-party rights (including but not limited to rights of Plan participants, beneficiaries, covered dependents, or business associates) are intended to be created by this Policy. The Employer reserves the right to amend or change this Policy at any time (and even retroactively) without notice. To the extent this Policy establishes requirements and obligations above and beyond those required by HIPAA, the Policy shall be aspirational and shall not be binding upon the Employer. This Policy does not address requirements under other federal laws or under state laws.

*Hybrid Entity.* In accordance with the HIPAA privacy regulations, the City of La Crosse has designated the City as a Hybrid Entity. Given this designation, employment records and other City records other than those related to the covered Health Plan will not be considered to be PHI, subject to HIPAA requirements, unless specifically required by law. The Hybrid Election Form states the following records are not subject to the HIPAA privacy regulations: information obtained to determine an individual’s suitability to perform his/her job duties (such as physical examination reports) fit for duty exams, drug and alcohol tests obtained in the course of employment, doctor’s excuses provided in accordance with the

City of La Crosse’s attendance policy, work-related injury and occupational exposures reports and medical and laboratory reports related to such injuries or exposures, including information necessary to determine worker’s compensation coverage. Notwithstanding the fact that the preceding records are not subject to the HIPAA privacy regulations, it is the policy of the City of La Crosse to limit the use and disclosure of non-covered medical records only to those individuals who have a need to access them.

### **Plan’s Responsibilities as Covered Entity**

#### **I. Privacy Official and Contact Person**

The Employer shall designate the individual responsible for the human resource function of the Employer as the Privacy Officer.

The Privacy Official will be responsible for the development and implementation of policies and procedures relating to privacy, including but not limited to this Privacy Policy and the Employer’s more detailed use and disclosure procedures. The Privacy Official will also appoint those employees who will serve as the contact persons for participants who have questions, concerns, or complaints about the privacy of their PHI.

The Privacy Official is responsible for ensuring that the Plan complies with the provisions of the HIPAA privacy rules regarding business associates, including the requirement that the Plan have a HIPAA-compliant Business Associate Agreement in place with all business associates. The Privacy Official shall also be responsible for monitoring compliance by all business associates with the HIPAA privacy rules and this Privacy Policy.

**Privacy Official:**

Director of Human Resources  
c/o Human Resources  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 789-7595

**Contact Person:**

Employee Benefits Coordinator  
c/o Human Resources  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 789-8310

#### **II. Workforce Training**

It is the Employer’s policy to train all members of its workforce on its privacy policies and procedures. The Privacy Official is charged with developing training schedules and programs so that all workforce members receive the training necessary and appropriate to permit them to carry out their functions within the Plan in compliance with HIPAA.

#### **III. Administrative, Technical and Physical Safeguards and Firewall**

The Employer will establish on behalf of the Plan appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to prevent PHI from intentionally or unintentionally being used or disclosed in violation of HIPAA’s requirements. Administrative safeguards include implementing procedures for use and disclosure of PHI. Technical safeguards include limiting access to information by creating computer firewalls. Physical safeguards include locking doors or filing cabinets.

Firewalls will ensure that only authorized employees will have access to PHI, that they will have access to only the minimum amount of PHI necessary for plan administrative functions, and that they will not further use or disclose PHI in violation of HIPAA’s privacy rules.



#### **IV. Privacy Notice**

The Privacy Official is responsible for developing and maintaining a notice of the Plan's privacy practices that describes:

- the uses and disclosures of PHI that may be made by the Plan;
- the individual's rights under the HIPAA privacy rules;
- the Plan's legal duties with respect to the PHI; and
- other information as required by the HIPAA privacy rules.

The privacy notice will inform participants that the Employer will have access to PHI in connection with its plan administrative functions. The privacy notice will also provide a description of the Employer's complaint procedures, the name and telephone number of the contact person for further information, and the date of the notice.

The notice of privacy practices will be individually delivered to all participants:

- no later than November 1<sup>st</sup>;
- on an ongoing basis, at the time of an individual's enrollment in the Plan or, in the case of providers, at the time of treatment and consent; and
- within 60 days after a material change to the notice.

The Plan will also provide notice of availability of the privacy notice (or a copy of the privacy notice) at least once every three years in compliance with the HIPAA privacy regulations.

#### **V. Complaints**

The Privacy Officer will be the Plan's contact person for receiving complaints.

The Privacy Official is responsible for creating a process for individuals to lodge complaints about the Plan's privacy procedures and for creating a system for handling such complaints. A copy of the complaint procedure shall be provided to any participant upon request.

#### **VI. Sanctions for Violations of Privacy Policy**

Sanctions for using or disclosing PHI in violation of HIPAA or this HIPAA Privacy Policy will be imposed in accordance with the Employer's discipline policy, up to and including termination.

#### **VII. Mitigation of Inadvertent Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

The Plan shall mitigate, to the extent possible, any harmful effects that become known to it of a use or disclosure of an individual's PHI in violation of HIPAA or the policies and procedures set forth in this Policy. As a result, if an employee becomes aware of a disclosure of protected health information, either by an employee or a business associate the employee or the business associate, that is not in compliance with this policy or HIPAA, the employee should immediately contact the Privacy Officer so that the appropriate steps to mitigate the harm to the participant can be taken.

#### **VIII. No Intimidating or Retaliatory Acts; No Waiver of HIPAA Privacy**

No employee may intimidate, threaten, coerce, discriminate against, or take other retaliatory action against individuals for exercising their rights, filing a complaint, participating in an investigation, or opposing any improper practice under HIPAA.

No individual shall be required to waive his or her privacy rights under HIPAA as a condition of treatment, payment, enrollment or eligibility under the Plan.

#### **IX. Plan Documents**

Plan documents shall include provisions to describe the permitted and required uses and disclosures of PHI by the Employer for plan administrative purposes or other permitted purposes. Specifically, Plan documents shall require the Employer to:

- not use or further disclose PHI other than as permitted by the Plan documents or as required by law;
- ensure that any agents or subcontractors to whom it provides PHI received from the Plan agree to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Employer;
- not use or disclose PHI for employment-related actions or in connection with any other employee benefit plan;
- report to the privacy Officer any use or disclosure of the information that is inconsistent with the permitted use or disclosure and, if necessary, report such use or disclosure to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), as required by HITECH;
- make PHI available to Plan participants, consider their amendments and, upon request, provide them with an accounting of PHI disclosures in accordance with HIPAA privacy rules;
- make the Employer's internal practices and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI received from the Plan available to HHS upon request; and
- if feasible, return or destroy all PHI received from the Plan that the Employer still maintains in any form and retain no copies of such information when no longer needed for the purpose for which disclosure was made, except that, if such return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information infeasible.

The Plan documents must also require the Employer to (1) certify to the Privacy Official that the Plan documents have been amended to include the above restrictions and that the Employer agree to those restrictions; and (2) provide adequate firewalls in compliance with the HIPAA privacy rules.

#### **X. Documentation**

The Plan's privacy policies and procedures shall be documented and maintained for at least six years from the date last in effect. Policies and procedures must be changed as necessary or appropriate to comply with changes in the law, standards, requirements and implementation specifications (including changes and modifications in regulations). Any changes to policies or procedures must promptly be documented.

The Plan shall document certain events and actions (including authorizations, requests for information, sanctions, and complaints) relating to an individual's privacy rights.

If a change in law impacts the privacy notice, the privacy policy must promptly be revised and made available. Such change is effective only with respect to PHI created or received after the effective date of the notice.

The documentation of any policies and procedures, actions, activities and designations may be maintained in either written or electronic form. The Plan must maintain such documentation for at least six years.

## **Policies on Use and Disclosure of PHI**

### **I. Use and Disclosure Defined**

The Employer and the Plan will use and disclose PHI only as permitted under HIPAA. The terms "use" and "disclosure" are defined as follows:

- *Use.* The sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of individually identifiable health information by any person working for or within the benefits department of the Employer, or by a Business Associate (defined below) of the Plan.
- *Disclosure.* For information that is PHI, disclosure means any release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulging in any other manner of individually identifiable health information to persons not employed by or working within the Human Resources Department of the Employer, or not a Business Associate (defined below) of the Plan.

### **II. Workforce Must Comply With Plan's Policy and Procedures**

All members of the Employer's workforce (described at the beginning of this Policy and referred to herein as "employees") who has access to Plan PHI must comply with this Policy and with the Plan's more detailed use and disclosure procedures, which are set forth in a separate document.

### **III. Access to PHI Is Limited to Certain Employees**

The following employees ("employees with access") have access to PHI:

- Any employee who performs functions directly on behalf of the Plan; and
- Department of Human Resources who has access to PHI on behalf of the Business Associate for its use in "plan administrative functions" of the covered entities.

The same employees may be named or described in both of these two categories. These employees with access may use and disclose PHI for plan administrative functions, and they may disclose PHI to other employees with access for plan administrative functions (but the PHI disclosed must be limited to the minimum amount necessary to perform the plan administrative function). Employees with access may not disclose PHI to employees (other than employees with access) unless an authorization is in place or the disclosure otherwise is in compliance with this Policy and any associated procedures.

### **IV. Permitted Uses and Disclosures for Plan Administration Purposes**

The Plan may disclose to the Employer for its use the following: (a) de-identified health information relating to plan participants; (b) Plan enrollment information; (c) summary health information for the purposes of obtaining premium bids for providing health insurance coverage under the Plan or for modifying, amending, or terminating the Plan; or (d) PHI pursuant to an authorization from the individual whose PHI is disclosed.

The Plan may disclose PHI to the following employees who have access to use and disclose PHI to perform functions on behalf of the Plan or to perform plan administrative functions (“employees with access”):

- Any employee who performs functions directly on behalf of the Plan; and
- Any other employee who has access to PHI on behalf of the Employer for its use in “plan administrative functions.”

The same employees may be named or described in both of these two categories. These employees with access may use and disclose PHI for plan administrative functions, and they may disclose PHI to other employees with access for plan administrative functions (but the PHI disclosed must be limited to the minimum amount necessary to perform the plan administrative function). Employees with access may not disclose PHI to employees (other than employees with access) unless an authorization is in place or the disclosure otherwise is in compliance with this Policy and the more detailed use and disclosure procedures.

#### **V. Permitted Uses and Disclosures: Payment and Health Care Operations**

The Plan may disclose to the Employer for the Plan’s own payment purposes, and PHI may be disclosed to another covered entity for the payment purposes of that covered entity.

*Payment.* Payment includes activities undertaken to obtain Plan contributions or to determine or fulfill the Plan’s responsibility for provision of benefits under the Plan, or to obtain or provide reimbursement for health care. Payment also includes:

- eligibility and coverage determinations including coordination of benefits and adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims;
- risk adjusting based on enrollee status and demographic characteristics;
- billing, claims management, collection activities, obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance (including stop-loss insurance and excess loss insurance) and related health care data processing; and
- any other payment activity permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations.

PHI may be disclosed for purposes of the Plan’s own health care operations. PHI may be disclosed to another covered entity for purposes of the other covered entity’s quality assessment and improvement, case management, or health care fraud and abuse detection programs, if the other covered entity has (or had) a relationship with the participant and the PHI requested pertains to that relationship.

*Health Care Operations.* Health care operations means any of the following activities to the extent that they are related to Plan administration:

- conducting quality assessment and improvement activities;
- reviewing health plan performance;
- underwriting and premium rating;
- conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services and auditing functions;
- business planning and development; and
- business management and general administrative activities; and
- any other payment activity permitted by the HIPAA privacy regulations.

#### **VI. No Disclosure of PHI for Non-Health Plan Purposes**

PHI may not be used or disclosed for the payment or operations of the Employer’s “non-health” benefits (e.g., disability, workers’ compensation, life insurance, etc.), unless the participant has provided an authorization for such use or disclosure (as discussed in “Disclosures Pursuant to an Authorization”) or such use or disclosure is required by applicable state law and particular requirements under HIPAA are met.

#### **VII. Mandatory Disclosures of PHI: to Individual and HHS**

A participant’s PHI must be disclosed as required by HIPAA in three situations:

- The disclosure is to the individual who is the subject of the information (see the policy for “Access to Protected Information and Request for Amendment” that follows);
- The disclosure is required by law, or
- The disclosure is made to HHS for purposes of enforcing of HIPAA.

#### **VIII. Other Permitted Disclosures of PHI**

PHI may be disclosed in the following situations without a participant’s authorization, when specific requirements are satisfied. The requirements include prior approval of the Employer’s Privacy Official. Permitted are disclosures—

- about victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- for treatment purposes;
- for judicial and administrative proceedings;
- for law enforcement purposes;
- for public health activities;
- for health oversight activities;
- about decedents;
- for cadaveric organ, eye or tissue donation purposes;
- for certain limited research purposes;
- to avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- for specialized government functions; and
- that relate to workers’ compensation programs.

#### **IX. Disclosures of PHI Pursuant to an Authorization**

PHI may be disclosed for any purpose if an authorization that satisfies all of HIPAA’s requirements for a valid authorization is provided by the participant. All uses and disclosures made pursuant to a signed authorization must be consistent with the terms and conditions of the authorization.

#### **X. Complying With the “Minimum-Necessary” Standard**

HIPAA requires that when PHI is used or disclosed, the amount disclosed generally must be limited to the “minimum necessary” to accomplish the purpose of the use or disclosure.

The “minimum-necessary” standard does not apply to any of the following:

- uses or disclosures made to the individual;
- uses or disclosures made pursuant to a valid authorization;
- disclosures made to HHS;
- uses or disclosures required by law; and
- uses or disclosures required to comply with HIPAA.

*Minimum Necessary When Disclosing PHI.* The Plan, when disclosing PHI subject to the minimum necessary standard, shall take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that only the minimum amount of PHI that is necessary for the requestor is disclosed. More details on the requirements are found in the Plan's Privacy Use and Disclosure Procedures. All disclosures not discussed in the Plan's Privacy Use and Disclosure Procedures must be reviewed on an individual basis with the Privacy Official to ensure that the amount of information disclosed is the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.

*Minimum Necessary When Requesting PHI.* The Plan, when requesting PHI subject to the minimum-necessary standard, shall take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure that only the minimum amount of PHI necessary for the Plan is requested. More details on the requirements are found in the Plan's Privacy Use and Disclosure Procedures. All requests not discussed in the Plan's Privacy Use and Disclosure Procedures must be reviewed on an individual basis with the Privacy Official to ensure that the amount of information requested is the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.

#### **XI. Disclosures of PHI to Business Associates**

Employees may disclose PHI to the Plan’s business associates and allow the Plan’s business associates to create or receive PHI on its behalf. However, prior to doing so, the Plan must first obtain assurances from the business associate that it will appropriately safeguard the information. Before sharing PHI with outside consultants or contractors who meet the definition of a “business associate,” employees must contact the Privacy Official and verify that a business associate contract is in place.

*Business Associate* is an entity that:

- performs or assists in performing a Plan function or activity involving the use and disclosure of protected health information (including claims processing or administration, data analysis, underwriting, etc.); or
- provides legal, accounting, actuarial, consulting, data aggregation, management, accreditation, or financial services, where the performance of such services involves giving the service provider access to PHI.

## **XII. Disclosures of De-Identified Information**

The Plan may freely use and disclose de-identified information in accordance with HIPAA privacy regulations. De-identified information is health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual. There are two ways a business associate can determine that information is de-identified: either by professional statistical analysis, or by removing specific identifiers.

## **XIII. Physical Access Controls/Guidelines to Guard PHI**

The Employer will maintain strict physical access controls to its information systems at all times and under all conditions. This includes the physical security of electronic and paper data.

The Employer will terminate access to information systems and other sources of PHI, including access to rooms or buildings where PHI is located, when an employee, agent or contractor ends his/her employment or engagement. The Employer will terminate access to specific types of PHI when the status of any member of the workforce no longer requires access to those types of information.

### **Cleaning personnel:**

Cleaning personnel do not need PHI to accomplish their work. Whenever reasonably possible, PHI will be placed in locked containers, cabinets or rooms before cleaning personnel enter an area. When it is not reasonably possible to lock up PHI, it must be removed from sight before cleaning personnel enter an area and a supervisor must be present.

### **Computer Screens:**

Computer screens at each workstation must be positioned so that only authorized users at that workstation can read the display. When screens cannot be relocated, filters, hoods, or other devices may be employed. Computer displays will be configured to go blank, or to display a screen saver, when left unattended for more than a brief period of time. The period of time will be determined by the Compliance Official. Wherever practicable, reverting from the screen saver to the display of data will require a password. Computer screens left unattended for longer periods of time will log off the user. The period of time will be determined by the Privacy Official.

### **Compliance Official:**

Director of Information Systems & Technology  
City of La Crosse  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 789-8225

### **Conversations:**

Conversations concerning individual care or other PHI must be conducted in a way that reduces the likelihood of being overheard by others. Wherever reasonably possible, barriers will be used to reduce the opportunity for conversations to be overheard.

### **Copying medical records and other PHI:**

When PHI is copied, only the information that is necessary to accomplish the purpose for which the copy is being made, may be copied. This may require that part of a page be masked.

#### **Desks and countertops:**

Provider reports and other documents which may display identifiers and other “keys” to information should be placed face down on counters, desks, and other places where individuals or visitors can see them. Wherever it is reasonably possible to do so, medical reports and other documents containing PHI will not be left on desks and countertops after business hours. Supervisors will take reasonable steps to provide all work areas where PHI is used in paper form with lockable storage bins, lockable desk drawers or other means to secure PHI during periods when the area is left unattended. In areas where locked storage after hours cannot reasonably be accomplished, PHI must be kept out of sight. A supervisor must be present whenever someone who is not authorized to have access to that data is in the area.

#### **Disposal of paper with PHI:**

Paper documents containing PHI must be shredded when no longer needed. If retained for a commercial shredder, they must be kept in a locked bin.

#### **Home office:**

Any member of the workforce who is authorized to work from a home office must assure that the home office complies with all applicable policies and procedures regarding the security and privacy of PHI, including these guidelines.

#### **Key policy:**

The Privacy Official will develop a list of which personnel, by job title, may have access to which keys. This includes keys to storage cabinets, storage rooms and buildings. All keys must be signed out. Keys must be surrendered upon termination of employment. The Privacy Official will ensure that locks are changed whenever there is evidence that a key is no longer under the control of an authorized member of the workforce, and its loss presents a security threat that justifies the expense.

#### **Personal digital assistants (PDAs):**

The privacy and security policies apply to any PHI that is stored on a PDA or laptop. Users of PDAs and laptops are responsible for assuring that the PHI on their devices is kept secure and private. Any loss or theft of a PDA or laptop thought to contain PHI must be reported to the Compliance Official immediately. Users of PDAs who store PHI on their devices will receive special training in the risks of this practice, and measures that they can take to reduce the risks (such as use of passwords).

#### **Printers and Fax Machines:**

Printers and fax machines must be located in secure areas, where only authorized members of the workforce can have access to documents being printed.

#### **Records carried from one building to another:**

When PHI is carried from one building to another, it must be signed out and signed in. When a member of the workforce is transporting PHI from one building to another, it may not be left unattended unless it is in a locked vehicle, in an opaque, locked container. Locking the vehicle alone is not sufficient.



### **Record Storage:**

Areas where records and other documents that contain PHI are stored must be secure. Wherever reasonably possible, the PHI will be stored in locking cabinets. Where locking cabinets are not available, the storage area must be locked when no member of the workforce is present to observe who enters and leaves and no unauthorized personnel may be left alone in such areas without supervision.

### **Workforce Vigilance:**

All members of the workforce are responsible for watching for unauthorized use or disclosure of PHI, to act to prevent the action, and to report suspected breaches of privacy and security policies to their supervisor, or to the Privacy Official (example of a breach: individual or visitor looking through PHI left on a counter).

### **Visitors:**

Visitors to areas where PHI is being used must be accompanied by a member of the Employer's workforce.

## **XIV. Breach Notification Requirements**

The Plan will comply with the requirements of the HITECH Act and its implementing regulations to provide notification to affected individuals, HHS, and the media (when required) if the Plan or one of its business associates discovers a breach of unsecured PHI.

## **Policies on Individual Rights**

### **I. Access to PHI and Requests for Amendment**

HIPAA gives participants the right to access and obtain copies of their PHI that the Plan (or its business associates) maintains in designated record sets. HIPAA also provides that participants may request to have their PHI amended. The Plan will provide access to PHI and it will consider requests for amendment that are submitted in writing by participants.

*Designated Record Set* is a group of records maintained by or for the Plan that includes:

- the enrollment, payment, and claims adjudication record of an individual maintained by or for the Plan; or
- other PHI used, in whole or in part, by or for the Plan to make coverage decisions about an individual.

### **II. Accounting**

An individual has the right to obtain an accounting of certain disclosures of his or her own PHI. This right to an accounting extends to disclosures made in the last six years, other than disclosures:

- to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations;

- to individuals about their own PHI;
- incident to an otherwise permitted use or disclosure;
- pursuant to an authorization;
- to persons involved in the patient’s care or other notification purposes;
- to correctional institutions or law enforcement when the disclosure was permitted without authorization;
- as part of a limited data set;
- for specific national security or law enforcement purposes; or
- disclosures that occurred prior to the compliance date.

The Plan shall respond to an accounting request within 60 days. If the Plan is unable to provide the accounting within 60 days, it may extend the period by 30 days, provided that it gives the participant notice (including the reason for the delay and the date the information will be provided) within the original 60-day period.

The accounting must include the date of the disclosure, the name of the receiving party, a brief description of the information disclosed, and a brief statement of the purpose of the disclosure (or a copy of the written request for disclosure, if any). If a brief purpose statement is included in the accounting, it must be sufficient to reasonably inform the individual of the basis of the disclosure.

The first accounting in any 12-month period shall be provided free of charge. The Privacy Official may impose reasonable production and mailing costs for subsequent accountings.

### **III. Requests for Alternative Communication Means or Locations**

Participants may request to receive communications regarding their PHI by alternative means or at alternative locations. For example, participants may ask to be called only at work rather than at home. Such requests may be honored if, in the sole discretion of the Employer, the requests are reasonable.

However, the Employer shall accommodate such a request if the participant clearly provides information that the disclosure of all or part of that information could endanger the participant. The Privacy Official has responsibility for administering requests for confidential communications.

### **IV. Requests for Restrictions on Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

A participant may request restrictions on the use and disclosure of the participant's PHI. It is the Plan’s policy to attempt to honor such requests if, in the sole discretion of the Employer, the requests are reasonable. The Plan is charged with responsibility for administering requests for restrictions and shall communicate any restrictions to the Privacy Official.

## **HIPAA PRIVACY USE AND DISCLOSURE PROCEDURES**

### **Introduction**

City of La Crosse (the “Employer”) sponsors the following health plans:

- City of La Crosse Self-Funded Medical Benefit Plan (Two networks administered by Gundersen Lutheran Health Plan & Custom Benefit Administrators)

- City of La Crosse Section 125 Cafeteria Plan

For purposes of these procedures the plans listed above are referred to collectively and singularly as the “Plan.” Members of the Employer's workforce may have access to the individually identifiable health information of Plan participants (1) on behalf of the Plan itself; or (2) on behalf of the Employer, for administrative functions of the Plan.

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and its implementing regulations restrict the Employer's ability to use and disclose protected health information (PHI).

**Protected Health Information.** Protected health information means information that is created or received by the Plan and relates to the past, present, or future physical or mental health or condition of a participant; the provision of health care to a participant; or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to a participant; and that identifies the participant or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe the information can be used to identify the participant. Protected health information includes information of persons living or deceased.

It is the Employer's policy to comply fully with HIPAA's requirements. To that end, all members of the Employer's workforce who have access to PHI must comply with these Use and Disclosure Procedures. For purposes of these Use and Disclosure Procedures and the Employer's separate privacy policy, the Employer's workforce includes individuals who would be considered part of the workforce under HIPAA such as employees, volunteers, trainees, and other persons whose work performance is under the direct control of the Employer, whether or not they are paid by the Employer. The term "employee" includes all of these types of workers.

No third party rights (including but not limited to rights of Plan participants, beneficiaries, covered dependents, or business associates) are intended to be created by these Use and Disclosure Procedures. The Employer reserves the right to amend or change these Use and Disclosure Procedures at any time (and even retroactively) without notice. To the extent these Use and Disclosure Procedures establish requirements and obligations above and beyond those required by HIPAA, these Use and Disclosure Procedures shall be aspirational and shall not be binding upon the Employer. These Use and Disclosure Procedures do not address requirements under other federal laws or under state laws.

### **Procedures for Use and Disclosure of PHI**

#### **I. Use and Disclosure Defined**

The Employer and the Plan will use and disclose PHI only as permitted under HIPAA. The terms "use" and "disclosure" are defined as follows:

- **Use.** The sharing, employment, application, utilization, examination, or analysis of individually identifiable health information by any person working for or within the human resources department of the Employer, or by a Business Associate (defined below) of the Plan.
- **Disclosure.** For information that is PHI, disclosure means any release, transfer, provision of access to, or divulging in any other manner of individually identifiable health information to persons not employed by or working within the human resources department of the location(s) of the Employer.

#### **II. Workforce Must Comply With Employer's Policy and Procedures**

All members of the Employer's workforce (described at the beginning of these Use and Disclosure Procedures and referred to herein as "employees") must comply with these Use and Disclosure Procedures and the Employer's separate privacy policy.

### **III. Access to PHI Is Limited to Certain Employees**

The following employees ("employees with access") have access to PHI:

- Those employees who perform functions directly on behalf of the Plan, and
- Any other employee who has access to PHI on behalf of the Employer for its use in "plan administrative functions".

These employees with access may use and disclose PHI for plan administrative functions, and they may disclose PHI to other employees with access for plan administrative functions (but the PHI disclosed must be limited to the minimum amount necessary to perform the plan administrative function). Employees with access may not disclose PHI to employees (other than employees with access) except in accordance with these Use and Disclosure Procedures.

### **IV. Permitted Uses and Disclosures of PHI: Payment and Health Care Operations**

#### **Definitions**

**Payment.** Payment includes activities undertaken to obtain Plan contributions or to determine or fulfill the Plan's responsibility for provision of benefits under the Plan, or to obtain or provide reimbursement for health care. Payment also includes:

- eligibility and coverage determinations including coordination of benefits and adjudication or subrogation of health benefit claims;
- risk adjusting based on enrollee status and demographic characteristics; and
- billing, claims management, collection activities, obtaining payment under a contract for reinsurance (including stop-loss insurance and excess loss insurance) and related health care data processing.

**Health Care Operations.** Health care operations means any of the following activities to the extent that they are related to Plan administration:

- conducting quality assessment and improvement activities;
- reviewing health plan performance;
- underwriting and premium rating;
- conducting or arranging for medical review, legal services and auditing functions;
- business planning and development; and
- business management and general administrative activities.

#### **Procedure**

- Uses and Disclosures for Plan's Own Payment Activities or Health Care Operations. An employee may use and disclose a Plan participant's PHI to perform the Plan's own payment activities or health care operations.

- Disclosures must comply with the "Minimum-Necessary" Standard. (Under that procedure, if the disclosure is not recurring, the disclosure must be approved by the Privacy Official.)
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."
- Disclosures for Another Entity's Payment Activities. An employee may disclose a Plan participant's PHI to another covered entity or health care provider to perform the other entity's payment activities. These disclosures will be made according to procedures developed by the Privacy Official.
- Disclosures for Certain Health Care Operations of the Receiving Entity. An employee may disclose PHI for purposes of the other covered entity's quality assessment and improvement, case management, or health care fraud and abuse detection programs, if the other covered entity has (or had) a relationship with the individual and the PHI requested pertains to that relationship. Such disclosures are made according to procedures developed by the Privacy Official.
- The disclosure must be approved by the Privacy Official.
- Use or Disclosure for Purposes of Non-Health Benefits. Unless an authorization from the individual (as discussed in "Disclosures Pursuant to an Authorization") has been received, an employee may not use a participant's PHI for the payment or operations of the Employer's "non-health" benefits (e.g., disability, worker's compensation, and life insurance). If an employee requires a participant's PHI for the payment or health care operations of non-Plan benefits, follow the steps provided by the Privacy Official.
  - Obtain an Authorization. First, contact the Privacy Official to determine whether an authorization for this type of use or disclosure is on file. If no form is on file, request an appropriate form from the Privacy Official. Employees shall not attempt to draft authorization forms. All authorizations for use or disclosure for non-Plan purposes must be on a form provided by (or approved by) the Privacy Official.
- Questions? Any employee who is unsure as to whether a task he or she is asked to perform qualifies as a payment activity or a health care operation of the Plan should contact the Privacy Official or his or her designated representative.

## **V. Mandatory Disclosures of PHI: to Individuals and HHS**

### **Procedure**

- Request From Individual. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or an individual's representative) for disclosure of the individual's own PHI, the employee must follow the procedure for "Disclosures to Individuals Under Right to Access Own PHI."
- Request From HHS. Upon receiving a request from a HHS official for disclosure of PHI, the employee must take the steps established by the Privacy Official.
- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of a public official set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."

- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

## **VI. Permissive Disclosures of PHI: for Legal and Public Policy Purpose**

### **Procedure**

- Disclosures for Legal or Public Policy Purposes. An employee who receives a request for disclosure of an individual's PHI that appears to fall within one of the categories described below under "Legal and Public Policy Disclosures Covered" must contact the Privacy Official. Disclosures may be made according to procedures established by the Privacy Official.
- The disclosure must be approved by the Privacy Official.
- Disclosures must comply with the "Minimum-Necessary Standard."
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

### **Legal and Public Policy Disclosures Covered**

- Disclosures about victims of abuse, neglect or domestic violence, if the following conditions are met:
  - The individual agrees with the disclosure; or
  - The disclosure is expressly authorized by statute or regulation and the disclosure prevents harm to the individual (or other victim) or the individual is incapacitated and unable to agree and information will not be used against the individual and is necessary for an imminent enforcement activity. In this case, the individual must be promptly informed of the disclosure unless this would place the individual at risk or if informing would involve a personal representative who is believed to be responsible for the abuse, neglect or violence.
- For Judicial and Administrative Proceedings, in response to:
  - An order of a court or administrative tribunal (disclosure must be limited to PHI expressly authorized by the order); and
  - A subpoena, discovery request or other lawful process, not accompanied by a court order or administrative tribunal, upon receipt of assurances that the individual has been given notice of the request, or that the party seeking the information has made reasonable efforts to receive a qualified protective order.
- To a Law Enforcement Official for Law Enforcement Purposes, under the following conditions:
  - Pursuant to a process and as otherwise required by law, but only if the information sought is relevant and material, the request is specific and limited to amounts reasonably necessary, and it is not possible to use de-identified information.
  - Information requested is limited information to identify or locate a suspect, fugitive, material witness or missing person.

- Information about a suspected victim of a crime (1) if the individual agrees to disclosure; or (2) without agreement from the individual, if the information is not to be used against the victim, if need for information is urgent, and if disclosure is in the best interest of the individual.
- Information about a deceased individual upon suspicion that the individual's death resulted from criminal conduct.
- Information that constitutes evidence of criminal conduct that occurred on the Employer's premises.
- To Appropriate Public Health Authorities for Public Health Activities.
- To a Health Oversight Agency for Health Oversight Activities, as authorized by law.
- To a Coroner or Medical Examiner About Decedents, for the purpose of identifying a deceased person, determining the cause of death or other duties as authorized by law.
- For Cadaveric Organ, Eye or Tissue Donation Purposes, to organ procurement organizations or other entities engaged in the procurement, banking, or transplantation of organs, eyes or tissue for the purpose of facilitating transplantation.
- For Certain Limited Research Purposes, provided that a waiver of the authorization required by HIPAA has been approved by an appropriate privacy board.
- To Avert a Serious Threat to Health or Safety, upon a belief in good faith that the use or disclosure is necessary to prevent a serious and imminent threat to the health or safety of a person or the public.
- For Specialized Government Functions, including disclosures of an inmate's PHI to correctional institutions and disclosures of an individual's PHI to an authorized federal Official for the conduct of national security activities.
- For Workers' Compensation Programs, to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs.

## **VII. Disclosures of PHI Pursuant to an Authorization**

### **Procedure**

Disclosure Pursuant to Individual Authorization. Any requested disclosure to a third party (i.e., not the individual to whom the PHI pertains) that does not fall within one of the categories for which disclosure is permitted or required under these Use and Disclosure Procedures may be made pursuant to an individual authorization. If disclosure pursuant to an authorization is requested, the following procedures should be followed:

- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or individual's representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- Verify that the authorization form is valid. Valid authorization forms are those that:

- Are properly signed and dated by the individual or the individual's representative;
- Are not expired or revoked [the expiration date of the authorization form must be a specific date (such as July 1, 2010) or a specific time period (e.g., one year from the date of signature), or an event directly relevant to the individual or the purpose of the use or disclosure (e.g., for the duration of the individual's coverage)];
- Contain a description of the information to be used or disclosed;
- Contain the name of the entity or person authorized to use or disclose the PHI;
- Contain the name of the recipient of the use or disclosure;
- Contain a statement regarding the individual's right to revoke the authorization and the procedures for revoking authorizations; and
- Contain a statement regarding the possibility for a subsequent re-disclosure of the information.
- All uses and disclosures made pursuant to an authorization must be consistent with the terms and conditions of the authorization.
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

## **VIII. Disclosure of PHI to Business Associates**

### **Definition of Business Associate**

Business Associate is an entity or person who:

- performs or assists in performing a Plan function or activity involving the use and disclosure of PHI (including claims processing or administration; data analysis, underwriting, etc.); or
- provides legal, accounting, actuarial, consulting, data aggregation, management, accreditation, or financial services, where the performance of such services involves giving the service provider access to PHI.

### **Procedure**

Use and Disclosure of PHI by Business Associate. All uses and disclosures by a "business associate" must be made in accordance with a valid business associate agreement. Before providing PHI to a business associate, employees must contact the Privacy Official and verify that a business associate contract is in place.

The following additional procedures must be satisfied:

- Disclosures must be consistent with the terms of the business associate contract.



- Disclosures must comply with the "Minimum-Necessary Standard." (Under that procedure, each recurring disclosure will be subject to a separate policy to address the minimum-necessary requirement, and each non-recurring disclosure must be approved by the Privacy Official.)
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

#### **IX. Requests for Disclosure of PHI From Spouses, Family Members, and Friends**

The Plan and Employer will not disclose PHI to family or friends of an individual except as required or permitted by HIPAA. Generally, an authorization is required before another party, including spouse, family member or friend, will be able to access PHI.

- If an employee receives a request for disclosure of an individual's PHI from a spouse, family member or personal friend of an individual, and the spouse, family member, or personal friend is either (1) the parent of the individual and the individual is a minor child; or (2) the personal representative of the individual, then follow the procedure for "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- Once the identity of a parent or personal representative is verified, then follow the procedure for "Request for Individual Access."
- All other requests from spouses, family members, and friends must be authorized by the individual whose PHI is involved. See the procedures for "Disclosures Pursuant to Individual Authorization."

#### **X. Disclosures of De-Identified Information**

##### **Definition of De-Identified Information**

De-identified information is health information that does not identify an individual and with respect to which there is no reasonable basis to believe that the information can be used to identify an individual. There are two ways a covered entity can determine that information is de-identified: either by professional statistical analysis, or by removing 18 specific identifiers.

##### **Procedure**

- Obtain approval from the Privacy Official for the disclosure. The Privacy Official will verify that the information is de-identified.
- The Plan may freely use and disclose de-identified information. De-identified information is not PHI.

#### **XI. Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information**

Verifying Identity and Authority of Requesting Party. Employees must take steps to verify the identity of individuals who request access to PHI. They must also verify the authority of any person to have access to PHI, if the identity or authority of such person is not known. Separate procedures are set forth below for verifying the identity and authority, depending on whether the request is made by the individual, a parent seeking access to the PHI of his or her minor child, a personal representative, or a public official seeking access.

- Request Made by Individual. When an individual requests access to his or her own PHI, the following steps should be followed:
  - Request a form of identification from the individual. Employees may rely on a valid driver's license, passport or other photo identification issued by a government agency.
  - Verify that the identification matches the identity of the individual requesting access to the PHI. If you have any doubts as to the validity or authenticity of the identification provided or the identity of the individual requesting access to the PHI, contact the Privacy Official.
  - Make a copy of the identification provided by the individual and file it with the individual's designated record set.
  - If the individual requests PHI over the telephone, ask for his or her social Security number.
  - Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."
- Request Made by Parent Seeking PHI of Minor Child. When a parent requests access to the PHI of the parent's minor child, the following steps should be followed:
  - Seek verification of the person's relationship with the child. Such verification may take the form of confirming enrollment of the child in the parent's plan as a dependent.
  - Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure "Documentation Requirements."
- Request Made by Personal Representative. When a personal representative requests access to an individual's PHI, the following steps should be followed:
  - Require a copy of a valid power of attorney or other documentation—requirements may vary state-by-state. If there are any questions about the validity of this document, seek review by the Privacy Official.
  - Make a copy of the documentation provided and file it with the individual's designated record set.
  - Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."
- Request Made by Public Official. If a public official requests access to PHI, and if the request is for one of the purposes set forth above in "Mandatory Disclosures of PHI" or "Permissive Disclosures of PHI," the following steps should be followed to verify the official's identity and authority:
  - If the request is made in person, request presentation of an agency identification badge, other official credentials, or other proof of government status. Make a copy of the identification provided and file it with the individual's designated record set.
  - If the request is in writing, verify that the request is on the appropriate government letterhead.

- If the request is by a person purporting to act on behalf of a public official, request a written statement on appropriate government letterhead that the person is acting under the government's authority or other evidence or documentation of agency, such as a contract for services, memorandum of understanding, or purchase order, that establishes that the person is acting on behalf of the public official.
- Request a written statement of the legal authority under which the information is requested, or, if a written statement would be impracticable, an oral statement of such legal authority. If the individual's request is made pursuant to legal process, warrant, subpoena, order, or other legal process issued by a grand jury or a judicial or administrative tribunal, contact the Legal Department.
- Obtain approval for the disclosure from the Privacy Official.
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

## **XII. Complying With the "Minimum-Necessary" Standard**

### **Procedures for Disclosures**

- Identify recurring disclosures. For each recurring disclosure, identify the types of PHI to be disclosed, the types of person who may receive the PHI, the conditions that would apply to such access, and the standards for disclosures to routinely-hired types of business associates. Create a policy for each specific recurring disclosure that limits the amount disclosed to the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.
- For all other requests for disclosures of PHI, contact the Privacy Official, who will ensure that the amount of information disclosed is the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.

### **Procedures for Requests**

- Identify recurring requests. For each recurring request, identify the information that is necessary for the purpose of the requested disclosure and create a policy that limits each request to the minimum amount necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.
- For all other requests for PHI, contact the Privacy Official, who will ensure the amount of information requested is the minimum necessary to accomplish the purpose of the disclosure.

### **Exceptions**

- The "minimum-necessary" standard does not apply to any of the following:
  - Uses or disclosures made to the individual;
  - Uses or disclosures made pursuant to an individual authorization;
  - Disclosures made to HHS;
  - Uses or disclosures required by law; and
  - Uses or disclosures required to comply with HIPAA.

## **XIII. Documentation**

## Procedure

- Documentation. Employees shall maintain copies of all of the following items for a period of at least six years from the date the documents were created or were last in effect, whichever is later:
  - "Notices of Privacy Practices" that are issued to participants;
  - Copies of policies and procedures;
  - Individual authorizations;
  - When disclosure of certain PHI is made:
    - the date of the disclosure;
    - the name of the entity or person who received the PHI and, if known, the address of such entity or person;
    - a brief description of the PHI disclosed;
    - a brief statement of the purpose of the disclosure; and
    - any other documentation required under these Use and Disclosure Procedures.

**Note:** The retention requirement only applies to documentation required by HIPAA. It does not apply to all medical records.

## XIV. Mitigation of Inadvertent Disclosures of PHI

**Mitigation: Reporting Required.** HIPAA requires that a covered entity mitigate, to the extent possible, any harmful effects that become known to us of a use or disclosure of an individual's PHI in violation of the policies and procedures set forth in this manual. As a result, if you become aware of a disclosure of PHI, either by an employee of Plan or an outside consultant/contractor, that is not in compliance with the policies and procedures set forth in this manual, immediately contact the Privacy Official so that the appropriate steps to mitigate the harm to the individual can be taken.

## XV. Breach Notification Requirements

**Compliance.** The Plan will comply with the requirements of the HITECH Act and its implementing regulations to provide notification to affected individuals, HHS, and the media (when required) if the Plan or one of its business associates discovers a breach of unsecured PHI.

### Procedures for Complying With Individual Rights

**Individual Rights:** HIPAA gives individuals the right to access and obtain copies of their protected health information that the Plan (or its business associates) maintains in designated record sets. HIPAA also provides that individuals may request to have their PHI amended, and that they are entitled to an accounting of certain types of disclosures.

- a. Individual's Request for Access

#### "Designated Record Set" Defined

Designated Record Set is a group of records maintained by or for the Employer that includes:

- the enrollment, payment, and claims adjudication record of an individual maintained by or for the Plan; or
- other protected health information used, in whole or in part, by or for the Plan to make coverage decisions about an individual.

### **Procedure**

Request From Individual, Parent of Minor Child, or Personal Representative. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or from a minor's parent or an individual's personal representative) for disclosure of an individual's PHI, the employee must take the following steps:

- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or parent or personal representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- Review the disclosure request to determine whether the PHI requested is held in the individual's designated record set. See the Privacy Official if it appears that the requested information is not held in the individual's designated record set. No request for access may be denied without approval from the Privacy Official.
- Review the disclosure request to determine whether an exception to the disclosure requirement might exist; for example, disclosure may be denied for requests to access psychotherapy notes, documents compiled for a legal proceeding, information compiled during research when the individual has agreed to denial of access, information obtained under a promise of confidentiality, and other disclosures that are determined by a health care professional to be likely to cause harm. See the Privacy Official if there is any question about whether one of these exceptions applies. No request for access may be denied without approval from the Privacy Official.
- Respond to the request by providing the information or denying the request within 30 days (60 days if the information is maintained off-site). If the requested PHI cannot be accessed within the 30-day (or 60-day) period, the deadline may be extended for 30 days by providing written notice to the individual within the original 30 or 60-day period of the reasons for the extension and the date by which the Employer will respond.
- A Denial Notice must contain (1) the basis for the denial; (2) a statement of the individual's right to request a review of the denial, if applicable; and (3) a statement of how the individual may file a complaint concerning the denial. All notices of denial must be prepared or approved by the Privacy Official.
- Provide the information requested in the form or format requested by the individual, if readily producible in such form. Otherwise, provide the information in a readable hard copy or such other form as is agreed to by the individual.
- Individuals have the right to receive a copy by mail or by e-mail or can come in and pick up a copy. Individuals (including inmates) also have the right to come in and inspect the information.

- If the individual has requested a summary and explanation of the requested information in lieu of, or in addition to, the full information, prepare such summary and explanation of the information requested and make it available to the individual in the form or format requested by the individual.
- Charge a reasonable cost-based fee for copying, postage, and preparing a summary (but the fee for a summary must be agreed to in advance by the individual). This provision is not needed if the plan will not charge a fee.
- Disclosures must be documented in accordance with the procedure "Documentation Requirements."

b. Individual's Request for Amendment

**Procedure**

Request From Individual, Parent of Minor Child, or Personal Representative. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or a minor's parent or an individual's personal representative) for amendment of an individual's PHI held in a designated record set, the employee must take the following steps:

- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or parent or personal representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- Review the disclosure request to determine whether the PHI at issue is held in the individual's designated record set. See the Privacy Official if it appears that the requested information is not held in the individual's designated record set. No request for amendment may be denied without approval from the Privacy Official.
- Review the request for amendment to determine whether the information would be accessible under HIPAA's right to access (see the access procedures above). See the Privacy Official if there is any question about whether one of these exceptions applies. No request for amendment may be denied without approval from the Privacy Official.
- Review the request for amendment to determine whether the amendment is appropriate—that is, determine whether the information in the designated record set is accurate and complete without the amendment.
- Respond to the request within 60 days by informing the individual in writing that the amendment will be made or that the request is denied. If the determination cannot be made within the 60-day period, the deadline may be extended for 30 days by providing written notice to the individual within the original 60-day period of the reasons for the extension and the date by which the Employer will respond.
- When an amendment is accepted, make the change in the designated record set, and provide appropriate notice to the individual and all persons or entities listed on the individual's amendment request form, if any, and also provide notice of the amendment to any persons/entities who are known to have the particular record and who may rely on the unconnected information to the detriment of the individual.
- When an amendment request is denied, the following procedures apply:

- All notices of denial must be prepared or approved by the Privacy Official. A Denial Notice must contain (1) the basis for the denial; (2) information about the individual's right to submit a written statement disagreeing with the denial and how to file such a statement; (3) an explanation that the individual may (if he or she does not file a statement of disagreement) request that the request for amendment and its denial be included in future disclosures of the information; and (4) a statement of how the individual may file a complaint concerning the denial.
- If, following the denial, the individual files a statement of disagreement, include the individual's request for an amendment; the denial notice of the request; the individual's statement of disagreement, if any; and the Employer's rebuttal/response to such statement of disagreement, if any, with any subsequent disclosure of the record to which the request for amendment relates. If the individual has not submitted a written statement of disagreement, include the individual's request for amendment and its denial with any subsequent disclosure of the protected health information only if the individual has requested such action.

### **III. Processing Requests for an Accounting of Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

#### **Procedure**

Request From Individual, Parent of Minor Child, or Personal Representative. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or a minor's parent or an individual's personal representative) for an accounting of disclosures, the employee must take the following steps:

- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or parent or personal representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- If the individual requesting the accounting has already received one accounting within the 12 month period immediately preceding the date of receipt of the current request, prepare a notice to the individual informing him or her that a fee for processing will be charged and providing the individual with a chance to withdraw the request.
- Respond to the request within 60 days by providing the accounting (as described in more detail below), or informing the individual that there have been no disclosures that must be included in an accounting (see the list of exceptions to the accounting requirement below). If the accounting cannot be provided within the 60-day period, the deadline may be extended for 30 days by providing written notice to the individual within the original 60-day period of the reasons for the extension and the date by which the Employer will respond.
- The accounting must include disclosures (but not uses) of the requesting individual's PHI made by Plan and any of its business associates during the period requested by the individual up to six years prior to the request. (Note, however, that the plan is not required to account for any disclosures made prior to April 14, 2004. The accounting does not have to include disclosures made:
  - to carry out treatment, payment and health care operations;
  - to the individual about his or her own PHI;

- incident to an otherwise permitted use or disclosure;
  - pursuant to an individual authorization;
  - for specific national security or intelligence purposes;
  - to correctional institutions or law enforcement when the disclosure was permitted without an authorization; and
  - as part of a limited data set.
- If any business associate of the Plan has the authority to disclose the individual's PHI, then Privacy Officer shall contact business associate to obtain an accounting of the business associate's disclosures.
  - The accounting must include the following information for each reportable disclosure of the individual's PHI:
    - the date of disclosure;
    - the name (and if known, the address) of the entity or person to whom the information was disclosed;
    - a brief description of the PHI disclosed; and
    - a brief statement explaining the purpose for the disclosure. (The statement of purpose may be accomplished by providing a copy of the written request for disclosure, when applicable.)
  - If the Plan has received a temporary suspension statement from a health oversight agency or a law enforcement official indicating that notice to the individual of disclosures of PHI would be reasonably likely to impede the agency's activities, disclosure may not be required. If an employee receives such a statement, either orally or in writing, the employee must contact the Privacy Official for more guidance.
  - Accountings must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

#### **IV. Processing Requests for Confidential Communications**

##### **Procedure**

Request From Individual, Parent of Minor Child, or Personal Representative. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or a minor's parent or an individual's personal representative) to receive communications of PHI by alternative means or at alternative locations, the employee must take the following steps:

- Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or parent or personal representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."
- Determine whether the request contains a statement that disclosure of all or part of the information to which the request pertains could endanger the individual.



- The employee should take steps to honor requests.
- If a request will not be accommodated, the employee must contact the individual in person, in writing, or by telephone to explain why the request cannot be accommodated.
- All confidential communication requests that are approved must be tracked.
- Requests and their dispositions must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

**V. Processing Requests for Restrictions on Uses and Disclosures of Protected Health Information**

Request From Individual, Parent of Minor Child, or Personal Representative. Upon receiving a request from an individual (or a minor's parent or an individual's personal representative) for access to an individual's PHI, the employee must take the following steps: Follow the procedures for verifying the identity of the individual (or parent or personal representative) set forth in "Verification of Identity of Those Requesting Protected Health Information."

- The employee should take steps to honor requests.
- If a request will not be accommodated, the employee must contact the individual in person, in writing, or by telephone to explain why the request cannot be accommodated.
- All requests for limitations on use or disclosure of PHI that are approved must be tracked.
- All business associates that may have access to the individual's PHI must be notified of any agreed-to restrictions.

Requests and their dispositions must be documented in accordance with the procedure for "Documentation Requirements."

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE POLICY

## 1. GENERAL POLICY

### 1.1. Background and Content.

The City of La Crosse provides employees with access and use to a variety of information technology resources. These resources are provided to employees to allow them to be more efficient, productive and provide them with the information and tools that they need to perform their responsibilities as City employees. This document describes the policies that govern the use of technology in the City of La Crosse and describes ways to prevent and respond to a variety of threats including unauthorized access, disclosure, duplication, modification, diversion, destruction, loss, misuse, or theft of City information. This policy replaces and supersedes prior Information Services policies.

### 1.2 Objectives.

The City of La Crosse's business is conducted with computers dedicated to a single user's activity. Protection of these servers, computers and other devices and information handled by these systems is an essential part of doing business at City of La Crosse. This policy applies to all computers or other devices regardless if they are stand-alone or connected to the network.

## 2. Definitions

### 2.1 Employee

All regular full time, regular part time, limited term employees, seasonal employees, temporary employees, interns, employees from other agencies working within the City government, volunteers, and appointed and elected officials granted access and use to the City of La Crosse's Information Resources are considered, under this policy, employees of the City of La Crosse.

### 2.2 Contractors.

All persons contracted with the City of La Crosse to work on systems, equipment or machinery that requires access to the network or connects to the City's network or that uses a computer or any type of technology and that may also need to access those systems remotely to maintain them.

### 2.3 Information Technology Resources

For the purpose of this policy, the City of La Crosse will define Information Technology Resources as any equipment, hardware, or software that is assigned and available for employees to use in the course of their employment. These resources included, but are not limited to, fax machines, printers, software applications, Internet access, voice mail, e-mail, office computers, scanners, multimedia equipment, computer terminals, telephones, radios, PDA's and Smartphones and various networks.

### 2.4 IT.

The Information Technology Department formerly referred to as the Information Services Department, IS Department, IT Department and other similar variations thereof.

## 3. Scope

### 3.1 Involved Persons.

This policy statement applies to all employees, contractors, consultants, temporaries, and other workers at City of La Crosse, including those workers affiliated with third parties that access City of La Crosse's computer networks. Throughout this policy, the words "worker" or "user" will be used to collectively refer to all such

individuals. By his/her use of, or access to the City's personal computers, information and data systems, and computer networks, the individual expressly agrees to abide by this policy and to be subject to these provisions.

### **3.2 Involved Systems.**

This policy statement applies to all computer and data communication systems owned by and/or administered by the City of La Crosse.

## **4. Violations**

### **4.1 Non-Compliance.**

City of La Crosse workers who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

### **4.2 Mandatory Reporting.**

All suspected policy violations, system intrusions, virus infestations, and other conditions that might jeopardize City of La Crosse information or City of La Crosse information systems must be immediately reported to IT.

## **5. Privacy and Personal Use**

Unless contractual agreements dictate otherwise, all information stored on or transmitted by City of La Crosse computer and communications systems (including, but not limited to, e-mail systems, Internet/Intranet access) are City of La Crosse property.

To properly protect and manage this property, City of La Crosse management reserves the right to examine all information stored in or transmitted by these systems. Workers have no expectation of privacy associated with the information they store in or send through these systems. Such information is subject to applicable open records laws and records retention policies, and can be accessed during court proceedings, investigations or public records requests. Because this information is City of La Crosse property, users must not put it to uses that have not been explicitly approved by their Department Head or designee and consistent with this policy.

## **6. Hardware and Software**

### **6.1 Software Use**

Only work related software will be used on City computers. No personal software, even if bought by an individual specifically for their office computer, may be installed and used without prior authorization (in writing,) from the Department Head and the IT Department. This includes and is not limited to games, screen savers, utilities, and communications software. The IS Department should be consulted if there are any questions or issues relating to this matter.

The use of software to access personal email services and Internet access services is prohibited. This applies to personal services such as but not limited to Hotmail, MSN, Gmail, and Internet Service Providers.

Determination of misuse will be made by the Department Head and/or Human Resources. Department Head and/or Human Resources may request computer surveillance from the IT Department in compliance with the Computer Surveillance Policy without user's consent to determine if misuse has occurred.

### **6.2 Copying & Software Duplication**

The copying of software for any reason is expressly prohibited. Any software in use on any City Computer must be a legally licensed copy. The terms and conditions that are found in most commercial software packages prohibit copying their product. The operating license of

each commercial software package will establish the final guidelines as to the legality of the copying activity in the event a question arises.

Anyone who knowingly or unknowingly duplicates copyrighted software material is subjecting the City of La Crosse and themselves to substantial penalties under the law.

### **6.3 Backup**

The IT Department will backup server's data on a daily basis. Users should store all their data in the appropriate folders that are on the city servers. NO data should be stored locally on any computer, laptop or any other electronic device that is not stored on the server. The IT Department may not be able to assist users who might lose data as a result of such data not being stored on the City Servers.

### **6.4 Hardware Purchases**

IT will determine, in cooperation with affected Departments when appropriate, the most cost-efficient and compatible equipment to purchase. The purchase order will be done as needed or in bulk, to be taken care of by the IT Department. IT will setup the computers and make them network ready and install them on site for final use. All purchases of technology will be done by the IT Department.

### **6.5. Software Purchases**

All software purchases without exception should be approved by the IT Department. This will ensure compatibility and consistency with the City Information System.

All original copies of software and manuals shall be given to the IT Department for safe keeping. If additional licenses or copies need to be installed the IT Department will be in charge of doing this in coordination with the interested department.

### **6.6 Hardware Installation**

The IT Department will install all relevant network hardware and hardware resources including desktop hardware. The use of persons or services not authorized by the IT Department to assist, consult, and or install hardware or software or any peripherals to any computer equipment that belongs to the City shall not be permitted. The IT Department will make determinations on any work to be done by external persons/agencies and hence ensure that the work done will not negate the current direction of the City's Information System.

### **6.7 Connecting Personal/Non-City Owned Hardware to City Information System**

Personal/Non-City Owned hardware\* shall not be permitted to connect to the City Information System (including the network and City Computers) without prior written authorization from the IT Director. Examples of such hardware include, but are not limited to: laptop computers, private personal computers, associated peripherals, personal wireless communications devices, Personal Digital Assistants, joysticks, mouse, monitors, desktops, network devices, including any other peripherals that may be used to interface to a City computer or the City Information System.

\* Personal/Non-City owned hardware: Computer and Communications hardware of any kind not belonging to the City.

### **6.8 Connecting Modems to City phone lines**

Connecting a modem/router to a City phone line is prohibited.

### **6.9 Public Records Information**

The IT Department keeps a record of all computer activity. Except as otherwise provided by law, all records are public and subject to disclosure upon request. Notwithstanding, all such records of activity and information remain the records of the department that typically creates and maintains said record within the normal course of its business. The mere fact that the IT Department facilitates the storage of such records on behalf of another department does not elevate the IT Director to be the legal custodian of said records. Rather, the custodian for such records shall be the department head of the corresponding department.

## **7. Internet and E-mail**

### **7.1 Internet**

Employees shall only use the Internet and the resources found therein for research and information gathering for official City business.

The network hardware and software possessed by the City has the capability to monitor computer and Internet activity by user. The network is configured to prevent employees from visiting sites that are primarily for personal use and unlikely to be helpful in conducting City business (see list below).

Under no circumstances shall an employee, unless directly related to their work, or unless requested by their manager or Department Head, visit any Internet site that is of a questionable nature. These sites include and are not limited to:

- a. Pornographic Sites
- b. Sites with Nudity
- c. Sites pertaining to Child Pornography
- d. Sites that deal with illegal activity
- e. Gaming
- f. Personal Banking
- g. Shopping
- h. Streaming Media
- i. Blogs
- j. Chats

Social Media sites are addressed in the Social Media Policy.

### **7.2 Accessing Blocked Sites**

Access must be authorized and requested by the Department head to Information Services submitted as a service request for employees to access a particular site blocked by the system which is needed in order to perform the employee's duties. IT will provide access at the direction of the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the Department head or manager being responsible for that access.

### **7.3 E-mail**

The Email system is the property of the City of La Crosse and is provided to employees to assist them in conducting City business. Electronic Mail should not be used for personal business.

All messages composed, sent or received on the Email system are and remain the property of the City of La Crosse. Employees do not have a personal privacy right in any matter created, stored in or sent from the City's Email system. Email is NOT secure.

The guidelines below will apply to all e-mail records (incoming and outgoing) in order to comply with current state statutes and public record laws.

- a. E-mail is NOT secure! If the content of the mail is sensitive, consider using other forms of delivery.
- b. The Director of IT is considered the custodian of all records maintained on the Information Systems, except as otherwise provided in § 6.9.
- c. All e-mail you send/receive is automatically retained and archived for at least 7 years before being destroyed.

#### **7.4 Prohibited Activities -E-mail**

Employees are prohibited from sending e-mail or otherwise using the email system in connection with any (but not limited to) of the following activities:

- Engaging in personal business or entertainment.
- Engaging in illegal, fraudulent, or malicious activities.
- Engaging in the unlawful use of the e-mail system as set forth in Wisconsin Statutes.
- Sending or storing offensive, discriminatory, disruptive, obscene, or defamatory material.
- Annoying or harassing other individuals.
- Using another individual's account or identity without explicit authorization.
- Attempting to test, circumvent, or defeat security or auditing systems without prior written authorization of the Director of IT.
- Accessing, retrieving or reading e-mail messages sent to other individuals without that individual's prior written authorization.
- Permitting any unauthorized individuals to access the City's e-mail system.
- Sending out mass Email with the intent of disrupting the Email system (SPAM).
- Sending non work related attachments (like pictures, graphics, music, video, chain letters, etc)

#### **7.5 Files and Attachments**

Attachments are documents and programs that are "attached" to an Email message that is being sent to a recipient. The IT Department keeps software installed on our servers that monitor for viruses on incoming and outgoing email.

#### **7.6 Web Filtering and Monitoring**

In the event of a failure of the City's Web filter, the Director of the IT Department and Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Human Resources or their designee reserve the right to monitor web usage of all users on a daily basis until said Web Filter is brought back in to service.

### **8. Resource Usage**

#### **8.1 Personal Use**

Information Resources are the property of the City of La Crosse and are provided to employees to conduct their day-to-day operations. The use of such resources for personal use of any kind is not permitted. In no event can any equipment, software, hardware or related peripherals be removed from the City premises without prior authorization from the Department Head and the IT Director and signing the VPN Policy.

#### **8.2 Unacceptable Use**

Each employee is provided with access to and use of a variety of information resources. These resources are to assist you in the course of your employment and for no other reason. Examples of unacceptable uses include (but not limited to):

- a. Unauthorized use.

- b. Illegal purposes.
- c. Transmittal of threatening, abusive, obscene, lewd, profane, or harassing material or material which suggests any lewd or lascivious act.
- d. Intentionally preventing or attempting to prevent the disclosure of your identity with the intent to frighten, intimidate, threaten, abuse or harass any other person.
- e. Transmittal or distribution of material that is confidential to the City.
- f. Disruption of network services, such as distributing computer viruses.
- g. Interception or alteration of network traffic.
- h. Use of someone else's identity and password for access to information resources without proper authorization.
- i. Attempts to evade, disable, or "crack" passwords or other security provisions of systems on the network.
- j. Reproduction and/or distribution of copyrighted materials without appropriate authorization.
- k. Electronic media and service shall not be used in a manner that is likely to cause network congestion or significantly hamper the ability of other people to access and use the system.

## **9. City Network System**

The IT Department offers a network with a variety of services available, including but not limited to the following: file storage, print services, Internet, VPN (Virtual Private Network) access to the City's network, e-mail and other applications. These services will be available to all authorized users of the city information system.

### **9.1 Network Access**

A user name and standard password shall control network access. User names/email addresses are required to be the same as the user's legal name.

The end user shall choose a password that is alphanumeric in nature. The password shall be changed in a period not exceeding 60 days to protect the integrity of the information systems. The network will remind users when their passwords need to be changed. The criteria have been selected to protect the integrity of the City Information Systems.

### **9.2 VPN Access**

Employees who wish to either take their work home or have a need to work from home may access their stored resources by accessing them via the Internet through a VPN (Virtual Private Network) Connection. Full Internet access is available via this mode; however keep in mind that all policies of network usage, monitoring and privacy apply to the VPN connection. To obtain remote access to the City's network a VPN and a Remote Access request/acknowledgement forms must be submitted to IT.

### **9.3 Passwords & Encryption**

The use of individual passwords or encryption with the exception of the password to log on to the network is prohibited. Such passwords include:

- a. Windows Logon Passwords
- b. Screensaver Passwords
- c. Hardware Passwords
- d. Document Passwords & Encryption
- e. Hard Drive Encryption

Users will be required to have a password to access the Citywide Network. To protect the City network, all users shall log out of the network when they are away from their terminal for any significant length of time and when they leave for the day. Turning off a computer automatically logs

the user off. The User will be held accountable for any other person using their computer under the users name and password.

## **9.4 Security**

For all users who on the City Network (on a network, Internet, etc.), the following security guidelines have been set to abide by:

- a. Users may not seek to gain unauthorized access to information resources to which they have not been given access.
- b. Users are responsible for properly safeguarding any administrative data such as logins and passwords, and are held accountable for any activity that occurs under their login name and password. Any unauthorized activity on an account must be reported to the Department Head and IT Director immediately.
- c. Users may not obtain copies of files, or modify files of other users of the City of La Crosse.
- d. Users may not seek information on other data or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users of the City of La Crosse.
- e. Users must respect the confidentiality of other individuals' electronic communications. Employees are prohibited from engaging in, or attempting to engage in:
  1. Monitoring or intercepting the files or electronic communications of other employees or third parties.
  2. Obtaining access to systems or accounts they are not authorized to use.
  3. Using another person's login and password information without their explicit permission. (Keep in mind that the person's for which user name and password is being used will be held accountable for all activity being done)
  4. Breaching, testing, or monitoring computer or network security measures.
- f. Anyone obtaining electronic access to other organizations', businesses, companies', municipalities', or individuals' materials must respect all copyrights and cannot copy, retrieve, modify, or forward copyrighted material except those that are permitted by the copyrighted owner.
- g. All logins and activity, including system administration, may be logged electronically.

### **9.4.1 Unauthorized use**

Accessing computer resources on machines used by other persons without their expressed permission is considered a hacking/cracking. This form of activity is prohibited on the City Information Systems. Hacking/cracking is considered a violation of the law and is a punishable offense under the law (a felony offense).

## **9.5 Confidential Information**

The IT Department will take all steps to maintain the confidentiality and the security of the Data stored in the Network Servers. The steps include physical security, Network password access, file, and folder security. All other departments shall collaborate with the IT department to ensure data integrity and security.

## **10. Administrative Issues**

### **10.1 Intellectual Property**

- a. Any and all documents, applications, programs, software, systems, hardware or designs conceptualized, designed, created or applied during any period an employee receives remuneration from the City and/or created during work hours or at home for the purpose of use at and for the City of La Crosse becomes the property of the City of La Crosse.
- b. Any and all documents, applications, programs, software, systems, hardware or designs conceptualized, designed, created or applied during a period in which an employee was hired as an independent consultant or contractor to perform such duties shall be the property of the City of La Crosse.



### **10.1.1 Web Publishing Requests from External Organizations**

The City's web site ([www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)) shall be limited to the publishing of activity and information originating from/pertaining to the organization of the City of La Crosse.

The City of La Crosse is not responsible for the content, nature, viewpoints, opinions and timeliness of any external web pages and/or links connected to or otherwise published on the City web site.

It is allowed under this policy for the City of La Crosse to have links from its website to other governmental sites, sister cities, and other local community organizations closely related with the City of La Crosse. These requests may be forwarded to the City Attorney to ascertain the appropriateness of the requested link(s).

### **10.2 Record Retention**

Current Local Ordinances, State and Federal Statutes pertaining to the retention of public records shall prevail with respect to record retention.

### **10.3 Audit**

Any audits to determine compliance with this policy will be conducted in accordance with the Computer Surveillance Policy.

### **10.4 Temporary Employees**

Department Heads will need to inform the IT Department when their unpaid interns and other temporary employees who need access to the City Information System are no longer with the City.

### **10.5 Support**

The IST Department will only provide physical support and troubleshooting for Information Technology Resources at City owned buildings.

## **11. Errors & Omissions**

This policy is designed to enable employees to maximize their use of resources available to them. The City firmly believes that knowing the bounds of activity protects both the individual employee and the City from potential disciplinary and liability issues.

While this policy is not all encompassing, the City believes that each user would apply their own standards of professional, moral and ethical conduct when using the IT resources. This does not mean that any item/event/activity NOT mentioned in this document is a condoned act. Any items not mentioned in this policy that relates to inappropriate behavior, actions with respect to the IS system will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. It should be kept in mind that prevailing City policies are still in effect and applicable to potential Information Services issues.

## **12. Violations & Disciplinary Action**

Violations of this policy have the potential of exposing the City to substantial risks including legal liability, and may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

The Department head together with the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the Director of IT and the City Attorney will investigate reported violations to determine if any action is justified.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the IT Committee is responsible for initiating disciplinary action concerning any Council Member's noncompliance with this policy.

9/27/11; R2/22/15; 9/15/15; R01/01/2018

## MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATIONS POLICY

**POLICY INTENT:** To establish vehicle operator regulations and standards and to ensure an acceptable level of proficiency and safety is met by city employees operating city vehicles.

**APPLIES TO:** The policy applies to all city employees who are assigned to operate a city vehicle or their personal vehicle to accomplish essential functions of their position. Employees that use a city vehicle or their personal vehicle to perform a city work function on an occasional basis are also covered by this policy. The policy also applies to applicants for employment when the position they are applying for includes the operation of a city vehicle.

### **I. Policy**

The City of La Crosse has the authority to determine who will drive a city vehicle, to establish vehicle operator standards, and to revoke the privilege of driving city vehicles for failure to meet the standards. This policy defines the minimum standards for all city employees. Nothing herein will be construed as to limit the city from setting higher standards that may be needed to meet the particular operational needs and requirements of an individual position and/or department.

### **II. Definitions**

- A. **Driving Record Abstract Program:** A vehicle record subscription service program provided by the Department of Transportation that automatically sends a driving record abstract whenever a conviction or sanction is posted to an enrolled employees' driving record. This includes violations, suspensions, restrictions, revocations, or any action that is taken that may affect an employees' driving privilege.
- B. **Preventable Crash:** Any vehicle accident in which the driver/operator failed to do everything he/she reasonably could have done to prevent the accident, unless such accident occurs in the responsible execution of an employees' job responsibilities. (Example: police pursuit or apprehension)
- C. **Vehicle Crash:** Any occurrence involving a city-owned, rented, leased or travel-reimbursed motor vehicle or trailer which results in property damage, personal injury or death.
- D. **Employee:** For purposes of this policy, all regular full-time city employees, part-time employees and/or temporary employees.
- E. **City vehicle:** Any City of La Crosse owned, rented, leased or travel reimbursed motor vehicle or trailer including personal vehicles used by an employee for city business. A personal vehicle used to travel to and from work is not considered a city vehicle. Personal vehicles used occasionally for city business are not considered city vehicles when not used for city business.
- F. **Authorized passengers:** Employees, co-workers and other personnel performing city related business. Additional passengers may be authorized by a higher management level in exceptional cases provided that such actions are reasonable and do not impede the delivery of municipal services.

### **III. Regulations**

- A. Employees who drive a city vehicle in the performance of their duties will be enrolled in the Driving Record Abstract Program.
- B. Each driver's privilege to operate a city vehicle on official city business extends only as long as the driver operates the vehicle in a safe and efficient manner. A record of preventable crashes, or other disqualifying violations and/or convictions may result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including removal of the driving privileges and termination of employment for those employees for which driving a city vehicle is an essential function of their position. For employees who occasionally use city vehicles and such use is not an essential function of the position, a lesser standard shall be used.
- C. Employees will operate all vehicles used for city business safely and economically. To accomplish this, employees must comply with the following regulations:
  1. All drivers will have a valid state driver's license with the appropriate certifications and/or endorsements required by law for the type or types of vehicles used in the performance of their duties.
  2. All occupants will wear seat belts, whether operating or riding in a city vehicle, unless their specific work function is excepted from such standards by state law, for example, law enforcement personnel.
  3. Engaging in distracting activities including, but not limited to, eating, putting on makeup, reading or changing radio stations, is also strongly discouraged while driving, even when in slow-moving traffic. (Law enforcement activities are excluded from this provision.)
  4. Use of alcohol, drugs or other substances, including certain over-the-counter cold or allergy medications that in any way impair driving ability, is prohibited.
  5. All employees are expected to follow all driving laws and safety rules such as adherence to posted speed limits and directional signs, use of turn signals and avoidance of confrontational or offensive behavior while driving. (Law enforcement activities are excluded from this provision.)
  6. Employees are encouraged to use city vehicles instead of their own cars for official city business whenever practical.
  7. No employee will drive a city vehicle unless the employee's supervisor has authorized them to do so.
  8. Personal vehicles may be used to perform city business with prior approval of the department head. Employees using their personal vehicles will be reimbursed for approved miles at the standard business mileage rate established by the IRS, after submittal of the appropriate form to the Finance Department.
  9. City vehicles will be used for city business only and will not normally leave the city limits without authorization, unless it is necessary to accomplish assigned tasks.
  10. Unauthorized passengers and/or drivers are prohibited from operating or riding in a city vehicle.

11. Employees will observe all traffic laws, rules and regulations and the dictates of common sense and good judgment. The vehicle operator is responsible for all traffic and parking fines.
  12. Employees may not take city vehicles home overnight unless authorized by their department head to perform city business from their home or have a reasonable expectation to be called back to perform city business.
  13. Employees required to possess a commercial driver's license shall comply with applicable city work rules and State/Federal regulations regarding drug and alcohol use including testing requirements.
  14. Rules and regulations regarding employee use of city motor vehicles and/or personal vehicles used to perform a city function which are specific to each operating department shall also apply.
- D. Employees may use city vehicles for travel to lunch if they are on city business in a location where driving to obtain their personal vehicle would result in an extra and unnecessary expenditure of time and money, (i.e. employees are permitted to go to nearest restaurant), or when the employee has a reasonable expectation that they will be called to return to duty during the lunch period.
- E. Employees authorized to take a city vehicle home after their normal scheduled hours must report the number of miles "to and from home" to the Finance Department on a monthly basis and are responsible for any taxes due associated with this benefit.
- F. Each employee driving a city vehicle on city business will inspect the vehicle to assure that the vehicle is in sound operating condition. This includes a basic inspection to ensure the proper operation of the lights, seat belts, emergency flashers, wipers, and other essential safety equipment. Any vehicles found to be unsafe to operate must be reported to the supervisor, who will contact the MSC garage to evaluate the reported problem. Personal vehicles used as city vehicles must be kept in a safe operating condition by the employee as outlined in paragraph (K) below.
- G. Employees will immediately report all vehicle crashes involving city vehicles and complete a MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT/DRIVER'S STATEMENT form as required. (Law enforcement required to complete a MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH/DRIVER'S STATEMENT.) Employees will cooperate in the investigation of all vehicle crashes or property damage crashes as follows:
1. Employees must promptly report any accidents to local law enforcement as well as to their department head.
  2. Employees are expected to report any moving or parking violations received while driving a city vehicle on city business.
- H. Employees who operate a city vehicle in the performance of their duties, must notify their immediate supervisor within 24 hours, or the start of the next work shift, whichever is earlier, if their license is expired, suspended, revoked, or confiscated by a law enforcement agency. Additionally, employees must notify their supervisor within 24 hours, or the start of the next

work shift, whichever is earlier, upon reinstatement of their driver's license. Failure to notify their supervisor may be cause for disciplinary action.

- I. The Director of Engineering and Public Works is responsible for the coordination of the City of La Crosse fleet safety programs on a city-wide basis. Vehicle inspection and maintenance program for all city vehicles is the responsibility of the department using and/or maintaining the city vehicle.
- J. Candidates for employment for positions that are required to operate a city vehicle will be hired in accordance with the driver qualification standards and driving record standards outlined in this policy.
- K. Employees driving a personal vehicle for city business are required to keep their vehicle properly licensed and insured, and in a safe mechanical operating condition including having a current certification of automobile insurance on file with the City Clerk's Office.

#### **IV. Driver Qualification Standards**

- A. The City has the right to review any and all circumstances related to the driving history of an employee and/or job applicant. Driver's qualifications will be evaluated through the following:
  - 1. Previous employer's reference.
  - 2. Motor vehicle records through the Department of Transportation.
  - 3. Review of personnel file to consider driver training received, record of preventable crashes, driving history, driving certifications, and vehicle operator record.
  - 4. Law enforcement information network.
- B. Qualified drivers will meet the following standards:
  - 1. Possess a valid driver's license of the proper class with the appropriate certifications and/or endorsements required by law for the type or types of vehicles used in the performance of their duties.
  - 2. Possess a driving record that meets all performance and other driving record standards specified in this policy.
  - 3. Capable of passing a physical examination certifying the employee's ability to operate a motor vehicle.
  - 4. Capable of passing written tests on driving regulations whenever required.
  - 5. Capable of passing driving tests appropriate to their position.
  - 6. Have demonstrated proficiency with the particular type of vehicle or equipment they will routinely operate.
- C. Employees whose job description includes driving a city vehicle as an essential function who do not continue to meet the driver qualification standards may have their driving privilege removed and may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including

termination of employment. Employees who use a city vehicle on an occasional basis, which is not an essential job function, shall have a lower standard.

- D. Candidates for employment for positions that require the operation of a motor vehicle as an essential function of the position who do not meet the driver qualification standards will be disqualified.

## **V. Driving Record Standards**

The City has the right to review any and all circumstances related to the driving history of an employee and/or job applicant. The pattern of violations, the seriousness, the surrounding circumstances and the number and frequency of motor vehicle violations will be considered. For purposes of establishing time frames for disqualification of the driving privilege, the City will use the date of the actual violation.

The following offenses and/or conditions will disqualify an employee from driving a city vehicle: Failure to possess, or loss of a valid operator's license, either through suspension or revocation or for any other reason, including the appropriate certifications and/or endorsements required by law for the type or types of vehicles used in the performance of duties; or

Conviction of a driving related felony in the past seven (7) years.

For employees who operate a city vehicle as an essential function of their position, the following conditions or convictions that cause immediate concern and may be cause for disqualification of the driving privilege or may be cause for disciplinary action and/or retraining include the following: A serious offense such as operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, operating while impaired, unlawful blood alcohol level, negligent homicide, driving while license suspended or revoked.

Two (2) at fault crashes in the past three (3) years, or

The accumulation of more than six (6) points in the past twelve (12) months, or more than ten (10) points in the past three (3) years; or

A pattern of preventable crashes and/or property damage.

The above list is representative only. The City reserves the right to discipline employees for acts or omissions which are not listed.

Candidates for employment for positions requiring a driver's license who do not meet the driving record standards will be disqualified.

### **Supervisory and Managerial Responsibilities**

The specific responsibilities of supervisory and managerial employees are identified below.

Department Heads or their designees will:

Identify and then notify the Human Resources Department of all employees who operate a city vehicle in the performance of their duties to be certified as eligible to operate a city or personal vehicle to perform city business and to be included in the Driving Record Abstract Program.

Ensure that all employees identified in section (a) above, are informed of this policy.

Ensure the safe maintenance and operation of all assigned city vehicles.

Ensure that all vehicle operators are trained in the safe operation of all assigned motor vehicles.

Enforce citywide and departmental vehicle operation standards and procedures.

Supervisors will:

Ensure the safe operation and maintenance of assigned municipal vehicles.

Administer and enforce all citywide and departmental policies and procedures regarding vehicle operation.

Human Resources will:

Prior to making a conditional offer of employment will verify that the candidate has a valid state driver's license with the appropriate certifications and/or endorsements required by law for the type or types of vehicles used in the performance of their duties.

Evaluate motor vehicle records received from the appropriate State agency in accordance with the Driver Qualification Standards and Driving Record Standards and confer with department heads and supervisors as appropriate.

Maintain the Driving Record Abstract Program and provide consultation to department heads as needed.

10/1/04

# **NURSING MOTHERS IN THE WORKPLACE POLICY**

## **OVERVIEW**

This policy establishes guidelines in compliance with Section 7(r) of the Fair Labor Standards Act. Section 7(r) requires employers provide the following for nursing mothers in the workplace:

1. Provide reasonable break time for an employee to express breast milk for her nursing child for one year after the child's birth each time such employee has a need to express the milk; and
2. A place, other than a bathroom, that is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public, which may be used by an employee to express milk.

An employer shall not be required to compensate an employee receiving reasonable break time under paragraph (1) for any work time spent for such purposes. It is imperative that employees, supervisors, and managers follow this policy.

## **REQUEST PROCEDURE**

Upon request by the employee, the Employee Wellness Coordinator, department manager or supervisor will provide the following information:

1. An explanation of the policy for nursing employees who wish to express breast milk.
2. Particular times for taking breaks. This will be determined based on the needs of the nursing employee.
3. The location of the private space that will be made available for the employee wishing to express breast milk during the work day.

## **REASONABLE BREAK TIME**

Employees will be required to use their normal break or mealtime for this purpose. Please note the frequency of breaks as well as the duration of each break will likely vary. Duration will depend on 1) time to get to and from the space provided, 2) time to set up equipment, 3) pump efficiency, 4) clean-up time and 5) time to store the milk. For time spent for this purpose the employee will be required to use accrued leave for all time spent in excess of the normal break or mealtime.

## **PRIVATE SPACE**

The Employee Wellness Coordinator will work with the employee's supervisor or manager to arrange a space, other than a bathroom, that is "shielded from view" and "free from intrusion" from coworkers and the public. This space may include an individual's office, or another office not in use. When it is not practical to provide a room such as an office, the requirement can be met by creating a space with partitions or curtains. All windows in the designated room must be covered to ensure the space is "shielded from view." With any space provided for expressing milk, the supervisor or manager must ensure the employee's privacy through means such as signs that designate when the space is in use, or a lock on the door.

In order to be a functional space that may be used by a nursing employee to express breast milk, at a minimum, the space must contain a place for the nursing employee to sit, and a flat surface, other than the floor, on which to place the pump. Ideally, the space will have access to electricity, so that a nursing employee can plug in an electric pump rather than use a pump with battery power.

6/10/11; R01/01/2019



## **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT POLICY**

**POLICY:** A City employee is permitted to engage in outside employment or business activities provided that such outside employment or business activity does not present a conflict of interest with the employee's city job and/or does not hinder the objective and impartial performance of his/her city duties, bring discredit on the City, or impair the efficiency of the employee's municipal work. In addition, the use of City supplies or equipment for the purpose of outside employment or business activity is prohibited.

**LIMITATIONS:** Outside employment or business activity may not be permitted if it would constitute a conflict of interest, violate the City's Code of Ethics, violate the principles of professional conduct for the respective employee or would tend to bring discredit to the City department or any of its members.

Any injury or sickness contracted by reason of outside employment or business activity is not the responsibility of the City of La Crosse, and the use of City provided sick leave for such purpose is prohibited. Where an accident or disease causing injury arises out of any employee's outside employment or business activity, liability exists against the outside employer through applicable provisions of the Worker's Compensation statutes.

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT:** An employee who is unsure whether such outside employment violates this policy is encouraged to complete the "Request For Approval Of Outside Employment" form.

**PENALTIES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE:** Any employee, supervisor, and/or manager employed by the City of La Crosse who engages in acts in violation of this policy is subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

Effective 4/11/05

## **PRIVACY IN THE LOCKER ROOM POLICY**

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to communicate Wisconsin law relating to individual's right to privacy while in an area operated as a locker room facility. The further purpose of this policy is to fulfill the statutory requirement that any person that owns or operates a locker room in the State of Wisconsin adopt and implement a written policy that conforms with the provisions of Wis. Stats. 175.22.

### **POLICY:**

All persons who utilize a locker room may reasonably expect a high level of privacy from being observed or having their image captured by a recording or surveillance device without his/her knowledge and consent. Expressly prohibited in the locker room are:

- a. Use of a recording or surveillance device, which includes a cellular phone, to capture, record, or transfer an image of a nude or partially nude person in the locker room.
- b. Capturing a representation of a person depicting that person nude or partially nude without that person's knowledge and consent.
- c. Capture, record, transfer, display, reproduce or distribute, a representation of a nude or partially nude person depicted without the person's knowledge and consent.
- d. Unauthorized interviewing of persons within the locker room.

Anyone who is aware of the use of a recording or surveillance device, which may be in violation of this policy, should immediately report the use to the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

### **VIOLATIONS:**

Any employee who intentionally violates this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Additionally, a violation may result in criminal and/or civil penalties, including without limitation, those under section 942.08, 942.09 and 995.50, Wis. Stats.

## **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY IN EMPLOYMENT POLICY**

The City of La Crosse wants to ensure its personnel practices related to employee hiring, promotion and transfer do not create the potential of a conflict of interest or favoritism. These practices must be consistently conducted in a manner to ensure open competition, provide equal opportunity, and prohibit discrimination consistent with all laws and applicable collective bargaining provisions.

It is the policy of the City of La Crosse that close relatives, partners, those in a dating relationship or members of the same household are not permitted to be in positions that have a reporting responsibility to each other. Close relatives are defined for this policy as spouse, domestic partner, parents (in-laws), grandparents, children (in-laws), uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, siblings (in-law), step relatives, cousins and domestic partner relatives. A reporting responsibility is defined as working directly for or supervising someone who can initiate or participate in decisions involving a direct or perceived benefit to a person. Such decisions could include hiring, retention, transfers, promotions, wages, schedules, assignments, discipline, performance assessment and/or leave requests.

If employees begin a dating relationship or become relatives, partners or members of the same household where one party is now in a supervisory position over the other, both employees are required to inform their Department head and Human Resources of the relationship. The Department head and Human Resources will confer as to the best method to resolve the potential conflict.

The City reserves the right to take appropriate action to maintain fairness in its personnel policies and practices when there is the potential for a conflict of interest because of the relationship between employees.

The following actions are prohibited:

The Mayor and Common Council members are prohibited from applying for city employment while holding elected office and must resign their elected position before being eligible to apply for employment with the City.

All City employees and elected officials are prohibited from seeking any unfair advantage for any applicant for an employment position with the City or attempting to unduly influence any person in the selection process for a City position. Anyone with information of any such attempts to seek an unfair advantage or attempts to unduly influence any person in the selection process for City employment positions, shall immediately report the same to the Human Resources Department.

Any applicant for a City employment position who canvasses or contacts any member of the Common Council, an appointing authority, or any person involved in the screening or examination of applicants outside scheduled procedures, in order to obtain preferential consideration in connection with any appointment to any City employment position, shall be disqualified from appointment. This provision shall apply to all applicants whether or not currently employed by the City.

### **Duties and Responsibilities of City Employees**

Any City employee who has knowledge about a violation of any provisions of this policy shall report such violation to the Human Resources Department. The Human Resources Department shall investigate alleged violations of this policy and appropriate action will be taken.

It shall be the responsibility of each City Department Head to enforce this employment policy in their respective departments and seek the advice of the Human Resources Department on this topic.

It is the responsibility of the Human Resources Department to advise City Department Heads on how best to enforce this policy and to facilitate the resolution of prohibited employment practices in the least disruptive manner possible.

A violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY**

Harassment on the basis of sex, or gender identity or expression is a violation of Title VII (Federal Law). It is also a violation of Wisconsin Statutes 111.36 (b). Sexual Harassment, either verbal or physical, is an unlawful employment practice and will not be tolerated by the City of La Crosse.

### **Definition**

Sexual Harassment is defined as:

1. “Unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome physical contact of a sexual nature or unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature including but not limited to deliberate, repeated making of unsolicited gestures or comments, or the deliberate, repeated display of offensive sexual graphic material which is not necessary for business purposes.”
2. “Engaging in sexual harassment; or implicitly or explicitly making or permitting acquiescence in or submission to sexual harassment the term or condition of employment or the basis of any part for any employment decision affecting an employee; or permitting sexual harassment to substantially interfere with an employee’s work performance or to create an intimidating, hostile work environment.”
- 3.

### **Procedure**

1. Any and all concerns which any employee of the City may have, related to this issue, should be brought immediately to the attention of the Director of Human Resources or their designee or a supervisor with whom they are comfortable. The rights of an employee to raise such issues are protected under Title VII and Wisconsin Statutes.

### **Penalty**

Any and all employees of this City, who engage in such prohibited behavior will subject themselves to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

**RETALIATION PROHIBITED:** The City of La Crosse takes all complaints seriously and, as such, will take prompt action to investigate the above described complaint in a fair, impartial manner. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. Any incidence of retaliation due to the filing of this complaint will not be tolerated and should be reported to the Human Resources Department immediately.

## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The City of La Crosse respects the right of employees to use social media and does not discourage employees from self-publishing, self-expression and public conversation and does not discriminate against employees who use these mediums for personal interests and affiliations or other lawful purposes. Employees are expected to follow the guidelines and policies set forth to provide a clear line between you as the individual and you as the employee of the City of La Crosse.

1. Employees are encouraged to be careful in their use of social media to avoid the appearance of using that media in an official capacity.
2. If one should identify themselves as a City employee during their use of social media on a personal level, the profile and any related content should be consistent with how you wish to present yourself to your colleagues, supervisors and the public.
3. Employees shall make it clear that he or she is speaking for themselves and not on behalf of the City of La Crosse. If any information posted is related in any way to the work an employee performs or any topics related to the City, a disclaimer must be used such as, “[t]he opinions expressed on this site are my own and do not reflect the opinions of the City of La Crosse.”
4. Employees shall refer to the guidelines set forth in the Information Technology Resource Policy when utilizing City computers or other City supplied devices. Do not use City of La Crosse email addresses to register on social networks, profiles, blogs or other online tools utilized for personal use.
5. Employees shall refrain from using social media during work hours or on equipment the City provides, unless it is work-related as authorized by your supervisor or manager and consistent with City policy. See City Government Social Media Policy for additional information.
6. Employees are personally responsible for their commentary on all social media sites and can be held personally liable for commentary that is considered defamatory, obscene, proprietary or libelous by any party.
7. Employees can be disciplined for using social media in a manner that violates City policies or during work hours. Information posted on social media sites can be used by the City as evidence in disciplinary actions.
8. When using social media, employees are encouraged to be fair and respectful to fellow employees, supervisors, customers, residents, suppliers or people who work on behalf of the City of La Crosse. If employees decide to post complaints or criticisms, they shall avoid using statements, photographs, video or audio that could be reasonably viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, or that disparages customers, members of the public, other employees or suppliers or that may constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to intentionally harm someone’s reputation or the City’s reputation. Further examples are posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion or any other status protected by law or City policy. Malicious gossip and the activities mentioned here will not be tolerated.

9. Employees cannot post the name, trademark or logo of the City, company-privileged information, including copyrighted information or city-issued documents, or photographs of other employees, residents, vendors or suppliers taken in their capacity as City employees.
10. Employees should not link from a City internal or external web site to a personal social media site without the permission of their Department director and the assigned administrator.
11. Employees are advised that social media platforms may be subject to legal discovery including subpoenas in legal proceedings.

## **TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTIVE WORK POLICY**

The City of La Crosse desires that employees, unable to perform the essential functions of their regular job because of an injury or illness that temporarily prevents their return to regular assigned duty, where possible, be temporarily assigned alternative productive work subject to necessary medical certification and available work. The City of La Crosse desires to obtain the benefits of a temporary assignment of alternative productive work which maintains a level of activity which is productive and serves a therapeutic purpose which quickens the employee's return to regular assignment.

### **Procedure**

1. An employee injured or suffering an illness, at or away from work, will provide to their supervisor as soon as possible, written certification of any restrictions imposed upon them by a medical provider. This will include the projected duration of the restriction(s). Fire Department: In addition to the above, written certification shall include kind or nature of the illness or injury.
2. The department supervisor/manager will evaluate the restriction(s) and determine if temporary assignment of alternative productive work is available, and if the employee is qualified to perform the available work. Department management may recommend assignment of the restricted employee to such available work for the hours that such work is available.
3. It is expressly understood that:
  - a. No obligation exists for the City to provide, convert a regular job, or create a temporary assignment of alternative productive work.
  - b. Temporary assignment of alternative productive work does not create a regular employment opportunity, and is in-fact made as a temporary assignment only which will terminate when the employee's restrictions allow him/her to return to their essential duties of their regular job, however generally will not exceed sixty (60) calendar days in duration. The specific end date of assignment will be communicated clearly in writing to the employee upon temporary assignment of alternative productive work. Vacation and paid Holidays may be excluded in calculating the sixty (60) calendar days period.

Fire Department: Temporary assignment will not exceed sixty (60) light duty work days in duration. Vacation and paid Holidays shall be excluded in calculating the sixty (60) light duty work days period.

- c. At the employee's choice, unused accrued vacation may be used in lieu of a temporary assignment to alternative productive work. Fire Department: In addition to the above, this policy shall have no impact on the Fire Department General Order 28 – Alternative Productive Work.
  - d. The amount of temporary assignment of alternative productive work available in any department will be determined by the department supervisor/manager based on the number of employees assigned such duty status. Fire Department: In addition to the above, (first come-first served, assuming the employee is qualified to perform the work).
  - e. The employee may be assigned to perform those duties of the regular job that the employee may perform without restriction or limitation, in addition to those duties assigned temporarily because of restrictions due to injury or illness.
  - f. An employee who meets the requirement to receive a workers' compensation entitlement and who is medically deemed as able to return to a temporary assignment of alternative



productive work, may decline such temporary assignment if it is offered. As a result, the employee may lose workers' compensation payments, but is entitled to remain on FMLA leave until the FMLA leave entitlement is exhausted.

- g. Temporary assignment of alternative productive work may be considered only when an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of their regular job.
- h. An employee's regular work schedule may change during the temporary assignment of alternative productive work to accommodate the department's needs.

Fire: An employee shall be assigned alternative work on an eight (8) hour day, forty (40) hours per week schedule. If the ill or injured employee demonstrates to the Chief that an eight (8) hour day, forty (40) hours per schedule would cause hardship, the Fire Chief shall provide a short period of time for the employee to make arrangements to accommodate such schedule.

- 4. The Human Resources representative will be contacted immediately by a supervisor prior to their making a recommendation of assignment of a restricted employee to temporary assignment of alternative productive work status. The recommendation will be reviewed and approved by the Human Resources representative for compliance with FMLA, WFMLA, ADA, WC, WFEA and this policy.
- 5. All temporary assignment of alternative productive work will be reviewed each thirty (30) calendar day period by the respective department supervisor/manager and the Human Resources representative.
- 6. Alternative work assignments shall be within the same bargaining unit (i.e. ATU, IAFF, LPPNSA, LPPSA).
- 7. Fire Department: While assigned to temporary alternative work, the employee shall not be precluded from using sick leave if they become injured or ill due to a new circumstance, for which they are certified by their health care practitioner as unable to return to work.
- 8. Fire Department: An employee who is unable to perform the essential duties of their regular job, due to injury or illness that temporarily prevents their return to regular assigned duty, may request to be temporarily assigned to alternative productive work subject to necessary medical certification. If available, and qualified to perform the alternative productive work, assignment shall not be denied.

## **TUITION REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

The City of La Crosse recognizes the value to the City and its employees of additional education related to their occupation. Therefore, the City will provide tuition reimbursement to eligible employees who voluntarily participate in approved college courses in accordance with the following guidelines:

### **Eligibility:**

- a. Eligible employees are those non-represented and SEIU employees covered within the Employee Handbook.
- b. Employees must be regular full time or regular part-time employees who are considered to be in good status, and are not on a Leave of Absence status without pay.
- c. Employee must have completed one (1) year of employment with the City of La Crosse prior to applying for tuition reimbursement, and
- d. The employee will be obligated to continue employment for one (1) year with the City of La Crosse beginning at the completion of the last reimbursed course.
- e. An employee terminating employment before the completion of the service obligation (as noted in “d” above) shall be required to reimburse the City, on a prorated basis, for any tuition paid by the City of La Crosse within the last 12 months of employment with the City. Reimbursement may be obtained by personal payment from the employee, deducting the amount from the last paycheck or deducting an equivalent amount from accrued leave balances. This provision may be waived if determined to be appropriate by the Director of Finance, Deputy Director of Human Resources or their designee.

### **Covered Coursework:**

- a. Tuition reimbursement is designed for undergraduate and graduate college level coursework offered through an accredited college, university or technical school. Doctorate level work is not reimbursable. The City reserves the right to approve the standards of approved coursework and learning institutions.
- b. Coursework must have a clear and direct relationship to the employee’s current work or profession. This policy is not intended to fund education that will qualify an employee for a new trade, business or career.
- c. All requests for tuition reimbursement must be submitted to the Department Head a minimum of 30 days prior to beginning of class. Requests received after this timeframe will not be eligible for tuition reimbursement. Application forms are available in Human Resources.
- d. All courses must be approved by the Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee.
- e. Must have attached course credits, i.e. “audited” classes will not be approved for reimbursement.
- f. Seminars, workshops, professional conferences and coursework taken through a Continuing Education Program do not qualify for tuition reimbursement under this policy.

### **Limits:**

- a. A maximum of \$15,000 is available for tuition reimbursement per calendar year, with a maximum of \$750 per employee per calendar year, subject to the \$15,000 cap. Should the full \$15,000 not be requested, the reimbursement per employee may increase, subject to approval by the Director of Human Resources or their designee.
- b. An employee shall have a tuition reimbursement cap of twelve (12) credits per calendar year.
- c. If there are more than 20 requests for \$750, or other requests totaling more than \$15,000 are made, a pro-rata reimbursement would be approved.
- d. The Director of Human Resources or their designee has the discretionary right to deny or pro-rate reimbursements.

**Covered Costs:**

a. The City will reimburse tuition costs and the cost of textbooks up to \$50.00 per class in accordance with the limitations described above. Other associated costs will not be covered (i.e. parking, mileage).

b. Tuition will be reimbursed to qualified employees based on their final grade:

A = 100%

B = 100%

C or Pass = 80%

D, F, Fail, Incomplete, Withdrawn, repeated courses, audited courses etc, will not be reimbursed.

Plus (+) or minus (-) grades will be paid based on the letter grade assigned with no consideration for other indicators.

**Reimbursement:**

- a. Upon completion of the course, eligible employees must submit a copy of their grades AND a receipt from the educational institution showing payment for such courses. Textbook receipts should also be turned in at this time. These must be submitted to Human Resources within 30 days from the date the grades were sent to the employee to be eligible for reimbursement.
- b. Reimbursement for approved expenses will occur following receipt proof of grades and tuition/textbook payments. Reimbursement amounts will be based on the number of participating employees and/or set maximum per employee.
- c. The City will adhere to IRS regulations regarding Educational Assistance programs.
- d. Funding available for part-time employees shall be on a pro-rated basis.
- e. Funding available will be offset by any stipends, grants or scholarships received by the employee.

**Responsibility:**

- a. Work schedules are not to be reduced for participating employees. The employee must take the course during non-scheduled work hours or during periods of approved leave.
- b. All course homework must be completed during non-scheduled work hours, unless approved in advance by the Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee.
- c. Use of City equipment for the purpose of the course is not permitted, unless approved in advance by the Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee.
- d. Employee must complete a "Tuition Reimbursement Application Form" and submit it to their Department Head a minimum of 30 days prior to the commencement (beginning) of the class.
- e. Employee must submit grades and receipt from the educational institution to Human Resources within the established timeframes.

While the City is interested in aiding employees to improve or extend their job skills through outside education, participation in the program does not imply any guarantee of advancement in position or wages.

# **VOLUNTARY LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM FOR SPOUSE AND DEPENDENTS OF CITY EMPLOYEES**

## **GENERAL**

The purpose of this policy is to provide an employee who has exhausted all leave time during a qualified Family and Medical Leave crisis with a means of financial assistance through the contributions of vacation and/or compensatory time from fellow employees.

## **PROGRAM BENEFIT**

The Voluntary Leave Donation Program allows City Employee's to voluntarily donate earned vacation or compensatory leave to a Shared Leave Bank for use by another City Employee with a qualifying Family Medical Leave crisis of a family member. All regular part-time and regular full-time (non-Library) employees are eligible under this program.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- *"Family Medical Leave Crisis"* is a medical condition of an employee's family member (defined below) that meets the definition of "Serious Health Condition" under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), and the duration of the serious medical condition is expected to be more than 30 continuous calendar days, per the Certification of Health Care Provider form as contained in the completed FMLA materials. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure that the Certification of Health Care Provider form is thoroughly completed by the Healthcare Practitioner and provided to Human Resources.
  
- *"Family Member"* includes:
  - Employee's legal spouse
  - Employee's dependent children, including adopted, step, and foster children

## **RECIPIENT ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible as a Recipient in this program, it must be determined that:

- The Recipient has applied for and received approval for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Policy due to the serious health condition of their family member. (Donated leave may not be used for family leave following the birth of a child, placement of a child for adoption or foster care, or bonding of a child.)
- The Recipient must have exhausted all paid sick leave, vacation or other paid leave, or is expected to soon exhaust such leave in order to request shared leave under this program.
- The period in which an employee may receive donated leave is the period of Family and Medical qualified leave which would otherwise be unpaid because all leave balances have been reduced to zero.
- The potential Recipient has signed a Request for Assistance, authorizing minimum disclosure of the need for assistance under this program.
- The Recipient must specify the number of days needed, not to exceed the expected length of the leave due to the medical condition, up to 90 consecutive calendar days.

## **DONOR ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible as a Donor in this program, it must be determined that:

- The Donor has earned vacation or compensatory time in their bank
- The Donor is in active pay status
- The Donor has signed a Voluntary Leave Transfer form relinquishing all rights and claims to their donated leave. Participation is done on a strictly voluntary basis.

## **SHARED LEAVE BANK**

Vacation or Compensatory time donated will be placed in a separate Shared Leave Bank. Elections will be made on an annual basis. Total annual employee contributions to the shared leave bank shall not exceed 90 days. Should the amount of shared leave in the bank be insufficient for approved requests, additional elections will be solicited. There will be no carryover of unused shared leave left in the shared leave bank on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

When a Voluntary Leave Transfer form is signed, Vacation or Compensatory time may only be donated in increments of full days (defined by the hours of work of the Donor) per donation.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Requests for Assistance will remain confidential. Human Resources will notify applicable payroll staff of the recipient and the number of shared leave days to be deposited into their individual vacation bank. Information regarding the nature of the serious medical condition and the afflicted family member will remain confidential in the employee's medical file. In addition, the names of the donors shall remain anonymous and confidential.

## **NOT ALLOWED**

- No donation is allowed for purposes of a recipient's vacation.
- Once transferred, the donation is final. A Donor may not withdraw a voluntary transfer once it has been signed.

## **ACCRUALS AND OTHER BENEFITS**

During the use of donation leave time, all other benefits would continue to accrue to the employee (i.e. sick leave, vacation, seniority, etc.).

## **OTHER PROVISIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

A recipient may receive a maximum donated leave of up to 90 consecutive calendar days under this program. A provision may be made to allow employees the opportunity to borrow from their next year's vacation accrual for absences beyond this time.

The amount of donated leave granted to an employee may not extend beyond December 31<sup>st</sup> of the respective year. On January 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year the employee is eligible for a new 12 weeks of FMLA, thus the employee would be required to use all accrued leave prior to requesting/receiving shared leave for a Family and Medical Leave crisis.

All donations of eligible leave shall be voluntary. No employee may intimidate, threaten, or coerce any other employee with respect to donating or receiving leave under this policy. Individual leave records that apply to Shared Leave are confidential and no individual employee shall receive remuneration of any kind for leave donated.

All determinations regarding qualifications to receive donated leave under this program are final and not subject to the grievance procedure.

## **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This program shall remain in effect until notified otherwise.

R 01/07

## WORK INJURY REPORTING POLICY

### A. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to outline responsibilities and procedures for supervisors and employees when involved in accidents or injuries on work time and to meet Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and State Department of Workforce Development recording requirements.

The City of La Crosse is committed to working with its employees to provide a safe and productive work environment. In order to prevent accidents, timely and accurate accident reporting and investigation is essential. This policy provides guidelines for proper reporting and investigation. It is imperative that injured employees, supervisors, and department heads follow this policy.

### B. PROCEDURES

All City employees shall adhere to the following procedures when an accident or injury occurs:

1. The Department Head and supervisors in each department are expected to be aware of all work-related injuries and to be sure that employees know it is their responsibility to report accidents and injuries at once. It is also the responsibility of each department head to be sure that supervisors assist the Safety Coordinator to investigate injury claims.
2. Workers' compensation forms to be completed for each workplace injury or illness are available from the Supervisor, Human Resources or Sharepoint (under Human Resources). *Employees First Report of Injury* – to be completed by the employee and submitted to their supervisor within 24 hours of the accident or injury.  
*Employers First Report of Injury* – to be completed by the supervisor of the injured employee and submitted to Human Resources.  
*Employers Work Injury Report* – to be completed by the Safety Coordinator.
3. If the injured employee seeks medical attention they are to provide the Physician's Status Report (provided to the employee by their health care practitioner) to their supervisor following each doctor's visit. The report shall provide the medical diagnosis, treatment, restrictions, next appointment date/time, and work-related recommendations for the employee's return to work. The employee must have a physician's authorization for time lost due to a work-related injury. Supervisors will forward copies of all medical slips to Human Resources.
  - a. If immediate medical attention is not needed, the employee can still obtain treatment from his/her choice of medical providers at a later date. The employee shall take the City's workers compensation appointment form to the medical provider. These forms shall be returned to Human Resources.
  - b. Whenever medical attention for a work-related injury is sought, the employee shall submit a return-to-work slip to their direct supervisor prior to returning to work.
  - c. The City has the right to verify an injury/illness through an independent medical exam.

### C. RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 1. The Human Resources Department is responsible for:

- a. Monitoring and reviewing all investigations to ensure accuracy and prompt response.
- b. Providing technical assistance to supervisors when needed.

- c. Following up to see that recommendations made as a result of an investigation are evaluated and that an appropriate course of action is taken, including any disciplinary measures.
- d. Reporting/acting as liaison with workers compensation third party administrator.
- e. Serving as City contact with employee's health care practitioner in regards to the workers compensation injury.

**2. Each Department Head (or designee) is responsible for:**

- a. Evaluating recommendations that come out of each accident investigation and taking appropriate actions to prevent future accidents.
- b. Following up to see that corrective action is implemented.
- c. Fulfilling the duties of the department supervisors (as listed below) when a supervisor is not available.

**3. Supervisors/Managers of non-sworn employees are responsible for:**

- a. Promptly reporting all accidents to Human Resources. Contacting Human Resources as soon as possible (during business hours) if a serious accident occurs, or if the employee seeks medical treatment or misses work due to an injury sustained on the job.
- b. In the absence of the employee, the supervisor will complete the *Employee's First Report of Injury* to the best of their knowledge. Such form will remain unsigned. Upon return of the employee, the supervisor shall review the *Employee's First Report of Injury* with the injured employee and obtain the injured employee's signature on the Report.
- c. Working with Human Resources, the employee and the work restrictions detailed on the Physician Status Report to return the employee to work on restricted or full duty, if applicable.
- d. Obtaining the employee's completed Return-to-Work Slip prior to the employee returning to work and forwarding this form to Human Resources upon receipt from the employee or employee's health care provider.
- e. Forward all Physician's Status Reports and Workers Compensation forms to Human Resources as soon as possible.

**4. Supervisors/Managers of Sworn Officers are responsible for:**

- a. Promptly reporting all accidents to Human Resources. Contacting Human Resources as soon as possible (during business hours) if a serious accident occurs, or if the employee seeks medical treatment or misses work due to an injury sustained on the job.
- b. In the absence of the employee, the supervisor will complete the *Employee's First Report of Injury* to the best of their knowledge. Such form will remain unsigned. Upon return of the employee, the supervisor shall review the *Employee's First Report of Injury* with the injured employee and obtain the injured employee's signature on the Report.
- c. Working with Human Resources, the employee and the work restrictions detailed on the Physician Status Report to return the employee to work on restricted or full duty, if applicable.
- d. Obtaining the employee's completed Return-to-Work Slip prior to the employee returning to work and forwarding this form to Human Resources upon receipt from the employee or employee's health care provider.
- e. Forward all Physician's Status Reports and Workers Compensation forms to Human Resources as soon as possible.

**5. Safety Coordinator is responsible for:**

- a. Ensuring that an investigation is completed for every work injury or accident that involves City employee(s) and reviewing all investigations to ensure accurate and prompt response.
- b. Ensuring all departmental accident investigation forms are completed and submitted to Human Resources within 24 hours of the accident or injury, and ensuring that supplemental reports are also submitted timely to Human Resources.
- c. With the exception of work injuries involving sworn protective officers Safety Coordinator shall promptly respond to the scene of the injury/accident and conduct a scene investigation, take photos, collect possible evidence, interview the injured employee and interview witnesses. Interview the injured employee and any witnesses separately from each other.
- d. Complete and submit the Employer's Work Injury Report (facts and findings report) within 24 hours of the accident or injury to Human Resources, and any and all subsequent reports as may be necessary. This includes any recommended corrective action.

**6. Employees are responsible for:**

- a. Reporting all accidents to his/her supervisor immediately.
- b. Cooperating fully with a City investigation of any accident, even if the employee was not the person injured in the accident.
- c. Working with his/her supervisor to complete, sign and submit the *Employee's First Report of Injury* to Human Resources within 24 hours of the accident or injury, and any and all subsequent reports as may be necessary.
- d. Ensuring that their health care practitioner provides the physician's status report and City-supplied forms concerning medical diagnosis and treatment and any work-related recommendations for a return to work.
- e. Providing their supervisor with Physician Status Reports following each appointment.
- f. Providing a completed Return-to-Work slip to his/her immediate supervisor prior to returning to work if he/she sought medical treatment or missed work due to an accident or injury sustained on the job.

Failure to follow this policy, or providing false or misleading statements, or filing false claims may result may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.



## WORKERS COMPENSATION APPOINTMENT – REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

This policy covers all exempt and nonexempt employees. Employees whose work schedule is fully encompassed within the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. are eligible for the city reimbursement stated below, as the City recognizes the scheduling dilemma for employees whose work schedule parallels the health care professions general business hours. Employees whose work schedule falls outside the 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. parameters (to include regular part-time and platoon shift employees) who would not have the scheduling difficulties, thus are not eligible for the city reimbursement.

1. Employees are encouraged to schedule any workers compensation appointments either during the first one and one-half hour or the last one and one-half hour of their scheduled work day. In recognition of doing so, and creating an efficient workforce, the City will reimburse the employee at their scheduled rate of pay for the lost time to attend the appointment, up to one and one-half hour (calculated from the beginning or end of their scheduled shift – not from their appointment). The employee is expected to return to work immediately following the appointment if the appointment ends prior to the end of their work shift, unless the time required to travel back to work would result in returning after the work shift has ended. If the appointment is in the morning, the employee must report to work prior to going to the appointment, unless it is not possible to report to work and be at the appointment on time.
2. *This reimbursement is not a requirement of workers compensation statutes, but a City reimbursement program.*
3. The City will not provide reimbursement for time taken in excess of the one and one-half hour from the start of work time or the end of work time. In these instances the employee would be required to use accrued forms of leave (i.e. vacation, sick leave, personal business) for the excess time which does not fall within the one and one-half hour, calculated from their scheduled start or end time.
4. Reimbursement would only cover the time at the appointment which is during their normal work hours (i.e. 2:00 p.m. scheduled appointment lasts until 4:00 p.m. Employee's work schedule is 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Employee would receive reimbursement from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.).
5. Appointments scheduled outside of the city reimbursement hours described above will not be reimbursed by the City. The employee would be required to use accrued forms of leave (i.e. vacation, sick leave, personal business) for such visits.
6. The employee will be required to have their treating healthcare provider complete a Workers Compensation Time Report, which would provide the time arrived for the appointment, time of the scheduled appointment, time left and name/address of facility/preparer. The employee is required to provide this to their supervisor upon returning to work on their next regular scheduled day for which the employee is present in order to receive the city reimbursement. If the Workers Compensation Time Report is not provided to the supervisor on their next regular scheduled work day for which they are present they will not receive city reimbursement, therefore he/she will be required to use accrued leave (i.e. sick leave, comp time, vacation or personal business). The employee would also be required to provide their supervisor with a status report from their treating healthcare provider following each appointment.
7. In some cases special treatment is required (MRI, CAT Scan). In such cases the City would provide reimbursement for the appointment occurring during work time, assuming the employee provides the supervisor with the required completed Workers Compensation Time Report.
8. With the exception of accrued leave, this policy is the only form of payment an employee may receive for scheduled workers compensation appointments while working.
9. An employee *may* be eligible for reimbursement through workers compensation for lost time due to a workers compensation injury if they are disabled, thus unable to work (known as TPD – temporary partial disability; or TTD – temporary total disability). Workers compensation statutes / eligibility criteria will apply in these cases.

10. Any special treatment or exceptions for payment through the City's Workers Compensation – Reimbursement policy would be handled through Human Resources.
11. Nothing contained herein is intended to alter or reduce any individual employee's right to benefits under the Workers Compensation Act or Family and Medical Leave Act.

02/18/08; R 12/2/13

## **WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

### **Policy:**

It is the official policy of the City of La Crosse that actions that result in a hostile work environment for City employees are prohibited. It is understood that cause based disciplinary actions do not constitute a hostile work environment as defined under this policy.

The City of La Crosse intends to provide a work environment that is respectful, healthful, comfortable and free from intimidation, hostility, or other offenses, which might interfere with work performance or the work environment. It is the policy of the City of La Crosse that a hostile work environment is counterproductive to the efficient delivery of municipal services and is a violation of work rules applicable to all City employees. Harassment of any sort, whether verbal, physical, and/or visual, will not be tolerated.

### **Definitions:**

Hostile Work Environment refers to work place conditions or harassment by coworkers, managers, supervisors, or outside vendors consisting of conditions in which an employee cannot perform their job without feeling harassed or threatened.

1. Hostile Work Environment is work place conditions or harassment consisting of an environment in which an employee cannot perform their job without feeling harassed or threatened.
2. A hostile work environment may consist of but is not limited to:
  - Verbal abuse and/or derogatory comments against an employee for whatever reason.
  - Displaying derogatory or offensive materials.
  - Physical contact, intimidation or violence against an employee.
  - Challenges over an employee's authority.
  - Deliberate destruction of property and/or sabotage.
  - Jokes, horseplay, pranks, passive aggressive acts or other such acts.
  - Disparate treatment of employees, without a reasonable basis.
  - Imposition or enforcement of unreasonable work rules for the sole purpose of exerting power over others.

### **Procedure To Report and Resolve Complaints:**

1. All City employees are responsible for keeping the work place environment free of harassment. Any employee who becomes aware of an incident of harassment, whether by witnessing the incident or becoming aware of it, must report it immediately to the Human Resources office or a supervisor with whom they are comfortable.
2. When a department head and/or the Human Resources Department becomes aware that harassment may exist they are obligated to take prompt and appropriate action, whether or not the victim supports this action. All reports of harassment will be investigated by the respective department head and/or the Director of Human Resources or their designee with due regard for the privacy of all involved parties.

### **Penalties and Consequences of Hostile Actions:**

Any and all employees, supervisors and/or managers of the City of La Crosse who engage in acts in violation of this policy will subject themselves to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

**RETALIATION PROHIBITED:** The City of La Crosse takes all complaints seriously and, as such, will take prompt action to investigate any complaint in a fair, impartial manner. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. Any incidence of retaliation due to the filing of this complaint will not be tolerated and should be reported to the Human Resources Department immediately.

7/6/98; R 4/18/01; 11/4/16; R 01/01/2018

## **POLICY ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

### **PURPOSE**

It is the intent of the City of La Crosse to provide a safe and secure working environment for our employees and customers. Therefore, the City of La Crosse will not tolerate any harassment, intimidation, violent act, or threat of violence against any employee, visitor or client. This includes any direct, conditional or implied threat, intentional act, or other conduct, which reasonably arouses fear, hostility, intimidation, or the apprehension of harm.

### **GENERAL POLICY**

The City of La Crosse has a zero tolerance policy towards workplace violence, or the threat of violence, by any of its employees, customers, the general public and/or anyone who conducts business with the City. Abusive language, verbal threats and/or gesturing, and/or physical fighting by any employee is prohibited.

No weapon shall be brought into the workplace or carried in City vehicles, whether or not an individual has a permit to carry such weapon. Banned weapons includes firearms and other objects intended to cause harm to oneself or others. Use of any object, as an actual or intended weapon, shall be considered a violation of this policy. The one exception is that law enforcement officers may possess department issued weapons as authorized by the Chief of Police and or Police Department.

This policy applies to all City of La Crosse full-time, part-time and casual/seasonal employees.

### **DEFINITION**

Workplace violence includes, but is not limited to, verbal abuse or harassment, threats, physical attack or property damage. A threat is the expression of an intent to cause physical or mental harm regardless of whether the person communicating the threat has the present ability to carry out the threat and regardless of whether the threat is contingent, conditional, or future. Physical attack is an intentional hostile physical contact with another person such as hitting, fighting, pushing, shoving, or throwing objects. Property damage is intentional damage to property that includes property owned by the City, employees, customers, vendors and citizens.

### **EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITY**

City of La Crosse employees have a responsibility for fostering and maintaining a safe and secure workplace. All employees are expected to adhere to specific security and safety procedures as prescribed by their department. If workplace violence is perceived the employee is to remove self from the threat as soon as possible. All employees have a duty to report to their supervisor any threats they have witnessed or received which may have been committed by another employee or an external individual such as a customer, vendor, or citizen. This is regardless of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or were the focus of the threatening behavior. Even without an actual threat, employees should also report any behavior that they have witnessed which they regard as threatening or violent, when that behavior occurs on the job during working hours, on City owned property or at a location where an employee is conducting official City business.

The City of La Crosse will not tolerate any harassment, retaliatory, or other prohibited action, either directly or indirectly, against the individual who reported the incident of violent behavior. Action of this type must be reported to the supervisor immediately for investigation. Any employee found to have harassed or retaliated against an individual reporting workplace violence will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge from employment with the City of La Crosse.

If the matter involves a supervisor, then the report of the workplace violence should be made to the Department Head, Director of Human Resources or their designee or other City of La Crosse supervisor.

If the matter is critical, for which a serious threat or injury occurs, employee should immediately obtain emergency police intervention or medical response if required.

#### EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITY

The City of La Crosse will take steps to prevent and respond to all instances of violence and threats of violence, which occur on our premises or in the performance of official business outside of the premises.

Upon notification of workplace violence, the supervisor will assess the incident, and immediately contact the Department Head and Director of Human Resources or their designee. A thorough investigation will be conducted to determine the facts of the reported incident.

Any employee found to have violated this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Said employee may be referred to EAP, independent of any disciplinary action.

Any person who engages in an act of violence or alleged act of violence in a City of La Crosse facility may be removed from the facility, and may be banned from entering any City of La Crosse facility until an investigation is completed.

Any employee who is the victim of workplace violence will be offered the services of EAP to assist in coping with any effects of the incident. Employee should also complete an Employee Occupational Injury and Illness Report if the incident of workplace violence has resulted in injury. If the employee cannot complete the form the supervisor shall do so.

The City recognizes that false accusations of workplace violence can have severe adverse effects. The City expects all employees shall act honestly and responsibly in complying with and enforcing this policy.

#### ORDERS OF PROTECTION OR RESTRAINT

If an employee obtains court-ordered protection that extends to the workplace from any other individual, the employee is required to notify his/her supervisor immediately.



# Human Resources

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## Employee Notice: Changes to the Employee Handbook for 2024

The following is a summary of the changes within the Employee Handbook Part I and Part II. For more details, please refer to the Employee Handbook. All changes are effective January 1, 2024.

### Employee Handbook I

#### Section 1: Introductory Period and Review Period

- a. Reduce the introductory period from two (2) years to one (1) year.

#### Section 2: Types of Employees (Part 1)

- a. Update introductory language from two (2) years to one (1) year.
- b. Update job title from Transit Manager to Director of Transit following the Pay and Class Study in 2022.

#### Section 5: Pay and Compensation

- a. Add the job title of *Inventory/Parts Technician* to the Mechanic I/Mechanic II ASE Certification Premium and retitle to ASE Certification Premium.
- b. Increase premium pay from \$.35 per hour to \$.50 per hour.
- c. Retitle On-Call/Pager Pay to On-Call Pay and add the job title of *Electrician – Streets* to positions that are eligible for this benefit.
- d. Add a section for *Fire Administration Work in Battalion Chief Vacancies*.
  1. For any shift vacancy at the Battalion Chief position that creates a traditional shift overtime working opportunity, a qualified Chief Officer (exception of the Fire Chief) can work hours in those positions and be compensated at an hourly rate in correspondence to the employee 112-hour workweek grade and step.

#### Section 6: Benefits

- a. Remove the requirement to provide verification of the date of death, date of funeral, and the relationship of the deceased (i.e., obituary, funeral pamphlet). We will retain the right to request verification from any employee under discipline for attendance issues.

Rebecca A. Franzen, SHRM-CP  
Director of Human Resources

Audra M. Bloom  
Employee Benefits Specialist

Angela R. Leisso  
Sr. Human Resources Generalist

Gwendolyn A. Benish  
Human Resources Generalist

Angela M. Berget  
Human Resources Assistant

- b. Adding language to allow the use of bereavement leave in the event of a miscarriage or stillborn birth. This applies to the birthing parent and spouse or domestic partner of the birthing parent.
- c. Update the Family Care Days section of the Sick Leave policy to allow employees to use the time to care for priority family members (i.e., employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster, or stepchild)).
- d. Update the Family Care Day section of the Sick Leave policy to allow employees to use the time in the event of an unexpected closure of school (snow day, etc.) or daycare facility. (Applies to Battalion Chief and Airport Operations Coordinators as well)
- e. Add Regular Part-Time employees to the Sick Leave Pay-Off at Retirement or Death policy.
- f. Under the Family Care Days section, at the request of the Airport Director, removed the following language "...by the Airport Operations and Maintenance Supervisor. Such request/coverage for the additional eight (8) hours would be limited to weekday hours occurring between 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m." due to the limiting nature of the language.
- g. Removed language in the Catastrophic Leave policy referencing Airport Operations Coordinators hired prior to June 1, 2014 – we no longer having any employees hired as of this date, so the policy is no longer relevant.
- h. Update the vacation policy to state "an employee severing their employment with the City may not use accumulated vacation to extend their separation date beyond the last day worked."

## **Employee Handbook II**

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### **Classification and Compensation Plan**

- a. Section 3. Classification of New Positions – added language that all requests for new positions need to be submitted by July 1 for consideration in the next operating budget. Added language that would allow the Director of Human Resources to bring the Common Council recommendations for new positions outside of the operating budget cycle based on department need (i.e., vacancies or reorganizations).
- b. Section 7. Request for Reclassifications – removed the requirement to submit between May 1 and May 15 of each calendar year.

**In both Employee Handbook I and Employee Handbook II, minor grammatical and formatting corrections were made.**



**CITY OF LA CROSSE**  
**EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**  
**Procedures AND BENEFITS**  
**JANUARY 01, 2024**

Part One



Effective January 1, 2014

Amended 2/14; 01/15; 01/16; 01/17; 01/18; 01/2019; 01/2020; 01/2022; 01/2023; 01/2024



## **INTRODUCTION**

It is the intent of the Common Council of the City of La Crosse to establish a uniform City of La Crosse Employee Handbook, herein referred to as “Handbook”. The Handbook informs employees about what the employer may generally expect from the employees so they may fulfill their responsibilities in serving the public. It is not, nor is it intended to be a contract of employment, a promise of employment, or a guarantee of any rights or benefits, for any or all of City of La Crosse employees.

Individual departments may choose to adopt specific work rules and procedures in addition to the policies and procedures set forth in this Handbook. Employees are expected to follow the policies in the Handbook as well as any Departmental policies. This Handbook will control to the extent the Handbook is in conflict with Departmental policy.

The Handbook summarizes City of La Crosse benefits, procedures, and policies. The Handbook is subject to any controlling ordinance, resolution, State or Federal statute, code or regulation, or any other legally controlling authority. Should any part of the handbook become obsolete or invalid, the balance of the document will remain in effect.

The Handbook applies to all City of La Crosse employees excluding ATU Local #519, LPPNSA, LPPSA, IAFF Local #127 – Fire Department. In addition, contract employees and temporary / limited term employees are excluded.

The City reserves the right to unilaterally change, supplement or rescind the Handbook, with or without notice, as deemed necessary.

It is your responsibility to read and become familiar with this handbook and to follow the policies and procedures contained within. If you have any questions regarding the contents of the handbook, or on matters not covered, please call Human Resources for guidance.

## **Revisions and Approval Process**

As the needs of the City and its employees change, and to comply with changing laws on the Federal, State and Local level, the City may find it necessary to review and update the Handbook. To provide an efficient, streamlined process for revisions, the Common Council authorizes the Director of Human Resources or their designee to modify the Handbook in the best interest of the City, and to comply with legislative mandates. Modifications with a negative financial impact require Common Council approval.

Per Resolution 2011-11-029, Common Council has authorized the Director of Human Resources or their designee to formulate or amend existing policies, while ensuring that the policies comply with State and Federal law.

The Director of Human Resources or their designee will report to the Finance and Personnel Committee all modifications enacted under his/her authority. In addition, the entire Handbook will be presented to the Finance and Personnel Committee on an annual basis for their review.

Employees that seek changes to the Handbook should contact the Human Resources Department. A draft copy of the proposed or revised section should be provided to Human Resources for review and analysis of the impact to the budget, internal operations/controls, safety and legal issues.

R 01/2018; 01/2022

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## **SECTION 1: Introductory Period and Review Period**

### **Non-City Executives:**

1. Newly hired City employees, or those employees who transfer from a collective bargaining agreement to a position covered under the Employee Handbook, are subject to a one (1) year introductory period, consisting of one (1) year of continuous employment with the City, excluding temporary/limited term employment. For elected officials, employees that serve at the pleasure of an elected official, and employees in a federally funded grant position there is no defined introductory period.
2. Employees who transfer through the recruitment process to another City position covered under the Employee Handbook are subject to a six (6) month review period for the new position, independent of the one (1) year introductory period. The transferred employee surrenders their rights regarding their former position.

Employees who fail to successfully complete their introductory period or review period will be dismissed. In lieu of dismissal, the City reserves the right to extend an employee's introductory period or review period. The Department Head and Director of Human Resources or their designee shall make this determination.

### **City Executives:**

City Executives are not defined to an introductory period. With the exception of the Fire Chief and Chief of Police, per City ordinance, appointments of City Executives are subject to confirmation by the Common Council and are to hold office for an indeterminate term subject to removal for cause by vote of the Common Council. Fire Chief and Chief of Police are subject to Police and Fire Commission rules and regulations, §62.13.

### **Police and Fire:**

Employees in the Police and Fire Department shall be subject to an introductory period as contained in the rules and regulations of the Police and Fire Commission. They shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief of Police or Fire Chief, as applicable, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Police and Fire Commission governing promotions and appointments.



## SECTION 2: Types of Employees

### Employment Categories

- A. **At-Will Employees:** The employment relationship of at-will employees may be terminated at any time, for any reason, with or without cause and with or without notice, at the option of the City or the employee, and wages due shall only include time worked up to and including the day and hours of termination. At-will employment is not for any definite period or succession of periods. At-will employees are:
- i. Employees serving their one (1) year introductory period or extended introductory period.
  - ii. Employees that serve at the pleasure of the Municipal Court Judge. These positions include all Municipal Court employees.
  - iii. Employees in positions funded by federal grants. These positions are at-will for the purpose of the grant provisions. Therefore, the employment of the at-will employee in grant funded positions may be impacted should the grant provisions change affecting the funding or qualifications/compliance required of the grant funded position. Currently, these positions are Planning positions funded by Community Development Block Grant.
- B. **Contract Employees:** Employees who are hired on a contract basis. Provisions of the employee handbook do not apply to contract employees.
- C. **For Cause Employees:** Those employees who have successfully completed their introductory period and retained on the basis of merit and may not be removed except for cause. “Elected Officials”, “At Will Employees” and “Contract Employees” are not “For Cause Employees”. In addition, employees in grant funded position are considered “For Cause Employees” (as defined in this paragraph) for performance issues.
- D. **Elected Officials:** Those employees elected by the voters and include the Mayor and Municipal Court Judge. Elected Officials shall receive the salary and benefits *per ordinance*.
- E. **City Executives:** Those for cause employees in the positions of Director of La Crosse Regional Airport, City Attorney, Director of Engineering & Public Works, Director of Finance, Fire Chief, Director of Information Technology, Director of Parks, Recreation, Forestry, Facilities and Grounds, Director of Planning, Development and Assessment, Chief of Police, Director of Human Resources, City Clerk and Director of Transit. City Executives shall receive the salary and benefits described herein.

### **Wisconsin Retirement System Classification:**

- A. General Employees** – Employees that the Wisconsin Retirement System classifies as such. This definition excludes any employee that is classified as “protective” by the Wisconsin Retirement System.
- B. Fire Protective Employees** – Employees that perform fire related activities and are classified as protective by the Wisconsin Retirement System. For the purposes of this resolution this includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief(s), Battalion Chief, and Division Chief of Training.
- C. Police Protective Employees** - Employees that perform police related activities and are classified as protective by the Wisconsin Retirement System. For the purposes of this resolution, it includes Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police and Police Captains.
- D. Elected Officials** – Employees elected by the voters and include Mayor and Municipal Court Judge.

### **Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Classification**

- A. Exempt:** Salaried positions not eligible for overtime, as defined in the FLSA. Examples include Executive, supervisory and certain professional positions.
- B. Non-Exempt:** Employees eligible for overtime as defined in the FLSA. Employees are paid on an hourly basis.

### **Benefit Eligibility:**

- A. Regular Full-Time employees:** Employees working full time in positions that are budgeted for 37.5/40 hours per week (defined as full time). Eligible for benefits contained herein.
- B. Regular Part-Time Employees:** Employees working a minimum of 20 hours per week in positions budgeted for less than full time, but a minimum of 20 hours per week are eligible for benefits contained herein. Accrued leave benefits will be pro-rated based on part-time status. For eligibility for Medical Benefit Plan please see Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document available from Human Resources.
- C. Part-time employees:** Employees working in positions budgeted for less than 20 hours per week are not eligible for City benefits as listed under Section 6, with the following exceptions: *May* be eligible for WRS, Life, and ICI based on Employee Trust Fund (ETF) eligibility.

## **SECTION 3: Time Away from Work**

### **Blood Drives**

Regular full time and regular part-time employees may participate in blood drives conducted at City Hall or at the County Buildings, during working hours, provided that it does not adversely affect departmental operations, result in overtime and/or cause staffing shortages. All requests to participate in a blood drive must be approved by the respective supervisor in advance. Participating employees shall suffer no loss of pay.

### **Family and Medical Leave**

The City of La Crosse has established a Family and Medical Leave Act policy pursuant to Federal and State Family and Medical Leave Act. See Employee Handbook – Policies.

### **Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies**

Generally, employees are expected to report to work at their regularly scheduled time regardless of weather conditions. However, out of concern for the safety of our employees, if you believe conditions are such you cannot make it to and from work safely, you will have the option of using available leave (i.e., personal business, vacation, compensatory time, or floating holiday). Unpaid leave may not be taken until such time all eligible paid leave banks have been exhausted.

Please contact your supervisor as soon as you can prior to your shift to see what accommodations can be made. Supervisors will be as flexible as possible while keeping the critical functions of the City operational.

To ensure the safety and security of the public and the continued operation of City services, employees required for public safety and other critical services are excluded from this policy.

### **Jury Duty and Court Appearances**

In the event an employee is selected to serve on a jury during regular work hours, all jury fees received for the jury duty shall be paid back to the City, and the employee shall suffer no loss in wages. The employee shall complete a Leave Request form. All jury fees received for jury duty (excluding mileage reimbursement) during working hours must be submitted to the Human Resources Department (payable to City Treasurer), along with a copy of the receipt. Jurors, when not assigned to cases, must report to their regular work for the remainder of the day. Jury duty shall be noted on the payroll records.

In the event an employee is subpoenaed to testify in court regarding *work-related* incident, provided such subpoena has been authorized by the City Executive and the Director of Human Resources or their designee, the subpoenaed employee shall suffer no loss of pay. Any fees received for the court appearance (minus mileage reimbursement) shall be paid to the Human Resources Department (payable to City Treasurer).

Should an employee be subpoenaed to testify in a non-work-related case, they will be excused from work however will be required to use accrued unused leave for the lost time.

### **Military Leave**

Employees who are duly enrolled members of the National Guard, State Guard or any other organized reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, shall be allowed a military leave of absence to attend scheduled military training as has been ordered, not to exceed fifteen (15) days for 37.5/40 hour employees, six (6) shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators, and eight (8) shift days for Fire platoon employees. Such time shall be in the calendar year in which so ordered. A copy of orders requiring attendance at military training sites shall accompany all requests for a military leave of absence. Military leave shall be in addition to any other authorized leaves.

Employees, who are authorized military leave as outlined above, shall suffer no loss of straight time pay for such leave. Upon returning to City duty, the City will provide an offset to the employee taking military leave upon receipt of their military pay stub. The City shall pay the difference between the employee's military base pay, excluding quarters, rations, and travel allowances, and the employee's regular City straight time rate of pay if the military pay is less than City pay.

To receive the offset, the employee must provide their military pay stub to Human Resources within thirty (30) days from the date in which the employee returns to City employment. The compensation offset is provided for annual military training, *not weekend drills*.

The City will comply with all state and national laws relating to employees in reserve or active military service, including the Federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

### **Professional Development**

City Executives shall be provided two (2) professional development days to attend training which is beneficial to their professional growth. Areas of professional growth are at the discretion of the City Executive. There shall be no loss of earnings while attending such training, however Mayor approval for attendance is required. The actual cost of the training may be paid by the City, at the discretion of the Mayor. All other costs associated with the professional development training are at the City Executives expense. Attendance at training to maintain a professional license for the City Executives occupation shall not be considered as Professional Development days.

### **Reduction in Workforce**

Reductions in the workforce may occur through layoffs or furloughs, in addition to attrition or position elimination or modification. The City will determine where the reduction in workforce will occur, including Department, number of employees and persons impacted by the reduction in workforce. In the event of a reduction in workforce, affected employees will be laid off or furloughed based on impact on City operations, skills, abilities, qualifications, experience in a particular position, length of service and overall best interest of the City. Length of service shall not be the deciding factor when proceeding with a reduction in workforce, however it will be considered. The City may choose to seek volunteers for the reduction in workforce.

### **Unpaid Leave of Absence**

The supervisor may, only with the approval of the Director of Human Resources or their designee, grant an employee a leave of absence without pay for good reason when the employee's service can be spared without detriment to the best interest of the City. Such unpaid leave shall not exceed thirty (30) calendar days per year, unless unusual circumstances are evident and such additional leave is approved by the City. It is understood that leaves of unpaid absences under this clause will not be granted where employees have existing appropriate paid leave balances. A leave of absence (non-medical) will also not be granted when the employee does not, at the time of the leave request and during the leave, possess all required qualifications, certifications, and licensures for the employee's position, or for the request of unpaid leave for the pursuit of education or other employment. Instead, the employee's employment will be terminated, and the employee may seek rehire with the City in a different capacity. The use of unpaid leave in conjunction with leaves of absences for family and medical reasons will be administered in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws. Leave taken without pay may result in a pro-rated vacation accrual for the following year. It is understood that pro-ration shall be based on "total hours" paid in the previous calendar year.

During the 30 day leave of absence employees who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan will receive the same medical benefit plan benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as active employees. If additional unpaid leave is approved which extends beyond the approved initial 30-day calendar leave of absence, employees may lose eligibility for the medical benefit plan as an active employee if they do not meet the qualifications as defined in Section 6, Medical Benefit Plan, paragraph P.

Employees must submit a written request for an unpaid leave of absence as soon as the need for leave is apparent. The employee must provide sufficient information for the supervisor and Director of Human Resources or their designee to consider including the anticipated duration of the leave and the reason for the leave.

### **Voting/Election Official Leave Law**

**Voting** Any employee who is entitled to vote at an election is entitled to be absent from work while the polls are open for a period not to exceed 3 successive hours to vote. The employee must provide notice to his/her Department Head before Election Day of the intended absence. Time absent requires use of accrued leave. The Department Head will designate the time of day for the absence.

**Election Official Using Accrued Leave** Employees who are appointed as an election official, under s. 7.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, are entitled a leave of absence from work to attend to such duties. An employee who serves as an

election official shall provide his or her Department Head with at least 7 days' notice of request for a leave. Time absent requires the use of accrued leave, however, shall not result in a loss of fringe benefits.

**Election Official Not Using Accrued Leave** City employees residing in La Crosse County, may submit a written request for a paid leave of absence to serve as an election official under s. 7.30 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Paid time will include hours worked on Election Day and for any training necessary to perform the duties of an election official. On Election Day, employees will be paid their regular rate of pay for the amount of hours that equals their normal workday (7.5 or 8 hours). Any hours beyond the normal workday hours, and any training hours, will be paid by the City Clerk at the rate of the election official position. Employees must submit a written request for leave using the City of La Crosse Leave Request form, which must be approved by their supervisor, department head and Director of Human Resources. Approval for this paid time is subject to departmental needs and must not adversely affect department operations.

### **Work Breaks**

Employees working full time may receive two (2) paid breaks, not to exceed 15 minutes each. Work breaks are a privilege not a right. Paid work breaks may be interrupted, cancelled or rescheduled consistent with the needs to accomplish assigned work tasks or staffing needs. In no case shall paid breaks be used to leave work early, report in late or extend unpaid lunch breaks, or for personal gain such as appointments, travel, errands, etc.

### **Workers Compensation**

Worker's Compensation benefits for on-the-job injuries shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes. It is agreed that all statutory provisions in connection with the Worker's Compensation Law shall be incorporated herein as though fully set forth herein.

Airport Operations Coordinators: Workers' compensation benefits shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes, however injuries/illnesses resulting from active Aircraft Fire Suppression duties, Aircraft Fire Suppression training activities, and emergency medical response provided in the scope of their employment may receive supplemental salary as outlined below for Protective employees. To receive the supplemental pay all injuries must be reported immediately/next business day following the date of injury.

Protective employees: It is expected that members of the Police and Fire Department shall exercise sound safety practices in the performance of their duties. Members of the Police or Fire Department who contract a disease or are injured in the performance of their duties while protecting the interests of the general public, may receive supplemental salary as outlined below.

A determination shall be made as to whether or not such injury and/or illness is within the scope of the preceding paragraph and thus entitle the employee to full salary and shall so state on the report covered in procedure in case of injury on the job. Any determination which would result in full pay by virtue of this provision because of illness or injury, shall be subject to the approval of the Director of Human Resources or their designee. In any event, no benefits shall be paid until the City's workers compensation claims administrator determines liability and commences workers compensation payment.

Such payments shall be made only for so long as the claims administrator shall make workers compensation payments. In any event, such full salary pay shall only cover the healing period of temporary total disability and the contribution of the City of La Crosse to such full salary pay shall be the difference between the amount paid by the workers compensation claims administrator and the employee's regular salary at the time of the injury or illness.

In cases involving third party liability, Section 102.29 of the Wisconsin Statutes shall apply.

For workers compensation medical appointments please refer to the Workers Compensation – Appointment Reimbursement policy.

## **SECTION 4: Work Week / Pay Week**

### **Work Week**

The work week for regular full-time employees is generally established as forty (40) hours per week, except for non-exempt positions at City Hall, which are generally thirty-seven and one-half (37 ½) hours per week. The work week is established by the Common Council and may be modified from time to time. For payroll purposes the work week is established as Friday through the following Thursday.

For Airport Operations Coordinators, the work week shall consist of 24.5-hour days, on a rotational basis of 2 – 3 days per week.

Non-exempt employees must not report in more than seven (7) minutes before the start of their shift or stay more than seven (7) minutes at the end of their shift, unless such time has been previously authorized by a supervisor.

### **Payroll and Pay Periods**

Employees shall be paid on a bi-weekly basis. Payment for hours worked shall be received the week following completion of the two-week work pay period. Direct deposit of paychecks is a mandatory condition of employment. Errors found in an employee's paycheck are to be brought to the attention of the Human Resources Department as soon as possible.

Each employee is required to document working hours via the timekeeping system for their department. Non-exempt employees are to report accurately the actual hours worked for each day. Each employee will be held accountable for failing to accurately record work time. The employee shall record his/her time only.

## **SECTION 5: Pay and Compensation**

### **Animal Control Training Premium**

Effective January 1, 2023, Community Service Officers will be offered the opportunity to be trained in the general animal control duties. This training will be provided in-house by a certified Humane Officer. Upon successful completion of the training, the employee will receive an hourly premium of \$.50 per hour. The premium will be applicable to all hours paid. Upon completion of this training, the employee may be used to supplement animal control duties at the agency's discretion. This premium will be audited on an annual basis and employees will be required to have refresher training each year.

### **Clothing Allowance – Personal Items**

- A.** A uniform allowance is provided for limited positions. In each case, fifty percent (50%) of such allowance is payable on the first payday in February of each year, and the second such installment shall be paid on the first payday in August of each year. The employee must be in active status at the time of the installments.

Community Service Officers shall receive three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) per year for pre-approved uniforms.

Police Department: Police Captains, Assistant Chief of Police and Chief of Police shall receive five hundred seventy-five dollars (\$575.00) per year.

Fire Department: Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chiefs shall receive four hundred twenty-five dollars (\$425.00) per year.

**B.** Damage to Eyeglasses and Personal Items – Police Protective

Eyeglasses, damaged or lost, involving a job-related incident, shall be repaired, or replaced by the City for an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). Appropriate personal items damaged or lost, involving a job-related incident, maybe repaired, or replaced by the City for an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) prorated, provided proof of loss is furnished, and there is a police report substantiating the incident. If at any time the city receives restitution through the courts or other sources which exceeds the above stated amounts, the officer shall additionally receive the difference between the applicable above stated amount and the amount actually received by the City.

All requests for reimbursement under this section, including purchase of new equipment and damage to eyeglasses or personal property, shall be submitted for approval to the Director of Human Resources or their designee, and such approval shall not be unreasonably denied.

### **Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Trainer**

Should the City determine a need to train employees for a CDL, the City may assign an employee to provide CDL training to employees for the purpose of obtaining a CDL. An assigned non-exempt employee shall receive \$2.50 per hour above his/her regular wage for all hours assigned as CDL Trainer. Employee assigned as CDL Trainer must hold a valid CDL license, including applicable endorsements. Training will generally occur during the work day, therefore only employees working a day shift are eligible for consideration.

### **Classification and Compensation Guidelines**

The City has a defined Classification and Compensation Plan approved by Common Council which provides guidelines for the classification and compensation of regular full time and regular part-time employees covered in the Employee Handbook.

### **Compensatory Time:**

Compensatory time is available to non-exempt employees (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators). Employees who work over 40 hours in a workweek may be eligible for compensatory time or overtime, computed at time and one-half their normal rate of pay. For employees on a 37 ½ hour work week or less, time worked over their normal schedule (up to 40 hours worked in the work week), will be paid as straight pay. Compensatory time is not available for any hours worked less than 40 hours in the workweek. Generally, employees will have the option of choosing either compensatory time or overtime for hours worked over 40 in a work week, unless specifically deemed otherwise, in advance, by the Department supervisor.

Compensatory time taken while working an out-of-class assignment shall be paid at the employee's regular classification rate. Compensatory time off must be requested in advance to the respective supervisor.

Compensatory time balance may not exceed 40 hours per year. Any accumulated compensatory time over 24 hours will be paid out in the last full pay period in December. At year end, the first 24 hours of accumulated compensatory time will be carried over into the next calendar year.

### **Evidence Room:**

Community Service Officer(s) assigned to work in the Police Evidence room shall receive \$2.00 per hour premium pay for all hours actually worked in the assignment. Such assignment is at the sole discretion of Police management.

### **ASE Certification Premium**

Effective February 1, 2017: Mechanic I's and Mechanic II's have the option to obtain ASE certifications, on a voluntary basis. Effective January 1, 2024, the Inventory/Parts Technician will have the option to obtain ASE certifications, on a voluntary basis. The City will pay for the initial registration fee limited to two (2) registrations per year per employee. Successive attempts to pass an ASE certification will be at the employee's cost for registration.

Upon successful receipt of an ASE certification the mechanic is to provide proof to management, The premium pay of ten cents (\$.10) per hour will be effective the next pay period following receipt. Premiums are limited to a maximum of eight (8) ASE certifications per employee. Once obtained the recertification fee would be paid by the City. All other provisions would be the responsibility of the employee (time off, travel, exam fee, etc.).

The premium is applicable to all hours paid, including holidays, vacation, sick leave, etc.

Loss of certification or failure to recertify shall result in the removal of the premium as applicable per certification.

### **Oktoberfest Premium – Community Service Officers (CSO)**

Community Service Officers shall receive \$5.00 per hour premium pay for any straight time hours worked for the Torchlight Parade, Maple Leaf Parade and any hours worked between 7:00 pm and 3:00 am the Friday and Saturday of Oktoberfest.

### **On-Call Pay**

Non-exempt employees who are scheduled by the City to be on call must remain available for duty during non-scheduled working hours. The scheduled employee shall be paid an additional one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each week of scheduled on-call duty. This is limited to one employee per week in Water Department, Parking Utility (CSO - Parking Utility, Maintenance Worker - Parking, Custodian – Parking Utility), Electrician – Streets, and Maintenance Technician - Airport; and two (2) employees within Sanitary Sewer Utility.

### **On-The-Spot Rewards Program**

#### Purpose

Employees deserve to be recognized for their extra efforts. Department heads can use this On-The-Spot rewards program as one way to recognize their employee's excellent performance and valuable contributions in a real-time way. By providing a Spot Bonus, managers have the opportunity to provide a meaningful "thank you" and connect the reward to the contribution and/or performance being recognized.

In addition, recognition may be given across departments with collaboration between department heads and/or managers.

#### Award

The On-The-Spot Reward is a monetary reward of up to \$500 provided in the form of a Visa gift card.

#### Eligibility



- This bonus is available to all full- and part-time employees who have completed at least six (6) months of continuous employment with the City of La Crosse.
- Employee must be successful in meeting all performance expectations and attendance standards.
- Employee must not be on a performance improvement plan, or have had any disciplinary action (including a verbal and/or written warning) in the six (6) months prior to nomination.
- Employees must be actively employed at the time of payout.

### Award Criteria

The On-The-Spot Rewards Program is meant to reward individuals who have displayed extra effort or who have gone above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities. The program recognizes employees “in the moment” on a one-time basis for exemplary action.

To illustrate ways in which an On-The-Spot reward can be utilized, below are some examples of an employee action that may result in a Spot Bonus:

- Participating in and completing a large work assignment that added considerable effort on top of their day-to-day work.
- Improving a process which created department efficiency and overall budget savings.
- Utilizing creative problem-solving to resolve a particularly complicated and ongoing issue.
- Providing exceptional customer service.

Under Internal Revenue Service regulations, these spot bonuses are considered taxable income and will be processed through the payroll system at a grossed-up amount to net the dollar amount of the gift card. The payroll system is only used to calculate and affix taxes to the employee’s W-2 record. The gift card in its net denomination is the award payout.

### **Out-of-Class Assignments**

Management shall determine the direction of the work force. Out-of-class assignment shall be based on skill set, availability, and staffing. Should a non-exempt employee be assigned by management to perform the essential functions of a non-exempt position in a higher grade, the employee may be eligible for out-of-class pay. Out-of-class pay will only be applicable for actual hours worked, paid in fifteen-minute increments.

Non-exempt employees assigned to work in a non-exempt position of a higher-grade classification shall receive an hourly premium of fifty cents (\$.50) per grade difference. (e.g., Non-exempt employee in pay grade 3 is assigned by management to work in a position classified as pay grade 6. Employee would receive an hourly premium of \$1.50, representing a 3-grade difference, for all hours actually worked in the out-of-class assignment.)

One dollar (\$1.00) per hour premium shall also be provided when a non-exempt employee is assigned by management to perform limited supervisory duties on a temporary basis due to the absence of the exempt supervisory personnel. The premium would be for actual hours worked in the temporary assignment. In general, this will occur in very limited circumstances.

### **Overtime**

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is recognized as a guide in determining payment of overtime. Therefore, executive, administrative, supervisory and professional employees as designated in the FLSA shall be exempt from payment of overtime. All other employees who do not qualify for the above exemption (non-exempt) shall be compensated at the rate of one and one-half times their regular rate of pay for services rendered and hours *actually worked* over 40 hours per week. For purposes of this paragraph, vacation and holidays shall count as hours worked. All other forms of leave are not considered hours worked for overtime purposes.

Hours worked for calculating overtime for Airport Operations Coordinators shall include all of the following: vacation, sick leave, personal business days, family care days and bereavement. However, holidays paid (not worked) do not count as hours worked for Airport Operations Coordinators.

Departments will establish an overtime procedure which best meets the needs of the department. Consideration may include skill set required, availability, staffing, response time for emergency callouts, etc. Management has the sole discretion in the assignment of overtime.

The City has the right to require overtime work as necessary to meet operational needs.

### **Police Command Staff Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) Investigative Representation**

In the event a member of the command staff (i.e. Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and/or Police Captain) is involved in a shooting or use of force incident where they are required to provide responses in an investigation into the incident that was a result of their direct or indirect actions, the member of the command staff may bring legal representation of their own selection to the incident investigation pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 164.02. The City will provide funds to cover out of pocket costs for this type of legal representation.

### **Premium Pay Hours**

Non-exempt employees shall receive premium pay for all hours *actually worked* which occur on/after 6:30 p.m. and prior to 5:59 a.m. Premium pay shall be fifty cents (\$.50) per hour, in addition to their regular hourly rate. This provision does not apply to Airport Operations Coordinators.

### **Property Appraiser Trainee**

Candidates hired as an Appraiser I, who have not yet obtained the required state certifications, shall be hired as Appraiser I Trainee, with a starting wage of five percent less than step one (1) of the established pay grade for Appraiser I. Such certifications must be obtained within six months of hire as a condition of employment. Upon attainment of the State of Wisconsin Property Appraiser certification and the Assessor I Certification the Trainee shall be moved to step one (1) of the established pay grade for Appraiser I.

### **Recalls/Shift Abutment/Work Continuation**

Employees recalled to work (non-scheduled) shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) hours pay at time and one-half to be taken as overtime or compensatory time. Assignment of recalls will be based on the same principle as the assignment for overtime.

Shift abutments occur when an employee is called in to work within two (2) hours preceding the start of their shift, and is continuous. Work continuation occurs when the employee continues work at the end of

their shift. In both instances time is paid at straight pay, however it may result in overtime if actual hours worked exceed 40 hours per week.

### **Tar Crew Pay**

Non-exempt employees assigned by management to work on the tar crew shall receive premium pay of \$.75 per hour for the full day. Assignment to the tar crew shall be made by management.

### **Translation Duties:**

Non-exempt employees performing translation duties shall receive premium pay of \$.50/hour for all hours actually worked in the assignment. Assignment would be made by management; however, it is understood that such assignment is voluntary.

### **Fire Administration Work in Battalion Chief Vacancies**

For any shift vacancy at the Battalion Chief position that creates a traditional shift overtime working opportunity, a qualified Chief Officer (exception of the Fire Chief) can work hours in that position and be compensated at an hourly rate in correspondence to the employees 112-hour workweek grade and step.

The vacancy to be filled must put a shift below the staffing minimum as determined by administration.

Qualifications to work in the Battalion Chief position for a Chief not currently serving as a Battalion Chief are subject to approval by the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief. A “qualified Chief” must have the following experience and certifications to serve in the capacity of a Battalion Chief:

- ICS 300, ICS 400, and Fire Officer 2
- At least five (5) years as an operations line officer
- Documented Incident Command experience beyond a certificate as validated through training documentation and/or actual incident experience.
- Agreement of the Fire Chief that the individual is a qualified Chief to serve in the Battalion Chief role.

Should there be a vacancy, the on-duty Shift Commander shall follow the procedures in appropriate staffing software to fill the vacancy.

- The list of eligible Chiefs will be based on the “bucket” list with hours worked being reset at the start of each calendar year.
- The list of eligible Chiefs will have first right of refusal over Local 127 CBA employees.
- When the Shift Commander filling the vacancy determines all Chiefs have been notified of the vacancy and have replied in accordance with approved methods and the position remains unfilled, the standard practices and procedures will be used to fill the vacancy.

## SECTION 6: Benefits

### Bereavement Leave:

In the event of a death in the employee's "priority family", "immediate family" or "other relations", the employee will be allowed time off without loss of pay or sick leave credits. Additionally, in the event an employee and/or their spouse or domestic partner experience a miscarriage or stillborn birth, this will be covered under the priority family category for bereavement leave. No funeral leave will be allowed if the employee is on vacation, sick leave for illness or injury, lay-off, or any other paid or unpaid leave of absence. To receive bereavement leave, the employee must submit a Request for Leave form. Employees under discipline for attendance issues may be required to provide documentation with regard to their bereavement leave.

#### Priority Family

Priority family shall be defined as the employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster or stepchild). Parents in the preceding sentence shall be interpreted as parents/stepparents of the employee and/or their legal spouse. Bereavement leave for a priority family member shall be up to six (6) days and shall be used from the date of death through two (2) weeks from the date of death. An exception to the 2-week timeframe may be made through the Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to four (4) shift workdays off without loss of pay or sick leave credits for priority family.

#### Immediate Family

Immediate family shall be defined as the employee's, or the employee's legal spouse's grandparent, grandchild, brother, stepbrother, sister, stepsister, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law. Bereavement leave for immediate family shall be used from the day of death up to and including the day after the funeral.

General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Fire Protective- Dayshift, and Police Protective employees shall be allowed up to three (3) days' time off without loss of pay or sick leave credits in the event of a death in the immediate family. (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees).

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to two (2) shift workdays off without loss of pay or sick leave credits for immediate family.

#### Other Relations

Other relations shall be defined as the employee's niece, nephew, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law, and aunt or uncle of the employee. General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Fire Protective-Day Shift and Police Protective employees shall be allowed one (1) day off without loss of pay or sick leave credits (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees).

Airport Operations Coordinators and Battalion Chiefs shall be allowed up to one (1) shift workday off without loss of pay or sick leave credits.

#### Death of a City Employee or Retiree.

Up to two (2) full time employees may take up to four (4) hours (each), without loss of pay from regular work hours, when serving as a pallbearer for the funeral of an active City employee or retiree. Pallbearer leave is applicable to normal scheduled hours only and may not result in overtime for non-exempt employees. Requests for pallbearer leave must be approved by the respective City Executive and Director of Human Resources or their designee.

In the unfortunate loss of a current or retired City employee the City will make every effort to allow time off to those employees requesting time off to attend to the employee/retiree's visitation or funeral. Unless the deceased is a family member (see definition of immediate family or other relations above) such time off shall be taken as follows:

- Leave time would be deducted from the employee's applicable accrued leave banks (i.e. vacation, or personal business day.).
- Exempt employees may request to flex their time, subject to the Flex Time Policy.

- In some cases, non-exempt employees may request to flex their time and make up the unpaid time by working earlier or later than their scheduled shift, in the same amount of time as that which was taken unpaid. The flex hours worked must be within the same workweek and within the Department’s normal operating hours. Flexing hours cannot result in overtime for the employee or the department.
- Granting time off to attend the funeral of an active or retired City employee would be subject to approval by the respective department head in accordance with the above limitations.
- The City’s ability to provide an appropriate level of service must be considered in approving all leave requests.

**Bus Passes**

The City agrees to provide monthly MTU bus passes to covered employees free of charge. It is understood that employees electing this benefit must comply with all applicable administrative rules as modified from time to time.

**Deferred Compensation Plan**

A voluntary I.R.S. Section 457 deferred compensation plan is available for all regular full time and regular part-time employees. The maximum annual deferral limit is established by the I.R.S. and may be modified from time to time. The City reserves the right to select the carrier for the deferred compensation plan and change carriers from time to time.

**Employee Assistance Program**

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available for employees and their legal spouse/ dependents through Gundersen Health Systems. This benefit is independent of the Medical Benefit Plan.

**Flexible Spending Account (I.R.S. Section 125)**

Eligible employees may participate in an Internal Revenue Service Section #125 salary reduction reimbursement plan in order to pay for medical deductibles, medical co-pays, co-insurance and prescription drug co-pays with pre-tax dollars. In addition to medical expenses, the plan may be used for vision, dental, and dependent care expenses. The City agrees to credit and pay for the pension costs on the salary which is put into the Section #125 Plan. This payment does not include any F.I.C.A. payments to Social Security. All employee medical benefit plan payments due the plan will be taken as a pre-tax deduction from employee’s paychecks through the IRS Section #125 Plan, unless an employee chooses to waive participation by completing the application form requesting such. Administration of this shall be consistent with I.R.S. regulations as modified from time to time. Please see Summary Plan Description for complete plan options, eligibility and rules.

**Holidays**

Regular full time and regular part-time employees: Employees will normally be granted holidays off with pay (a day shall mean 7.5 hour/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) for the designated holidays listed below under “Eligibility”.

Airport Operations Coordinators: Employees will receive 10.1 hours of holiday pay on the celebrated holiday. Holiday pay does not count as actual hours worked for overtime purposes. If the employee is required to work on the celebrated holiday or gets called in to work on the celebrated holiday, they shall receive time and one-half for hours worked on the actual holiday, plus 10.1 hours of straight pay for the holiday.

Eligibility: To be eligible for holiday pay, including “Floating Holiday”, qualified employees must work the full regularly scheduled workday prior to the designated holiday, and work the full regularly scheduled work day after the designated holiday. Use of accrued unused paid leave shall qualify as hours worked for purposes of holiday eligibility. Holidays which fall within a scheduled vacation shall not be construed as vacation.

New Years Day	Thanksgiving Day
Martin Luther King Day	Day after Thanksgiving
Memorial Day	Christmas Eve
Independence Day	Christmas Day
Labor Day	New Year’s Eve Day

Floating Holiday: In addition to the above holidays, regular full time and regular part-time employees shall be granted one (1) day floating holiday per calendar year. This floating holiday may be taken at any time during the calendar year, subject to advance approval by the employee's supervisor, and **must be taken in full day increment** – 7.5 hours / 8 hours (or pro-rated for regular part-time). Floating holiday is a use it or lose it provision and may not be carried over or paid out.

Battalion Chiefs: One day shall be defined as 12 hours of floating holiday to be taken as flex time, at the employee's discretion and as approved by the Fire Chief.

Airport Operations Coordinators: One day shall be defined as 10.1 hours and may only be taken as straight pay. Employee has the discretion as to when to elect the floating holiday "pay", however it must be paid in full 10.1-hour increment.

Celebrated Holidays: If the designated holiday falls on a Saturday, it shall be celebrated on the preceding workday (Friday). If both Friday and Saturday are holidays, they shall be celebrated on Friday and Monday. If the holiday falls on Sunday, it shall be celebrated on the succeeding Monday. If both Sunday and Monday are holidays, they shall be celebrated on Friday and Monday.

Employees who are exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended from time to time, who are required to work on the holiday, shall receive additional time off with pay in accordance with the City's Flex Time Policy.

If a non-exempt employee is required to work on the holiday or gets called in to work on the celebrated holiday, they shall receive time and one-half for hours worked, plus straight pay for the holiday. If a celebrated holiday falls on an employee's off day, the employee shall receive an additional day off at straight pay, to be taken within thirty (30) days of the holiday.

In this case, due to department staffing should they be precluded from taking the additional day off (for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day only) within the calendar year they would be able to carryover said holiday to be used by March 31<sup>st</sup> of the succeeding calendar year.

### **Income Continuation Insurance**

Employees may participate in a voluntary income continuation insurance program as provided by the State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund. The City's premium contribution shall be limited to the employer's share of the cost as authorized by Wisconsin State Statute # 40.61 and 40.62. The City reserves the right to self-insure and/or select the carrier for the present level of benefits.

Employees electing to use Income Continuation Insurance benefits must do so in compliance with the City's leave of absence policy, which is consistent with both the State and Federal Family Medical Leave Act.

The benefits described above shall be administered in accordance with applicable State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations. The State of Wisconsin - Employee Trust Fund (ETF) may at any time change the eligibility criteria, benefit levels, and the cost of such insurance.

### **Life Insurance**

Employees become eligible for life insurance on the first day of the month following six (6) complete calendar months of employment in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS).

Employees may apply for insurance for themselves and their spouse and dependents. "Spouse" for purposes of Life Insurance, shall also include "domestic partner." A domestic partner is a person who meets the definition of domestic partner in Wis. Stats. 40.02 (21d) with an employee insured under this life insurance program and for who the employee has submitted an *Affidavit for Domestic Partnership* form (ET-2371) with the Department of Employee Trust Funds.

- A. **Basic:** This plan provides term insurance to each eligible Wisconsin Retirement System participant. The amount of insurance in force for the employee is equal to the amount of earnings reported to the WRS in the previous calendar year rounded up to the next higher thousand.
- B. **Additional - Units I, II, III:** This plan is available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan. The amount of each Unit of Additional Life Insurance is available at one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's previous

calendar year earnings reported to the WRS, rounded to the next higher thousand. Additional coverage for retired employees ceases at age 65. For working employees, Additional Plan coverage continues past age 65, until retirement or age 70, whichever comes first.

- C. **Spouse and Dependent:** This plan, available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan, provides term insurance for an employee's lawful spouse and/or dependents.
1. Schedule I: The spouse is insured for \$10,000; dependents are insured for \$5,000 each.
  2. Schedule II: This allows the employee to increase coverage for his/her spouse to \$20,000 and \$10,000 for each dependent. In the event of the spouses/dependent's death, the employee is the beneficiary. Where both parents have coverage on a dependent, a death benefit will be paid for each coverage.
- D. **Supplemental:** Supplemental life insurance is available to individuals covered by the Basic Plan. The amount of supplemental insurance is only available at one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's previous calendar year earnings reported to the WRS, rounded to the next higher thousand. Supplemental coverage for retired employees ceases at age 65. For working employees, Supplemental coverage continues past 65, until retirement or age 70, whichever comes first.
- E. **Cost of Insurance:** All employees who are eligible and elect to participate in the Basic group life insurance program shall pay one (1) cent per thousand per months for each thousand dollars' worth of coverage for which they are eligible by reason of eligible earnings. The City shall contribute the balance.
- F. **Life Insurance Coverage for Eligible Retirees at Age 66:** Basic life insurance coverage for eligible employees who retire after the effective date (established in accordance with State Statute #40.03(6)(b) and applicable State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations) shall remain at fifty percent (50%) at age 66.
- G. **Administration:** The life insurance benefits described above shall be administered in accordance with State Statute # 40.03 (6)(b) and applicable State of Wisconsin, Employee Trust Fund rules and regulations. The State of Wisconsin Employee Trust Fund (ETF) may at any time change the eligibility criteria, levels of coverage available, and the cost of such insurance. Any increase and/or decrease in the cost of Additional, Supplemental and Spouse & Dependent insurance will be at the expense of the employee.

## **Medical Benefit Plan**

Full-time employees (as defined in Section 2 and as amended by the Affordable Care Act) are eligible to participate in the City's Medical Benefit Plan and receive the level of benefits as described in the Schedule of Benefits contained in the Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document/Summary Plan Description.

### A. **Employees classified as Protective under the Wisconsin Retirement System**

1. **Employees Hired prior to July 1, 2011:**

All provisions contained in Medical Benefit Plan shall apply to Fire protective employees with the exception of monthly rate contributions, deductibles and co-insurance. For purposes of this Section protective employees includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Battalion Chiefs.

Employees who are classified by the Wisconsin Retirement System as protective without Social Security shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active represented protective employees, respective to their department, as modified from time to time.

In addition, Fire protective employees shall be subject to the same deductibles and co-insurance provisions applicable to active represented protective employees within their respective department, as modified from time to time.

**Voluntary Waiver:** Upon ratification and approval of the 2012-2014 collective bargaining agreement for IAFF Local #127 (Fire) incumbent Fire protective employees had the opportunity to waive their participation in the represented protective employees medical benefit plan design for monthly rate contribution, deductibles and coinsurance. If waived the employee had the medical benefit plan design of non-represented employees as described herein and is also subject to the employee pension contribution

levels of non-represented employees: contributing one-half of the total actuarially required contribution for General municipal employees to the Wisconsin Retirement System.

Employees *promoted* into the protective position (Fire) covered under the Employee Handbook (on or after January 1, 2014) shall be offered the voluntary waiver upon the date of promotion. No further opportunity for waiver will be provided.

2. Employees Hired on or After July 1, 2011:

All provisions contained in Medical Benefit Plan shall apply to Police protective employees and Fire protective employee hired on or after July 1, 2011. For purposes of this Section protective employees includes Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Battalion Chiefs, Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, and Police Captains. Hired for purposes of this Section shall mean the employees employment hire date with the City - not promotion of incumbent protective employees.

**B. Employee's Medical Benefit Plan Payments**

Active employee's monthly contributions shall be through payroll deductions. Employee contributions will be deducted from the first two (2) paychecks of the month for the current month's coverage. Employees are automatically enrolled in the Insurance Premium Account of the Section 125 Plan in which their monthly contributions are deducted pre-tax. If an employee would elect to terminate coverage during the plan year without a qualifying change in status (in accordance with IRS regulations), the employee would be required to continue to pay their pre-tax contributions until the end of the plan year. Employees who wish to have their contributions paid with after tax dollars must complete a waiver requesting such.

For 2018 coverage, the employee's monthly contribution shall be 16% of the 2018 monthly premium equivalent rate. Employees who participate in the previous year's Health Risk Assessment (as described below), shall have a contribution rate of 12.6% of the 2018 monthly premium equivalent rate.

Regular part-time employees who qualify for the Medical Benefit Plan, per IRS definition of full time, shall receive a pro-rated employer contribution to the monthly premium equivalent. The employee's monthly premium shall be the same as regular full-time employees (i.e., 16% or 12.6%), plus an additional 25% of the monthly premium equivalent rate.

**C. Coverage for New Employees**

Newly hired full time employees shall be eligible to participate in the City's medical benefit plan referred to herein after one (1) full month following the month in which they begin employment. New employees will have the opportunity to select a Network for themselves and their covered dependents up to 31 days following their eligibility date for the medical benefit plan.

**D. Health Risk Assessment (HRA)**

The City shall offer an annual health risk appraisal on a voluntary basis for active and retired employees and spouses enrolled in the City Medical Benefit Plan. Such program shall be conducted by a third-party vendor who agrees to comply with applicable privacy laws to maintain the confidentiality of information collected and not release personalized findings, other than the names of participants, to the City.

Full time active employees not enrolled in the City's medical benefit plan will also be eligible to participate in the health risk assessment. Eligibility for the monthly contribution incentives will only be available to employees who participated in the previous year's health risk assessment, regardless if the employee was enrolled in the Medical Benefit Plan when the HRA was conducted.

Active and retired employees may participate (by completing a short questionnaire, biometric testing with fasting, a personal counseling session with personalized report of findings and by providing healthcare practitioner contact information to the HRA vendor for mailing the HRA results). This process is to take place in a secured environment (behind closed doors) on City premises at various times intended to maximize participation, on duty time as possible without adverse impact on City operations, and any duty conflict shall be rescheduled for such employees on duty. A participation incentive for active and retired employees shall be a lowered monthly contribution amount while covered under the City Medical Benefit Plan.



New employees who are hired after the regular program testing has been completed shall be granted the related participation incentive prospectively until a subsequent testing is offered by the City provided that such covered employees then complete the participation requirements above. Failure to complete the HRA will result in adjustments to the employee's monthly contribution amount, retroactive to the month coverage began.

Identification of participants on such questionnaires shall be a number other than the participant's full social security number. It is further agreed that biometric testing for men over age 50 shall include PSA testing. Men aged 40 to age 50 with a family history of prostate disease may voluntarily elect to be tested. Retirees with permanent residences out of the local network service area shall be provided access to a site for biometric testing in their local area. Such retiree must complete all steps to be eligible for participation incentive. If the City changes vendors in the future and such local access is not available, such retirees shall be considered as a participant in the program.

It is understood by the parties that any future incentive is subject to Common Council approval and may be modified from time to time.

**E. Dependent Coverage**

Eligible dependents shall be covered subject to eligibility and enrollment timeframes as defined by the Medical Benefit Plan Master Plan Document. Dependent eligibility shall be consistent with applicable State or Federal law.

**F. One Plan for Married Employees**

Married employees that work for the City shall be limited to one (1) medical benefit plan. The employee with the most seniority shall be the subscriber. Married employees that both work for the City would be allowed to switch "subscribers" on an annual basis if allowed to do so by State and Federal law. In the event that the subscriber's health insurance is terminated, the remaining employee shall become the subscriber and the former subscriber shall become the dependent without any waiting periods or limitations for pre-existing conditions. (The purpose of this clause is merely to avoid the duplication of administrative and stop loss insurance premium charges. It is not intended to reduce any employee's eligibility or benefits.) This is not intended to enhance the level of benefits or expand the network selection procedures as provided in paragraph G below.

**G. Networks With 100% Coverage**

The City shall offer City employee's a choice of medical Networks serving the local labor market to provide covered medical services for eligible City employees. The City retains the right to select the Networks. Employees may select a Network for themselves and their covered dependents during dual choice selection period which occurs each Fall with an effective date of change to be the following January 1<sup>st</sup>. Employees will be required to remain in their selected Network through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each respective year.

**H. Monthly Rate Payments for Retirees or Surviving Spouse & Dependents**

Monthly contributions are required to be received by the City in advance of coverage becoming and/or remaining in effect. Such contributions are due by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) of the preceding month for the next month's coverage.

**I. Medicare Carve-Out –For Disability, Effective January 1, 2008**

1. All Current Employees Any employee that retires in the future due to disability and meets the eligibility requirements to maintain City medical benefit plan coverage and who is eligible for Medicare due to their disability is required to apply for Parts A (Hospital) and B (Medical) of Medicare coverage. If the employee/retiree fails to apply for such coverage within 31 days of meeting the Federal eligibility requirements, then benefits under the City plan will be offset for any benefits which would have been payable under Medicare Parts A and B had such person made a timely enrollment for Medicare.
2. All Retirees and Spouses: Any retiree, spouse of a retiree or surviving spouse (as of 1/1/08) that meets the eligibility requirements to maintain City medical benefit plan coverage and who are eligible for Medicare Parts A and B due to a disability is required to apply for Parts A and B of Medicare Coverage at their first enrollment opportunity. If the retiree, younger spouse of a retiree or surviving spouse fails to apply for Medicare Parts A and B at their first enrollment opportunity, the benefits under the City plan will be offset for any benefits which would have been payable under Medicare Parts A and B had such person made a timely enrollment for Medicare as described in this paragraph. (Note that this provision

does not apply to younger spouses that elect continued coverage following the retired person's age off the City plan.).

3. Make Whole:

A. Employees who retired on or before 12/31/2014, and who were participating in Medicare Part B as of 12/31/2014: It is understood that the City shall make whole any retiree, spouse of current retiree, or surviving spouse for his/her Medicare Part B premium payments and waive the monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution. It is further understood that if a spouse of a current retiree meets this provision, the retiree's monthly benefit plan contribution will be waived.

B. Employees who retire after 12/31/2014: It is understood that the retiree's monthly out of pocket premium costs for the combined costs of Medicare Part B and City's retiree health plan shall not exceed the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse monthly benefit plan contribution. If the cost of Medicare Part B is **less** than the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution, the retiree or surviving spouse shall only pay to the City the difference (e.g.: If Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$105 and City monthly Retiree /surviving spouse benefit plan premium is \$202, the retiree/surviving spouse would be required to pay \$97 towards the City monthly benefit plan premium.) If the cost of Medicare Part B is **more** than the cost of the City's monthly retiree or surviving spouse benefit plan contribution, the City would provide the retiree/surviving spouse with an offset equal to the difference (e.g. If Medicare Part B monthly premium is \$105 and the City monthly retiree /surviving spouse benefit plan premium is \$97, then the City would provide a monthly offset to the employee of \$8.00).

**J. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan Coverage - Normal Service (For Employee's Hired as Regular Full Time Prior to January 1, 2014)** (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full-time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.)

1. City Executives: City Executives, as defined in Section 2, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have ten (10) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

2. Non-City Executives – Hired Prior to January 1, 2002:

General Employees: Employees employed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have ten (10) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment

for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within thirty-six (36) months.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**Protective Employees:** Employees employed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare or reach age sixty-five (65), whichever occurs last. Additionally, the employee must have fifteen (15) years of continuous employment with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within thirty-six (36) months.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate payments as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

3. Non-City Executives – Hired between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006

- a. **General Employees:** Employees employed between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2006, who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a retirement annuity. Additionally, the employee must have fifteen (15) years of regular full time continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

**Same Plan - Same Benefits:** It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

Protective employees: All new employees, hired between January 1, 2002, and December 31, 2006, subject to this agreement who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and who retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) may continue their medical benefit plan coverage at group rates until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have eighteen (18) years of continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

3. Non-City Executives – Hired January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2013:

Employees employed between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2013 who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and retire at any time after age fifty-five (55) or take an early retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program, may continue their family, limited family, or single medical benefit plan coverage until they become eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Additionally, the employee must have twenty (20) years of regular full time continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twelve (12) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time-to-time Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual,

Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

Protective employees: Employees, hired between January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2013, subject to this agreement who are participating in the City's medical benefit plan and who retire at any time after age fifty-three (53) may continue their medical benefit plan coverage at group rates until they become eligible for Medicare. Additionally, the employee must have twenty (20) years of continuous service with the City to be eligible for this benefit.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time. The term "retirement" shall mean that the employee is eligible for and is actually receiving a normal unreduced service retirement annuity. Employment for purposes of this paragraph shall include approved leaves of absences and lay-off if recalled within twenty-four (24) months.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees. Such coverage is to be the same as is applicable to active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

4. All Employees, Including City Executives, hired as a Regular Full Time Employee After January 1, 2014: Only COBRA provisions apply if covered under the medical benefit plan at time of retirement.

**K. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan -Disability Pension (Workers Compensation) For Employees hired as Regular Full time prior to January 1, 2014)**

Without regard to paragraph J and N, full-time employees who receive a disability pension (as a result of an approved worker's compensation injury) shall receive the same benefits including contributions on the same basis as in effect for active employees. This benefit ends when the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare.

Covered retirees shall pay the same monthly rate contributions as is in effect for active employees as modified from time to time.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse, and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**L. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Disability Pension (For employees hired as Regular Full Time prior to January 1, 2014) (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.)**

Full time eligible employees who are participants in the City's Medical Benefit Plan who retire and receive a non-duty disability pension (applies to employees who began WRS covered employment prior to October 16, 1992), shall receive the same benefits including contributions on the same basis as in effect for active employees as described in paragraph J above provided that they have a minimum of ten (10) years of continuous service as a regular full time employee of the City of La Crosse. This benefit ends when the retiree becomes eligible for Medicare.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**M. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Long Term Disability Insurance (LTDI) (For Employees hired as Regular Full time prior to January 1, 2014)**

*(Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full time position. "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013 is based on their adjusted hire date.)*

Effective January 1, 2006, full time eligible employees who are participants in the City's medical benefit plan and who qualify and receive Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Long Term Disability Insurance shall receive the same benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as is in effect for active employees as described in paragraph F above provided they have a minimum of ten (10) years of service as a regular full time employee for the City of La Crosse.

This benefit ends when the WRS terminates the employees LTDI benefit or the employee reaches age 65, whichever occurs first.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Retirees, spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**N. Retiree Medical Benefit Plan - Younger Spouse (For employees hired as Regular Full Time prior to January 1, 2014)**

When a retiree reaches Medicare age, and his/her spouse is younger, the spouse may elect to continue his/her coverage in the City's medical benefit plan until the spouse reaches Medicare age, provided that the spouse pays the total monthly pseudo premium rate.

Same Plan - Same Benefits: It is understood by the parties that retirees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree medical benefit plan coverage shall remain under the City's medical benefit plan as is in existence for active employees as modified from time to time.

The younger spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in Network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. The younger spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**O. Coverage for Spouse & Dependents of Eligible Employees/Retirees that Die**

1. For employees hired prior to January 1, 2012:

The spouse and/or eligible dependents of an insured employee/retiree who dies before the employee/retiree becomes eligible for Medicare, shall be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan if the deceased employee had met their years of service requirement for retiree medical benefit plan coverage (paragraph J).

Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employees as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee/retiree shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time until the spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries.

If the years of service requirement for retiree medical benefit plan coverage (paragraph J) had not been met by the deceased employee, the spouse and/or eligible dependents of the insured employee who dies would be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan for six (6) months. Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employee as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for

active employees as modified from time to time, until six months have expired, or the spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries, whichever occurs first.

Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in-network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

2. Employees hired after January 1, 2012: The spouse and/or eligible dependents of an insured employee/retiree who dies before the employee/retiree becomes eligible for Medicare, shall be eligible to continue to participate in the City's medical benefit plan for six (6) full months following employee's date of death. Such coverage is to be the same as applicable to active employees as modified from time to time. The spouse and/or eligible dependents of such employee shall pay the same monthly contributions as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time, until the six (6) months have expired, spouse becomes eligible for Medicare or remarries, whichever occurs first.

Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is outside the State of Wisconsin will be considered as in-network participants, however subject to Usual, Customary and Reasonable (UCR) fee limits. Surviving spouse and dependents of retirees whose permanent residence is in the State of Wisconsin must see in-network providers to be considered in-network participants.

**P. Medical Benefit Plan Coverage While on Income Continuation Insurance**

Full time employees who are participants in the City's medical benefit plan and are receiving the Income Continuation Insurance (ICI) benefit shall receive the same medical benefit plan benefits including contribution rates on the same basis as in effect for active employees provided that they have a minimum of ten (10) years of continuous service as a regular full-time employee for the City of La Crosse. This benefit ends when the employee becomes eligible for a Wisconsin Retirement System benefit of any kind (i.e., Normal Retirement pension, Disability Retirement (worker's compensation), Disability Retirement, or Long Term Disability Insurance) or Medicare or Medicaid or for a period of one (1) year while on ICI whichever occurs first.

Covered employees shall pay the same monthly contribution rates as are in effect for active employees as modified from time to time.

**Q. Health and Wellness Funds**

The City provides a sum of money for health and wellness initiatives for employees covered under the Handbook. The sum of money provided for these initiatives shall be based upon the number of regular full-time employees covered under the Handbook, and employed as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each respective year, at a rate of \$50 per employee. Fund expenses shall be managed by the Employee Wellness Coordinator to fund health and wellness initiatives. Health and wellness initiatives will be determined by gathering employee input including, but not limited to, meetings, interest and culture surveys and soliciting other employee suggestions.

**Pension**

General employees and Elected Officials shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contributions for their respective category to the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees (Police and Fire) hired after July 1, 2011, shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contributions for General employees to the WRS. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees – Police: Employee shall contribute one-half of the total actuarially required contribution for general municipal employees to the WRS. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

Protective Employees – Fire: Unless voluntarily waived, protective employees (hired prior to July 1, 2011) including Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Battalion Chiefs shall be aligned to the WRS employee contribution level paid by represented Fire employees covered under Fire, Local #127 collective bargaining agreement. The City will pay the remainder of the contribution required by the WRS.

## **Sick Leave**

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

General (excluding Airport Operations Coordinators), Police Protective and Protective Department Heads (Fire Chief and Chief of Police): Employees shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of one (1) day per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment. One day means 7.5 hours/8 hours; or pro-rated for regular part-time employees. A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period. The sick leave credits shall be allowed to accumulate to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days.

Fire Battalion Chiefs and Assistant Fire Chief: Day shift employees shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of 12.86 hours per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment, to a maximum accumulation of 1371.43 hours (171.42 days). Battalion Chief employees shall accumulate at a rate of .75 shift days for each month of employment to a maximum accumulation of 1920 hours (80 shift days). A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee actually receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period.

Airport Operations Coordinators shall accumulate sick leave at a rate of 10.1 hours per month for each month of employment commencing with the first month of employment, to a maximum of 48 shift days (1176 hours). A month of employment shall mean a month in which the employee actually receives pay from the City within a minimum of a twenty (20) consecutive calendar day period.

For New Hires: Newly hired employees must have worked prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> of their first month of hire to accrue the initial day of sick leave.

At retirement or termination, the employee will accrue a day of sick leave for their last month only if the last day worked is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month or later.

### **B. Sick Leave Usage**

Accumulated sick leave may be used for any bonafide illness, injury, or medical/dental appointments of the employee except when sickness or injury is work connected and deemed to be within the meaning of the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Act. Injuries or illnesses incurred by employees engaged in any outside employment or business are not compensable under sick leave provisions.

All sicknesses or injuries of more than three (3) days duration (or 2 shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators or Battalion Chiefs) must be verified with acceptable medical substantiation by a physician. Such medical substantiation must state the kind or nature of the illness or injury and indicate that the employee has been incapacitated for work for said period of absence.

When sick leave abuse is suspected the City reserves the right to require acceptable medical substantiation, including a general diagnosis, for any and all absences including those of two (2) or less workdays. The City reserves the right of reasonable independent medical examination at the employer's expense. Such medical examination shall be at the request of the department head, the governing board or appointing authority.

Sick leave shall be based on the rate of employee's regular classification.

Any and all medical substantiation, including physician certificate, required under this Article may bypass the employee's immediate supervisor and be directed to the City's Human Resources Department, if the employee so desires.

An employee severing his/her employment with the City may not use accumulated sick leave to extend his/her separation date beyond the last day worked. The ban on the use of accumulated sick leave prior to separation does not apply when the employee has provided medical substantiation of the employee's inability to work.

### **C. Personal Business Days**

Employees may request to use up to four (4) days (30/32 hours or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business subject to approval of their supervisor, however employees shall request same of their supervisor at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time off requested. Exceptions to the hours are:



Battalion Chiefs may use up to 32 hours of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business, subject to approval of their supervisor, and requested at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to time off requested.

Airport Operations Coordinators may use up to 24.5 hours of accumulated sick leave credits for personal business, subject to approval of their supervisor, and requested at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to time off requested. An additional 8 hours of accumulated sick leave may be requested when coverage is available and whereas no overtime occurs.

Use of sick leave for personal business shall be deducted from sick leave accumulation. Employees who have not accumulated sick leave shall not be entitled to such time off. Requests for personal business are subject to management approval, based on the needs of the department. Personal business days shall be based on the rate of employee's regular classification. *Personal business is not available during the employee's initial six (6) months of employment.*

**D. Family Care Days**

Employee's working day shifts may use up to three (3) days (22.5/24 hours or pro-rated for regular part-time employees) of accumulated sick leave credits to care for their priority family members identified below due to minor illness, injury, or medical/dental appointments or in the event of an unexpected closure of school (i.e., snow day, etc.) or daycare facility.

Battalion Chief employees and Airport Operations Coordinators may use accumulated sick leave credits (up to 24 hours for Battalion Chiefs, and 24.5 hours for Airport Operations Coordinator) to care for their priority family members due to minor illness or injury or medical/dental appointments or in the event of an unexpected closure of school (i.e., snow day, etc.) or daycare facility.

Use of sick leave for family care days shall be deducted from sick leave accumulation. Employees who have not accumulated sick leave will not be entitled to such time off.

Priority family shall be defined as the employee's parent, legal spouse, or child (biological, adopted, foster, or stepchild). Parents in the preceding sentence shall be interpreted as parents/stepparents of the employee and/or their legal spouse.

**E. Catastrophic Leave**

Upon accruing the maximum sick leave accrual, an employee shall continue to accrue sick leave for a "catastrophic leave bank" to be used for the FMLA qualifying serious health condition of the employee, employee's spouse or dependent for which a physician has certified that the duration of the medical condition is expected to be more than 30 continuous calendar days. Catastrophic leave is only available after all accrued sick leave and vacation days have been exhausted, and employee must have met the "adequate" attendance standards in the previous 12 months. A request for use of catastrophic leave must be approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

Sick leave for the employee's catastrophic leave bank shall be accrued at the same rate as defined above and shall only accrue when the employee's sick leave accrual is at maximum accrual. The catastrophic leave bank will be capped at 60 days for day shift employees, 24 days for Airport Operations Coordinators and 30 days for Battalion Chiefs. Catastrophic leave is not eligible for payout at retirement.

**F. Sick Leave Pay-Off at Retirement or Death**

For purposes of this section, "retirement" shall mean that either 1) the employee applies for an immediate Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefit at any time after age 55 (general WRS employees) /50\* (WRS protective) or takes an early WRS retirement in conjunction with a special early retirement program; or 2) the employee is at least the minimum age for which he/she would be eligible for Social Security (non-disability) benefits, however, the employee would not be required to apply for such benefits.. (Note: \*Retiring prior to age 53 disqualifies the employee for retiree Medical Benefit Plan. Refer to Section on Medical Benefit Plan)

1. For employees hired as Regular Full Time or Part Time prior to January 1, 2014: (Note: "Hire date" for part-time employees who became full time on or before December 31, 2013, is based on their adjusted hire date.) Upon retirement or death, the City will make a lump sum payment to the retiree for the amount of accrued, unused sick leave on record at the time of retirement or death. Such payment shall be according to Wisconsin Statutes Section 40.02 (22)(b)(6) concerning single cash sum payments.

General employees	45%
Fire Chief/Chief of Police	45%
Assistant Chief of Police/Police Captain	54%
Assistant Fire Chief / Battalion Chief	37.5%

2. Employees hired as Regular Full Time or Part Time after January 1, 2014: (Note: “Hire date” for part-time employees who became full time after January 1, 2014, is the date in which they were transferred or promoted to the full-time position.)

Upon retirement or death, the City will make a lump sum payment to the retiree equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of accrued, but unused sick leave earned at the time of retirement or death. Eligibility for 100% sick leave payout requires 20 years of full-time continuous service with the City **and** meets the definition of “retirement” defined above.

An employee who retires (retirement as defined above) prior to meeting the 20 years of regular full-time continuous service with the City would receive a lump sum payment equivalent to that stated for incumbents in paragraph F-1.

### **Tuition Reimbursement**

Employees shall be eligible for tuition reimbursement for college level courses related to their occupation as approved by their Department Head and the Director of Human Resources or their designee. The maximum citywide pool of money for this purpose is \$15,000 each year, with an individual maximum in accordance with the Tuition Reimbursement Policy. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

## Vacation

Employees shall accumulate vacation on the basis of full months of continuous service as a regular part-time or regular full-time employee. When an employee qualifies for an additional vacation period within the calendar year, the vacation may be taken within the calendar year. However, if the employee terminates their employment prior to reaching their anniversary date, the unearned portion will be deducted from their final pay. Vacation shall be paid at the employee's regular classification rate. *All employees are responsible to use their accrued vacation in the year in which it is earned.*

When an employee terminates employment with the City, such employee will receive a lump sum payment for unused, earned vacation, and prorated vacation on the basis of the employee's earned vacation for each month of employment, calculated from the anniversary date to termination date. Termination for vacation purposes includes all forms of employment separation from the City. An employee severing their employment with the City may not use accumulated vacation to extend their separation date beyond the last day worked.

Vacation requests must be pre-approved by management.

### A. **Vacation Accrual:**

1. Initial calendar year of regular full time or regular part-time employment: An employee will be credited with vacation on the first full pay period following their date of hire. The vacation of 1 week for non-exempt and 2 weeks for exempt is pro-rated by the number of remaining full pay periods in the initial calendar year (from first full pay period through the last full pay period). (Note: The vacation is prorated for regular part-time employees based on the regular part-time hours for which the employee was hired.) The crediting of vacation is determinant upon the employee being employed through December 31 of their initial calendar year, as a regular full time or regular part-time employee. Should an employee leave employment or change status wherein they are no longer a regular full time or regular part-time employee, prior to December 31, all credited vacation taken will be deducted from their last paycheck as it had not yet been earned.

#### a. Non-Exempt Initial Year of Vacation

FT Employee (1.0 FTE)

40 hours/week employee

37.5 hours/week employee

Earns 1.538 hours per pay period

Earns 1.44 hours per pay period

Pay periods

Vacation Credited (40 hours per week/37.5-hour per week)

- Rounded to the tenth
- Must be employed through December 31

# of Pay Periods	40 hours per week	37.5 hour per week
26 full pay periods	40 hours	37.5 hours
25 full pay periods	38.5 hours	36 hours
24 full pay periods	36.9 hours	34.6 hours
23 full pay periods	35.4 hours	33.1 hours
22 full pay periods	33.8 hours	31.7 hours
21 full pay periods	32.3 hours	30.2 hours
20 full pay periods	30.8 hours	28.8 hours
19 full pay periods	29.2 hours	27.4 hours
18 full pay periods	27.7 hours	25.9 hours
17 full pay periods	26.1 hours	24.5 hours
16 full pay periods	24.6 hours	23 hours
15 full pay periods	23.1 hours	21.6 hours
14 full pay periods	21.5 hours	20.2 hours
13 full pay periods	20 hours	18.7 hours
12 full pay periods	18.5 hours	17.3 hours
11 full pay periods	16.9 hours	15.8 hours
10 full pay periods	15.4 hours	14.4 hours

09 full pay periods	13.8 hours	13 hours
08 full pay periods	12.3 hours	11.5 hours
07 full pay periods	10.8 hours	10.1 hours
06 full pay periods	9.2 hours	8.6 hours
05 full pay periods	7.7 hours	7.2 hours
04 full pay periods	6.2 hours	5.8 hours
03 full pay periods	4.6 hours	4.3 hours
02 full pay periods	3.1 hours	2.9 hours
01 full pay periods	1.5 hours	1.4 hours

Part-time employee would be pro-rated based on FTE status. If a regular part-time employee is hired for 29 hours per week, for a position which would normally be 37.5 hours, the FTE status for pro-rata vacation is .77 FTE.

If regular part-time employee is hired for 23 hours per week for position which would normally be 37.5 hour, the FTE status for pro-rata vacation is .61 FTE.

b. Exempt Initial Year of Vacation

FT Employee (1.0 FTE)

40 hours/week employee

Earns 3.076 hours per pay period

Regular part-time employee would be pro-rated

Pay periods

Vacation Credited (40 hours per week)

- Rounded to the tenth
- Must be employed through December 31

<b># of Pay Periods</b>	<b>40 hours per week</b>
26 full pay periods	80 hours
25 full pay periods	76.9 hours
24 full pay periods	73.8 hours
23 full pay periods	70.7 hours
22 full pay periods	67.7 hours
21 full pay periods	64.6 hours
20 full pay periods	61.5 hours
19 full pay periods	58.4 hours
18 full pay periods	55.4 hours
17 full pay periods	52.3 hours
16 full pay periods	49.2 hours
15 full pay periods	46.1 hours
14 full pay periods	43.1 hours
13 full pay periods	40 hours
12 full pay periods	36.9 hours
11 full pay periods	33.8 hours
10 full pay periods	30.8 hours
09 full pay periods	27.7 hours
08 full pay periods	24.6 hours
07 full pay periods	21.5 hours
06 full pay periods	18.5 hours
05 full pay periods	15.4 hours
04 full pay periods	12.3 hours
03 full pay periods	9.2 hours
02 full pay periods	6.2 hours
01 full pay periods	3.1 hours

2. Subsequent calendar years: Vacation is always credited to employees in the pay period which includes January 1 of each calendar year and the amount provided is based on the length of employment the employee will attain during that calendar year. Vacation is earned based on anniversary date. In order to earn all of the vacation credited to them for the current year an employee must work up to his/her anniversary date.

If an employee were to leave employment prior to their anniversary date and had used more vacation than what was earned as of their last day of employment, they would owe the City for the time used they had not yet earned. If the employee would leave employment after their anniversary date they are entitled to receive all of their vacation entitlement, PLUS additional prorated vacation calculated from employment anniversary date as a regular full time or regular part-time employee to termination date.

a. Non-Exempt Employees:

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	One (1) week
After two (2) years of continuous service	Two (2) weeks
After six (6) years of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After ten (10) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) days
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	Twenty-two (22) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Twenty-six (26) days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty-eight (28) years of continuous service	Twenty-eight (28) days
After twenty-nine (29) years of continuous service	Twenty-nine (29) days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

b. Exempt (Non-City Executive) Employees

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	Two (2) weeks
After five (5) years of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After ten (10) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) days
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	Twenty-two (22) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Twenty-six (26) days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty-eight (28) years of continuous service	Twenty-eight (28) days
After twenty-nine (29) years of continuous service	Twenty-nine (29) days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

c. City Executives – as defined under Types of Employees

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After six (6) months of continuous service	Three (3) weeks
After two (2) years of continuous service	Four (4) weeks
After eight (8) years of continuous service	Five (5) weeks
After fifteen (15) years of continuous service	Twenty-seven (27) days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Six (6) weeks

d. Battalion Chiefs

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	Three (3) shift days
After three (3) years of continuous service	Six (6) shift days
After seven (7) years of continuous service	Nine (9) shift days
After fourteen (14) years of continuous service	Twelve (12) shift days
After twenty (20) years of continuous service	Fifteen (15) shift days
After twenty-six (26) years of continuous service	Sixteen (16) shift days
After twenty-seven (27) years of continuous service	Seventeen (17) shift days
After thirty (30) years of continuous service	Eighteen (18) shift days

e. Airport Operations Coordinator

<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>Vacation Benefit</b>
After one (1) year of continuous service	<u>2.3 shift days (56.4 hours)</u>
After two (2) years of continuous service	4.6 shift days (112.7 hours)
After six (6) years of continuous service	6.9 shift days (169 hours)
After ten (10) years of continuous service	8.2 shift days (200.9 hours)
After thirteen (13) years of continuous service	9.2 shift days (225.4 hours)
After sixteen (16) years of continuous service	10.18 shift days (249.4 hours)
After 20 years of continuous service	11.5 shift days (281.8 hours)
After 26 years of continuous service	11.96 shift days (293 hours)
After 27 years of continuous service	12.42 shift days (304.3 hours)
After 28 years of continuous service	12.88 shift days (315.6 hours)
After 29 years of continuous service	13.34 shift days (326.8 hours)
After 30 years of continuous service	13.8 shift days (338.1 hours)

**A. Vacation Carryover**

All employees are responsible to use their accrued vacation. An employee may carryover accrued, unused vacation, not to exceed two (2) weeks (75/80 hours, pro-rated for regular part-time employees; 4.6 shift days for Airport Operations Coordinators and 4 shift days for Battalion Chiefs) into the subsequent calendar year. The carryover will occur automatically after the last pay period of the year. Any vacation carried over into the subsequent year **must** be used by the last full pay period of that year, or it shall be forfeited.

In addition, any vacation remaining at year end which exceeds two (2) weeks (or as defined above) shall result in vacation forfeiture.

**B. Change in Status: Part-time to Full Time**

Employees hired as regular part-time, who have a change in employment status to regular full time, shall have their vacation adjusted for the initial year (only) of accrual due to status change.

Vacation Adjustment:

Employees who change employment status (PT to FT) shall have their vacation adjusted during the initial year for which the vacation is being earned. A status change which occurs *prior* to an employee meeting their “anniversary hire date” shall have their vacation pro-rated that year. Employees who change employment status (PT to FT) *after* meeting their “anniversary hire date.”

shall have their vacation pro-rated for the following years accrual. “Anniversary hire date” is defined as the continuous date of employment as a regular full time/regular part-time employee with the City. Thereafter, vacation accrual shall be based on the employee’s “anniversary hire date”.

Beginning January 1, 2017, current full-time employees who had changed from regular part-time to regular full time status prior to 2016 shall receive vacation accruals for 2017 and forward based on their “anniversary hire date”.

## **SECTION 7: Employment Recruitment and Separation**

### **Background and Reference Checks**

To ensure that individuals who join the city of La Crosse are well qualified and to ensure that the City maintains a safe and productive work environment, it is our policy to conduct background checks and reference checks on candidates who are offered employment. Background and reference checks may include verification of any information on the applicant's resume or application form.

The City also reserves the right to conduct a background check for current employees to determine eligibility for promotion or transfer within the City.

Prior to employment additional checks may be required, such as pre-employment drug testing, driving records, DOT Release of Information – 49 CFR Part 40, etc.

### **Exit Interviews**

An exit interview will be conducted through the Human Resources Department for all voluntary resignations of employment for regular full time and regular part-time employees. The interview is intended to be beneficial for both the City and the departing employee. Employees will have the opportunity to discuss their employment experience. Additionally, it is the intention of the City to obtain information that will help in our recruitment and retention efforts.

### **Job Vacancies - Recruitment**

The City seeks to hire the best qualified candidate regarding employment and equal opportunity. Approved vacancies for non-exempt regular full-time positions shall be posted in Human Resources and the field departments (Water, WWTP, La Crosse Center and Streets/Parks), on the City's intranet (for employment opportunities exclusive to employees covered under the Employee Handbook), and on the City's webpage (for all employment opportunities available to both the general public and internal employees). Employees may apply via the application process. All applicants must apply within the stated deadlines and are subject to job qualifications as defined in the job description. For positions requiring a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) preference will be given to applicants who possess a minimum of a Class B CDL. Additionally, consideration for hire will include ability to perform the work, relative skills and abilities, proven performance, disciplinary record, and experience. Qualified applicants who apply within the defined application deadline may be eligible to participate in an interview process coordinated through Human Resources. Interviews which occur during an employee's off-duty hours will not be considered paid time. In some cases, as determined by Human Resources, the City may conduct an internal recruitment only.

Human Resources reserves the right to waive the recruitment process when placing qualified regular full time and regular part-time employees in vacant positions due to extenuating circumstances. (ADA, Workers Compensation, etc.)

Testing requirements may apply to certain positions. Depending on the position, testing may include, but is not limited to, computer skills test, typing accuracy/speed test, written exam, ten key test, physical capacity exam, DOT drug test, etc.

### **Residency Requirements**

The City of La Crosse follows State law regarding residency requirements, WI Act 20, Section 1270, 66.0502(4)(b) states "a local governmental unit may impose a residency requirement on law enforcement, fire, or emergency personnel that requires such personnel to reside within 15 miles of the jurisdictional boundaries of the city, village or town to which the personnel are assigned."

### **Separation of Employment**

Employees are requested to provide adequate advance notice of their intent to separate employment with the City. Non-exempt employees are requested to provide a two (2) week notice, exempt employees are requested to provide a four (4) week notice, and Department Heads are required by provide advance notice of retirement as per resolution. All property of the City, including the identification badge, must be returned to the City in appropriate condition prior to the employee's last day of work.

Any forced separation of an at-will employee requires review and approval by Human Resources.

## **SECTION 8: Employee Conduct**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Punctual and regular attendance is an essential responsibility of each employee. Employees are expected to report to work as scheduled, on time and prepared to start work. Absenteeism can cause scheduling problems for the department and can adversely affect our ability to serve the public. Attendance and punctuality are considered during the performance evaluation process.

Exempt employees are responsible for accomplishing the duties assigned to them and may be required to attend regular and special meetings and events outside their normal work hours. Exempt employees are eligible for the Flex Time policy. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **City Vehicles**

Employees may be granted approval by their Department Head to take home City vehicles. Approved use includes official city business or if serving in an official "on-call" status to respond to emergencies on a rotating or consistent basis. Any employee who uses a City vehicle must comply with IRS regulations and reporting requirements for personal mileage. Department heads will be held responsible for their employees. Per Wisconsin law, smoking in public vehicles is prohibited.

### **Confidentiality**

Due to an employee's responsibilities within the City, an employee may have access to confidential, personnel or other sensitive information. This confidential information cannot be disclosed to any City personnel who do not have a legitimate business need to know such information or to persons outside of the City without the express authorization of the Department Head who is the Custodian of the Records.

### **Grievance Procedure**

The City has a Grievance Procedure approved by Common Council. The Grievance Procedure is established for the employee to use for matters concerning discipline, termination, or workplace safety, as defined by the Grievance Procedure. Discipline specifically includes an employment action that results in disciplinary suspension, with or without pay, disciplinary termination or disciplinary demotion. It does not include counseling, oral reprimands/warnings, written reprimands/warnings, performance improvement plans, performance evaluations or reviews, documentation of employee acts or omissions, administrative leave, non-disciplinary wage, benefit or salary adjustments, changes in assignment, action taken pursuant to an ordinance created under s. 19.59 (1m), or other non-material employment actions. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **Identification Badges**

An identification badge program exists to provide enhanced security and to aid in the public's recognition of those employees that serve the public in various functions. All management and office personnel, as well as employees that conduct City business on outside private property are required to wear their ID badges during the workday. Outside labor positions are required to have the ID cards on their person during the workday. See Employee Handbook - Policies.

### **Performance Evaluations**

The purpose of performance evaluations is to provide employees with feedback regarding their performance, to assist supervisory personnel in apprising employees of their progress and/or areas that need to be improved, and to set goals. In addition, performance evaluations are used to determine eligibility for possible step increase, subject to funding in the budget process. Performance evaluations reflect the employee's performance in the preceding 12 months. Performance evaluations shall be conducted mid-year, on an annual basis. Performance factors include employee's attendance (per Attendance policy) and punctuality, communication/customer service skills, productivity, initiative and leadership, work attitude and public image, judgment and decision making. In addition, exempt supervisors are evaluated on supervisory skills. Performance factors for Department Heads are set by Executive Committee.



## **Random Drug and Alcohol Testing (Non-DOT) – Airport and Police Department**

Sworn Police Management shall be subject to random drug and alcohol testing, as part of the Department testing of sworn officers. Testing shall be limited to one (1) sworn officer per month and shall be conducted by a laboratory and by a physician or health care professional qualified and authorized to administer and determine the meaning of any test results. Selection for the random draw will be made by the laboratory. See Police Department General Orders.

Community Service Officers assigned to work in the Police Evidence room and La Crosse Airport maintenance and operations staff are subject to random drug and alcohol testing at any time. Selection for the random draw will be made by Human Resources. Due to the integrity of the position in the Police Evidence Room and the significant public safety concern for Airport staff, a positive drug or alcohol test will result in immediate termination.

The laboratory shall test for the substances and within the current limits for the initial and confirmation test as provided within the NADA standards, which may change from time to time. Alcohol testing shall be conducted by the laboratory using a breathalyzer or similar test equipment.

The employer shall be responsible for costs involved for random drug and alcohol testing. The employer shall select the laboratory for the random drug and alcohol testing provisions.

### **Remedial Action and Discipline:**

Employees who have unsatisfactory work performance or who violate City rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, including, without limitation, those listed in this Handbook, are subject to remedial action or discipline. Remedial action includes supervisory counseling, evaluative notice and oral or written reprimands. Remedial action and administrative leave are not considered as discipline.

Discipline is disciplinary action and only includes the following actions: suspension without pay, disciplinary demotion, or disciplinary discharge. At the sole discretion of the City, various types of employee remedial action and discipline may be imposed. No specific remedial action or discipline is required to be used before discharge from employment occurs, nor are the listed actions required to be used in any specific or progressive order. All documented remedial action and discipline will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Placement on administrative leave pending discipline or remedial action requires involvement of Human Resources. Discipline must be approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee. Discipline is subject to the City's grievance procedure. Remedial action and administrative leave are not subject to the grievance procedure.

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# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1391

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

**Agenda Number:**

Resolution approving a Fourth Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement between TDM, Inc., D/B/A Colgan Air Services and the City of La Crosse.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Aviation Board of the City of La Crosse was authorized to enter into the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement with TDM, Inc., D/B/A Colgan Air Services by Common Council of La Crosse Resolution 14-1350; and

WHEREAS, Aviation Board item 15-0864 approved the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement; and

WHEREAS, said Agreement was previously amended by City of La Crosse Common Council Resolutions 17-1387 and 20-0663; and

WHEREAS, the Third Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement, approved by Common Council of La Crosse Resolution 21-1339, previously amended Article 7. IMPROVEMENTS, Section 7.2 *Relocation of the Fuel Farm*; and

WHEREAS, TDM, Inc., requests further relief from the requirements of the agreement due to additional reduction in business.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby approves the Fourth Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign said amendment on behalf of the City of La Crosse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport is directed to take all necessary steps to implement this resolution.



**FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE AIRPORT FIXED BASE OPERATOR'S LEASE AND OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TDM, INC., D/B/A COLGAN AIR SERVICES AND THE CITY OF LA CROSSE**

This Fourth Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement (the "Agreement") between TDM, Inc., DBA Colgan Air Services (hereinafter called "Lessee"), and the City of La Crosse (hereinafter the "City") for fixed base operation services at the La Crosse Regional Airport (hereinafter the "Airport") beginning January 1, 2016, is entered into this 1st day of January, 2024.

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, the Aviation Board of the City of La Crosse was authorized to enter into the Agreement with the Lessee by Common Council of La Crosse Resolution 14-1350, and;

**WHEREAS**, Aviation Board item 15-0864 approved the Agreement, and;

**WHEREAS**, said Agreement was previously amended by Common Council of La Crosse Resolutions 17-1387 and 20-0663, and;

**WHEREAS**, Resolution 21-1339 previously amended ARTICLE 7. IMPROVEMENTS, Section 7.2 Relocation of the Fuel Farm, and;

**WHEREAS**, Lessee has requested further relief from the requirements of the Agreement due to additional reduction in business, and;

**WHEREAS**, Article 41, AMENDMENT, of the Agreement requires all amendments to be in writing and executed by both parties.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the covenants set forth herein and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged and received, the parties do hereby agree to the following amendments to the Agreement:

1. ARTICLE 7. IMPROVEMENTS, Section 7.2 Relocation of the Fuel Farm is hereby amended to read –  
The LESSEE agrees to relocate its fuel farm, at LESSEE'S sole expense, to the new joint use fuel farm no later than June 30, 2027.

**BE IT FURTHER UNDERSTOOD**, that all other terms of the Agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereby set their hands and seals on the day and year first written above.

TDM, Inc.:  
DocuSigned by: 11/22/2023  
Signature: *Kelly Colgan-Hammen*  
16DA10F59C2D4E0...

Name: Kelly Colgan-Hammen

Title: President/Corporate Officer

City of La Crosse:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Mitch Reynolds

Title: Mayor

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Nikki M. Elsen

Title: City Clerk



# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation

December 19, 2023

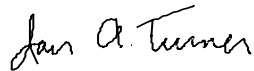
Honorable Mayor Mitch Reynolds  
Common Council Members

Ladies and Gentleman:

The Aviation Board, at its last regular meeting, approved by unanimous vote item 23-1391 – *Resolution approving the Fourth Amendment to the Airport Fixed Base Operator's Lease and Operating Agreement between TDM, Inc., D/B/A Colgan Air Services and the City of La Crosse.*

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Common Council approve the same.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ian Turner  
Airport Director



**Aviation Board**

OFFICERS • Chairman: Tamra Dickinson, Vice Chairman: Neil Duresky  
MEMBERS • Drake Hokanson, William Blank, Ryan Seib, Jeannie Groskreutz, Rick Cornforth  
EX OFFICIO • Tonya Townsell, David Winiacki



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1414

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign State/Municipal Agreement for the Citywide Traffic Implementation utilizing the Signal and ITS Standalone Program (Project I.D.s #3700-10-60).

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse received SISP Funds to improve traffic signals on connecting highways by replacing pedestrian signal heads. Pedestrian signal heads at 34 intersections in the City of La Crosse will be upgraded to have countdown timers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the State/Municipal Agreement for the Citywide Traffic Implementation utilizing the Signal and ITS Standalone Program (Project I.D.s #3700-10-60).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State/Municipal Agreement be referred to the 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program, #268, for funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Engineering & Public Works and Finance Director hereby authorized to perform all duties to effectuate this resolution.



**STATE/MUNICIPAL FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FOR A SIGNAL AND ITS STANDALONE PROGRAM PROJECT**

**Program Name: SISP  
Sub-program #: 305**

Date: 11/20/2023

I.D.: 3700-10-60

Road Name: Various STH

Limits: City of La Crosse

County: La Crosse County

Roadway Length:

The **City of La Crosse**, hereinafter called the Municipality, through its undersigned duly authorized officers or officials, hereby requests the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, hereinafter called the State, to initiate and effect the highway or street improvement hereinafter described.

The authority for the Municipality to enter into this agreement with the State is provided by Section 86.25(1), (2), and (3) of the Statutes.

**NEEDS AND ESTIMATE SUMMARY:**

**Existing Facility - Describe and give reason for request:** Pedestrian signal heads are out-of-date with no countdown timers.

**Proposed Improvement - Nature of work:** Pedestrian signal heads will be replaced with countdown pedestrian signal heads.

**Describe non-participating work included in the project and other work necessary to finish the project completely which will be undertaken independently by the municipality:** Any work not related to replacing pedestrian signal heads will be funded by the City of La Crosse.

The Municipality agrees to the following FY 2024 Signal and ITS Standalone Program (SISP) funding conditions:

Project construction costs are funded with 90% State funding up to a maximum of \$380,700 for all State-funded project phases when the Municipality agrees to provide the remaining 10% and all funds in excess of the \$380,700 State funding maximum, in accordance with SISP guidelines. Any work performed by the Municipality prior to State authorization is not eligible for State funding. The Municipality will be notified by the State the project is authorized and available for charging.

The project is currently scheduled for State FY 2024. In accordance with the State’s sunset policy, the subject FY 2024 SISP improvement must be constructed and in final acceptance within six years from the start of State FY 2024, or by June 30, 2029.

The dollar amounts shown in Summary of Costs table below are State maximum amounts unless explicitly identified otherwise. The final Municipal share is dependent on the final State participation, and actual costs will be used in the final division of cost for billing and reimbursement.

SUMMARY OF COSTS					
PHASE	Total Est. Cost	State Funds	%	Municipal Funds	%
<b>ID 3700-10-60</b>		(MAX \$380,700)			
Participating Construction	\$423,000	\$380,700	90%	\$42,300	10% + BAL
<b>Total Est. Cost Distribution</b>	<b>\$423,000</b>	<b>\$380,700</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$42,300</b>	<b>N/A</b>

\*The percentage of project costs covered by state funding at approval, 90%, is based on TIP Committee Action. Due to the state funding cap, which is \$380,700 for all state-funded project phases, this percentage may change over the life of the project.

This request is subject to the terms and conditions that follow (pages 3 – 4) and is made by the undersigned under proper authority to make such request for the designated Municipality and upon signature by the State and delivery to the Municipality shall constitute agreement between the Municipality and the State. No term or provision of neither the State/Municipal Agreement nor any of its attachments may be changed, waived or terminated orally but only by an instrument in writing executed by both parties to the State/Municipal Agreement.

Signed for and in behalf of the <b>City of La Crosse</b> (please sign in blue ink)		
Name	Title	Date
Signed for and in behalf of the <b>State</b> (please sign in blue ink)		
Name	Title	Date



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The initiation and accomplishment of the improvement will be subject to the applicable Federal and State regulations.
2. The Municipality shall pay to the State all costs incurred by the State in connection with the improvement that exceed Federal/State financing commitments or are ineligible for Federal/State financing. Local participation shall be limited to the items and percentages set forth in the Summary of Costs table, which shows Municipal funding participation. In order to guarantee the Municipality's foregoing agreements to pay the State, the Municipality, through its above duly authorized officers or officials, agrees and authorizes the State to set off and withhold the required reimbursement amount as determined by the State from any moneys otherwise due and payable by the State to the Municipality.
3. Funding of each project Phase is subject to inclusion in an approved program and per the State's Facility Development Manual (FDM) standards. Federal aid and/or state transportation fund financing will be limited to participation in the costs of the following items as specified in the Summary of Costs:
  - (a) Design engineering and state review services.
  - (b) Real Estate necessitated for the improvement.
  - (c) Compensable utility adjustment and railroad force work necessitated for the project.
  - (d) The grading, base, pavement, curb and gutter, and bridge costs to State standards, excluding the cost of parking areas.
  - (e) Storm sewer mains, culverts, laterals, manholes, inlets, catch basins, and connections for surface water drainage of the improvement; including replacement and/or adjustments of existing storm sewer manhole covers and inlet grates as needed.
  - (f) Construction engineering incidental to inspection and supervision of actual construction work, except for inspection, staking, and testing of sanitary sewer and water main.
  - (g) Signing and pavement marking necessitated for the safe and efficient flow of traffic, including detour routes.
  - (h) Replacement of existing sidewalks necessitated by construction and construction of new sidewalk at the time of construction. Sidewalk is considered to be new if it's constructed in a location where it has not existed before.
  - (i) Replacement of existing driveways, in kind, necessitated by the project.
  - (j) New installations or alteration resulting from roadway construction of standard State street lighting and traffic signals or devices. Alteration may include salvaging and replacement of existing components.
4. Work necessary to complete the improvement to be financed entirely by the Municipality or other utility or Facility Owner includes the following items:
  - (a) New installations of or alteration of sanitary sewers and connections, water, gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, fire or police alarm facilities, parking meters, and similar utilities.
  - (b) New installation or alteration of signs not necessary for the safe and efficient flow of traffic.
  - (c) Roadway and bridge width in excess of standards.
  - (d) Construction inspection, staking, and material testing and acceptance for construction of sanitary sewer and water main.
  - (e) Parking lane costs.

- (f) Coordinate, clean up, and fund any hazardous materials encountered for city utility construction. All hazardous material cleanup work shall be performed in accordance to state and federal regulations.
  - (g) Coordinate, clean up, and fund any hazardous materials encountered during construction. All hazardous material cleanup work shall be performed in accordance to state and federal regulations.
  - (h) Damages to abutting property due to change in street or sidewalk widths, grades or drainage.
  - (i) Conditioning, if required and maintenance of detour routes.
  - (j) Repair of damages to roads or streets caused by reason of their use in hauling materials incidental to the improvement.
5. If the Municipality should withdraw the project, it shall reimburse the State for any costs incurred by the State in behalf of the project.
6. The work will be administered by the State and may include items not eligible for federal/state participation.
7. The Municipality shall assume general responsibility for all public information and public relations for the project and to make a fitting announcement to the press and such outlets as would generally alert the affected property owners and the community of the nature, extent, and timing of the project and arrangements for handling traffic within and around the project.
8. Basis for local participation as specified in Signals and ITS Standalone Program (SISP): Participation is based on actual costs incurred, all costs listed in Summary of Costs table are approximate costs unless otherwise noted:
- (a) Funding for construction: Construction is funded with 90% State funding up to a maximum of \$380,700 when the Municipality agrees to provide the remaining 10% and any funds in excess of the state funding maximum. Construction funds intended for FY2024 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024).
  - (b) Funding for non-participating items 100% Municipality.



# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

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## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1444

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

Resolution creating and appropriating funds for Capital Improvement design for the Losey Boulevard HSIP projects.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse (City) and State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) enter into State/Municipal Financial Agreements (SFMA) for the scoping, design, and construction of Non-Connecting Highways within the limits of the City of La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-360(c) of the Code of Ordinances states Unanticipated projects/equipment. Any Capital Project and Capital Equipment item not previously listed in the adopted Capital Budget requiring immediate funding from the Capital Budget will require a two-thirds vote of the Common Council members present at the meeting, and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for two Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) along Losey Boulevard, and

WHEREAS, staff from the City and WisDOT have been in coordination of the scoping and the development of plans, specifications, and estimates of said project, and

WHEREAS, creation of such projects requires funding, as approved by the Common Council, with unused funds from completed projects that were previously approved by past CIP Budgets; and

WHEREAS, it is the best interest of public health, safety, and welfare that such projects and funding be approved for expeditious implementation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby authorizes creation of public works projects along Losey Boulevard, including adjacent intersections, as necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said projects are approved with funding source and amount as provided herein:

4910210 588000 Unappropriated Street Funds - \$325,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff are hereby authorized to take required steps to effectuate and implement this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the construction be referred to future Capital Improvement Program budgets for funding of construction.



# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1445

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

**Agenda Number:**

Resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign State/Municipal Financial Agreements for two Highway Safety Improvement Projects along Losey Boulevard (ID# 5991-07-80/81 & 5991-07-82/83).

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse (City) and State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) enter into State/Municipal Financial Agreements (SFMA) for the scoping, design, and construction of Non-Connecting Highways within the limits of the City of La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, the City has applied for two Highway Safety Improvement Projects (HSIP) along Losey Boulevard, and

WHEREAS, staff from the City and WisDOT have been in coordination of the scoping and the development of plans, specifications, and estimates of said project, which is detailed in the attached document.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that the Mayor and City Clerk are authorized to sign the SMFA for the HSIP projects on Losey Blvd (ID# 5991-07-80/81 & 5991-07-82/83).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SMFA be referred to existing and future Capital Improvement Program budgets for funding of construction, as detailed in the attached documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City staff are hereby authorized to perform all duties to effectuate this resolution.



STATE/MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT  
FOR A  
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DATE: November 20, 2023  
I.D.: 5991-07-80/81 HWY: Losey Boulevard  
TITLE: C La Crosse, Losey Boulevard  
SUBTITLE: Main Street Intersection  
COUNTY: La Crosse LENGTH: 0.05 miles

The signatory, City of La Crosse, hereinafter called the Municipality, through its undersigned duly authorized officers or officials, hereby requests the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, hereinafter called the State, to initiate and effect the highway or street improvement hereinafter described.

The authority for the Municipality to enter into this agreement with the State is extended by Section 86.25(1), (2), and (3) of the Statutes.

NEEDS AND ESTIMATE SUMMARY:

Existing Facility: Losey Boulevard at the intersection with Main Street currently has 4 through lanes with dedicated left turn lanes. This intersection is on a downward slope. There are narrow median islands dividing the left turn lane from the opposing through lanes. The City of La Crosse has observed several rear-end, right angle, and left turn crashes at this intersection.

Proposed Improvement: The project proposes to realign the opposing left turning traffic and increase visibility of oncoming vehicles by reducing the median width. This visibility will reduce the observed left turn crashes. The improvement will also replace the standard signal equipment with head per lane monotubes to increase visibility of the signal heads. The monotubes have been shown to reduce rear end and right angle crashes. Vehicle detection will be upgraded to Gridsmart Cameras which are more reliable for different modes of transportation compared to pavement loops.

Non-participating Items: Municipal utilities and Gridsmart camera detection.

PHASE	Total Est. Cost	Federal/ State Funds	%	Municipal Funds	%
Preliminary Engineering: (5991-07-80)		<b>(Max \$0)</b>			
Plan Development	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0	100%
State Review	\$52,139	\$0	0%	\$52,139	100%
Prelim. Engineering Total	\$52,139	\$0	0%	\$52,139	100%
Construction: (5991-07-81)		<b>(Max \$1,145,006)</b>			
Participating	\$1,106,286.09	\$995,657.39	90%	\$110,628.70	10% + Bal
Participating Delivery	\$165,942.91	\$149,348.61	90%	\$16,594.30	10% + Bal
Non-Participating	\$50,000	\$0	0%	\$50,000	0%
Non-Participating Delivery	\$7,500	\$0	0%	\$7,500	0%
Construction Total	\$1,329,729	\$1,145,006	90%	\$184,723	10% + Bal
Total Cost Distribution	\$1,381,868	\$1,145,006		\$236,862	

This request is subject to the terms and conditions that follow (pages 3-4) and is made by the undersigned under proper authority to make such request for the designated Municipality and upon acceptance by the State shall constitute agreement between the Municipality and the State.

Signed for and in behalf of City of La Crosse:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title Date

Signed for and in behalf of the State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title Date

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The initiation and accomplishment of the improvement will be subject to the applicable Federal and State regulations.
2. The Municipality will pay to the State all costs incurred by the State in connection with the improvement which exceed Federal/State financing commitments or are ineligible for Federal/State financing.
3. Funding of each project phase (preliminary engineering, real estate, construction, and other) is subject to inclusion in an approved program. Federal aid and/or State highway fund financing will be limited to participation in the costs of the following items:
  - (a) The grading, base, pavement, and replacement of disturbed driveways in kind.
  - (b) Construction engineering incidental to inspection and supervision of actual construction work.
  - (c) Signing and pavement marking, including detour routes.
  - (d) State review services for construction ID 5991-07-81.
4. Work necessary to complete the improvement to be financed entirely by the Municipality or other utility or facility owner includes the following items:
  - (a) New installation of or alteration of sanitary sewers and connections, water, gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, fire or police alarm facilities, parking meters, and similar utilities.
  - (b) Damages to abutting property due to change in street or sidewalk widths, grades or drainage.
  - (c) Conditioning, if required, and maintenance of detour routes.
  - (d) Repair of damages to roads or streets caused by reason of their use in hauling materials incidental to the improvement.
  - (e) Real estate for the improvement.
  - (e) Preliminary engineering and design.
  - (f) State review services for design ID 5991-07-80.
5. As the work progresses, the Municipality will be billed and agrees to pay for work completed which is not chargeable to Federal/State funds. Upon completion of the project, a final audit will be made to determine the final division of costs and the Municipality agrees to pay any required reimbursement to the State.
6. If the Municipality should withdraw the project, it will reimburse the State for any costs incurred by the State in behalf of the project.

7. The work will be administered by the State and may include items not eligible for Federal/State participation.
8. The Municipality will at its own cost and expense:
  - (a) Maintain all portions of the project that lie within its jurisdiction for such maintenance through statutory requirements, in a manner satisfactory to the State and will make ample provision for such maintenance each year.
  - (b) Prohibit angle parking.
  - (c) Regulate or prohibit all parking at locations where and when the pavement area usually occupied by parked vehicles will be needed to carry active traffic in the street.
  - (d) Assume general responsibility for all public information and public relations for the project and to make fitting announcement to the press and such outlets as would generally alert the affected property owners and the community of the nature, extent, and timing of the project and arrangements for handling traffic within and around the projects.
  - (e) Provide complete plans, specifications, relocation order, real estate plat, and estimates.
  - (f) Use the WisDOT Utility Accommodation Policy unless it adopts a policy which has equal or more restrictive controls.
9. In order to guarantee the Municipality's foregoing agreements to pay the State, the Municipality, through its above duly authorized officers or officials, agrees and authorizes the State to set off and withhold the required reimbursement amount as determined by the State from any moneys otherwise due and payable by the State to the Municipality.
10. The basis for local participation is as follows:

ID 5991-07-80: Preliminary engineering including state review is funded 100% by the Municipality.

ID 5991-07-81: Participating construction is funded with 90% Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds to a **maximum capped amount of \$1,145,006** when the Municipality agrees to provide the remaining 10% and all costs in excess of the capped amount. Non-participating costs are funded 100% by the Municipality.

**[End of Document]**

STATE/MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT  
FOR A  
HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DATE: November 20, 2023  
I.D.: 5991-07-82/83 HWY: Losey Boulevard  
TITLE: C La Crosse, Losey Boulevard  
SUBTITLE: Mormon Coulee Road to Ward Avenue  
COUNTY: La Crosse LENGTH: 0.43 miles

The signatory, City of La Crosse, hereinafter called the Municipality, through its undersigned duly authorized officers or officials, hereby requests the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation, hereinafter called the State, to initiate and effect the highway or street improvement hereinafter described.

The authority for the Municipality to enter into this agreement with the State is extended by Section 86.25(1), (2), and (3) of the Statutes.

NEEDS AND ESTIMATE SUMMARY:

**Existing Facility:** Existing roadway is designated as a truck route within the NHS. Existing conditions of the roadway include 4 vehicle lanes, 1-foot boulevards, and 4 foot sidewalks. These boulevards are extremely narrow and the sidewalks are below City of La Crosse minimum. The City of La Crosse has observed several rear-end crashes as well as rear-end left turning crashes.

**Proposed Improvement:** The project proposes to move the curb and gutter in by 8 feet, create two 11-foot travel lanes, and one two-way left turn lane (TWLTL). The dedicated TWLTL reduces the likelihood of rear end crashes from traffic waiting to turn left across Losey Boulevard. The boulevard will increase from 1 foot to 8 foot. The sidewalk would be replaced with new 5-foot wide concrete sidewalk, installed by a separate city contract. Two pedestrian islands would be added in the corridor within the TWLTL with Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). City utilities will also be replaced as non-participating items.

**Non-participating Items:** Municipal utilities.

PHASE	Total Est. Cost	Federal/ State Funds	%	Municipal Funds	%
<b>Preliminary Engineering: (5991-07-82)</b>		<b>(Max \$0)</b>			
Plan Development	\$0	\$0	0%	\$0	100%
State Review	\$80,965	\$0	0%	\$80,965	100%
<b>Prelim. Engineering Total</b>	<b>\$80,965</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>\$80,965</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Construction: (5991-07-83)</b>		<b>(Max \$1,710,000)</b>			
Participating	\$1,769,459.13	\$1,486,956.52	90%	\$282,502.61	10% + Bal
Participating Delivery	\$265,418.87	\$223,043.48	90%	\$42,375.39	10% + Bal
Non-Participating	\$50,000	\$0	0%	\$50,000	0%
Non-Participating Delivery	\$7,500	\$0	0%	\$7,500	0%
<b>Construction Total</b>	<b>\$2,092,378</b>	<b>\$1,710,000</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>\$382,378</b>	<b>10% + Bal</b>
<b>Total Cost Distribution</b>	<b>\$2,173,343</b>	<b>\$1,710,000</b>		<b>\$463,343</b>	

This request is subject to the terms and conditions that follow (pages 3-4) and is made by the undersigned under proper authority to make such request for the designated Municipality and upon acceptance by the State shall constitute agreement between the Municipality and the State.

Signed for and in behalf of City of La Crosse:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title Date

Signed for and in behalf of the State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title Date

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

1. The initiation and accomplishment of the improvement will be subject to the applicable Federal and State regulations.
2. The Municipality will pay to the State all costs incurred by the State in connection with the improvement which exceed Federal/State financing commitments or are ineligible for Federal/State financing.
3. Funding of each project phase (preliminary engineering, real estate, construction, and other) is subject to inclusion in an approved program. Federal aid and/or State highway fund financing will be limited to participation in the costs of the following items:
  - (a) The grading, base, pavement, and replacement of disturbed driveways in kind.
  - (b) Construction engineering incidental to inspection and supervision of actual construction work.
  - (c) Signing and pavement marking, including detour routes.
  - (d) State review services for construction ID 5991-07-83.
4. Work necessary to complete the improvement to be financed entirely by the Municipality or other utility or facility owner includes the following items:
  - (a) New installation of or alteration of sanitary sewers and connections, water, gas, electric, telephone, telegraph, fire or police alarm facilities, parking meters, and similar utilities.
  - (b) Damages to abutting property due to change in street or sidewalk widths, grades or drainage.
  - (c) Conditioning, if required, and maintenance of detour routes.
  - (d) Repair of damages to roads or streets caused by reason of their use in hauling materials incidental to the improvement.
  - (e) Real estate for the improvement.
  - (e) Preliminary engineering and design.
  - (f) State review services for design ID 5991-07-82.
5. As the work progresses, the Municipality will be billed and agrees to pay for work completed which is not chargeable to Federal/State funds. Upon completion of the project, a final audit will be made to determine the final division of costs and the Municipality agrees to pay any required reimbursement to the State.
6. If the Municipality should withdraw the project, it will reimburse the State for any costs incurred by the State in behalf of the project.

7. The work will be administered by the State and may include items not eligible for Federal/State participation.
8. The Municipality will at its own cost and expense:
  - (a) Maintain all portions of the project that lie within its jurisdiction for such maintenance through statutory requirements, in a manner satisfactory to the State and will make ample provision for such maintenance each year.
  - (b) Prohibit angle parking.
  - (c) Regulate or prohibit all parking at locations where and when the pavement area usually occupied by parked vehicles will be needed to carry active traffic in the street.
  - (d) Assume general responsibility for all public information and public relations for the project and to make fitting announcement to the press and such outlets as would generally alert the affected property owners and the community of the nature, extent, and timing of the project and arrangements for handling traffic within and around the projects.
  - (e) Provide complete plans, specifications, relocation order, real estate plat, and estimates.
  - (f) Use the WisDOT Utility Accommodation Policy unless it adopts a policy which has equal or more restrictive controls.
9. In order to guarantee the Municipality's foregoing agreements to pay the State, the Municipality, through its above duly authorized officers or officials, agrees and authorizes the State to set off and withhold the required reimbursement amount as determined by the State from any moneys otherwise due and payable by the State to the Municipality.
10. The basis for local participation is as follows:

ID 5991-07-82: Preliminary engineering including state review is funded 100% by the Municipality.

ID 5991-07-83: Participating construction is funded with 90% Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds to a **maximum capped amount of \$1,710,000** when the Municipality agrees to provide the remaining 10% and all costs in excess of the capped amount. Non-participating costs are funded 100% by the Municipality.

**[End of Document]**





# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1492

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

Resolution approving a reorganization to the table of positions and classifications within the La Crosse Regional Airport

## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, a pay and class study has been adopted by the City to ensure proper pay and classification; and

WHEREAS, the Classification and Compensation Plan contains a provision for department heads to request a position be reclassified when substantive changes in the nature of the duties, responsibilities, working conditions, and other factors occurs; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport has determined that a need to reclassify and reorganize positions within the La Crosse Regional Airport has occurred due to changes in demand of the airport; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport has made the appropriate request to the Director of Human Resources who must make a recommendation to the Common Council of the City of La Crosse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby amends the table of positions and classifications within the La Crosse Regional Airport by the following:

- Retitle the vacant position of Airport Operations and Maintenance Manager, Grade 12, to the title of Airport Maintenance Supervisor, Grade 11

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the changes to the table of positions and classification at the La Crosse Regional Airport will result in a reduction of approximately \$5,500 to the 2024 Airport Operating Budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Human Resources and the Director of the La Crosse Regional Airport are hereby authorized and directed to take all necessary steps to implement this resolution no sooner than January 1, 2024.



# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 23-1496

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

**Agenda Number:**

Resolution authorizing the City of La Crosse to submit an application to Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) for the Idle Sites Redevelopment (ISR) Grant Program for the West Channel at Barrons Island development.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) has an Idle Sites Redevelopment (ISR) Grant that the City of La Crosse is eligible to apply; and

WHEREAS, as part of the grant, the City of La Crosse is required to jointly coordinate with Barron Island, LLC on eligible activities such as building rehabilitation or demolition, environmental remediation, and infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, the grant application also requires a Resolution from the City approving the application of this grant for this project; and

WHEREAS, if a private developer is participating in the project, the ISR grant requires a development agreement between the developer and the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby authorizes the City of La Crosse to apply for the ISR Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff shall facilitate the execution of a development agreement that will meet the ISR grant application requirements and obligate the developer to fulfill all provisions of the grant agreement, reporting obligations, and financial obligations resulting from the grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Director of Planning, Development and Assessment are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.

# IDLE SITES REDEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

## BRINGING NEW LIFE TO IDLE SITES

Redeveloped idle industrial, institutional, and commercial sites can again become generators for economic development and an improved quality of life for the cities and communities where they are located. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation's (WEDC's) **Idle Sites Redevelopment Program** helps communities pursue this opportunity.

### How it works

The Idle Sites Redevelopment Program offers grants to Wisconsin communities to implement redevelopment plans for large commercial, institutional, or industrial sites that have been idle, abandoned or underutilized for a period of at least two years. A draft redevelopment plan demonstrating strong potential for significant measurable economic benefits, such as increased generation of property taxes and the creation of full-time permanent jobs, will increase the competitiveness of a proposed project.

### Eligibility requirements

Grants may be made to cities, villages, towns, counties, tribal entities or governmental entities for idle industrial sites exceeding four acres in size, for idle institutional parcels exceeding four acres in size, or for idle commercial sites exceeding 10 acres in size, where redevelopment is impeded due to existing site conditions. For projects located in a designated economically distressed community or a Development Opportunity Zone, or a rural community, parcels must exceed four acres in size.

### Eligible activities

Grant funds may typically be used for the following activities:

- Building rehabilitation or demolition
- Environmental remediation
- Infrastructure improvements

Successful applicants will be able to provide either:

- If a private developer is participating in the project, an officially approved development agreement that describes the project and its goals, anticipated outcomes, project timeline, and actions, obligations and investments to be made by each party

## LEARN MORE

For more information about becoming eligible for the Idle Sites Redevelopment Grant Program, contact A WEDC regional economic development director.

You can find the list of regional directors and territories covered at [wedc.org/regional](http://wedc.org/regional).

- If the project does not have a private developer, an officially approved resolution that describes the project and its goals, anticipated outcomes, project timeline, and actions, obligations and investments necessary to achieve redevelopment





# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

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## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 24-0040

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Resolution

Resolution approving a 3-year contract with Coulee Region Humane Society for animal impoundment.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse performs animal control functions; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Crosse does not have a kenneling facility or staff to house impounded animals; and

WHEREAS, the Coulee Region Humane Society has appropriate facilities and staffing to kennel impounded animals; and

WHEREAS, the Coulee Region Humane Society has negotiated terms of service with the La Crosse Police Department;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby approves the 3-year (2024, 2025, 2026) service contract between the City of La Crosse and the Coulee Region Humane Society effective January 1, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Police Chief shall take appropriate action to report said appointment to the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Police Chief and Mayor are hereby authorized to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate this resolution.

## CITY OF LA CROSSE

### Animal Services Agreement

This Animal Services Agreement ("Agreement") entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_, 2023 between the **City of La Crosse**, (hereinafter referred to as "City"), a Wisconsin Municipal Corporation, located at 400 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601, and the **Coulee Region Humane Society, Inc.**, (hereinafter referred to as the "Society"), a Wisconsin non-profit corporation, with its principal place of business at 911 Critter Court, Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Agreement is to define the terms and conditions for animal sheltering services.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS AGREED between the parties as follows:

1. **Duration.** The duration of this Agreement shall be for three (3) years commencing on January 1, 2024, and expiring on December 31, 2026, at 11:59 pm.
2. **Description of Society Services.**
  - A. General Services.
    - i. Society Personnel. The Society will maintain or secure, at its sole expense, all necessary permits or licenses necessary to perform its services under this Agreement. Further, the Society will maintain or secure, at its sole expenses, all personnel necessary to carry out its obligations under this Agreement. Such personnel shall not be deemed to be the employees of the City.
    - ii. Custody and Care. All stray or seized domestic animals delivered to the Society from the City will be accepted for impoundment in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 173.13. For purposes of this Agreement, domestic animals shall be defined as dogs, cats, birds, or other animals that are domesticated as a household pet, but does not include livestock, wild animals, or pigs of any type. Notwithstanding, domestic animals also includes chickens, banded pigeons, and any other animal the City permits to be licensed by City Code, except honey bees. The Society shall provide admitting services, adequate food, water, shelter, and humane care on behalf of the City, for the stray holding period as defined by Wis. Stat. § 173.19. Humane care shall include daily custodial care to impounded domestic animals, including any necessary and appropriate veterinary care or treatment.
    - iii. 24-hour Drop Off Availability. The Society shall provide the City an appropriate facility that will provide admitting and animal care services twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days a week, three hundred sixty-five (365) days a year (24/7/265) for the animals dropped off by City law enforcement officers or individuals operating under their direction within the geographical boundaries of the City. These individuals will receive training in proper custody and transport of animals. For animals that need to be admitted outside the Society's regular business hours, the Society shall provide the City with the name and contact information of its representatives who will be "on call" outside the Society's regular business hours in order to open the facility and take custody of the animals.
    - iv. Reclamation Services. The Society shall work with the City to provide reclamation

services in accordance with Wis. Stats. §§ 173.19 and 173.23(1). These services shall include working with the City to make reasonable attempts to identify, locate, make contact with, OR provide written notice to an animal's owner in order to arrange for either the surrender of the animal or the return of the animal to its owner. The Society shall notify any individual attempting to reclaim or otherwise take custody of an animal that the City will be notified of such action and that the animal must be licensed by the City.

To support the Society's reclamation services, the City shall provide "read-only" access to the City's animal license database, assuming such access is technologically feasible and does not impose an unreasonable cost on the City.

- v. Reporting. On a monthly basis, the Society shall provide the City Liaisons a report containing all the itemized fees paid and collected through the reclamation process.
  - vi. Holding Period. Any animal impounded beyond the holding period in La Crosse City Code Section 6-7 – Impoundment of Animals, or Wis. Stat. § 173.19, will be considered property of the Society who will determine the disposition of the animal in accordance with Wis. Stat. § 173.23 (Disposition of Animals) in a humane manner at the discretion of the Society. If a Court Order requires an animal to be held past the stray hold period, this will be considered a Special Service.
  - vii. Records. For each animal brought into its care, the Society shall maintain adequate records consistent with Wis. Stat. § 173.17.
- B. Special Services. Contingent upon written request, which includes electronic correspondence, by a City Liaison, the Society may perform the following:
- i. Emergency Assistance. During emergency situations, the Society may provide trained staff members to assist City humane and law enforcement officers. The Society's ability to provide assistance will depend on staff availability.
  - ii. Non-domestic animals. At its sole discretion, the Society will provide impound and care for certain non-domestic animals.
  - iii. State Lab Testing. The Society will send or transport an animal to the State of Wisconsin Laboratory for necropsies, other testing for criminal cases, or rabies testing. The Society shall do so under its own account.
  - iiii. Court ordered hold. If a Court Order requires an animal to be held past the stray hold period, the Society will continue to provide care for the animal.

3. **Payment for Services.** The City shall pay the Society as follows:

- A. Standard Services. The City shall pay a total fee of \$108,000.00 in 2024, \$111,000.00 in 2025, and \$114,000.00 in 2026. The total fee shall be paid in twelve (12) equal monthly installments during the applicable year. In addition, the Society will retain all reclamation fees, as approved in the City's fee schedule, collected from pet owners.
- B. Special Services. The following rates shall be paid by the City for Special Services, as described in **Section 2 , ¶ B** of this Agreement:
  - i. Emergency Assistance. \$75.00 per hour per Society personnel.
  - ii. Non-domestic animals. Per day fee per animal for impound and care. The Society will bill the City at the applicable animal reclamation fee rates. The Society will bill the City for any veterinary services provided to these animals at cost.
  - iii. State Lab Testing. The City will reimburse the Society for all State lab testing, including shipping, transportation costs, and labor at \$75.00 per hour. The Society will provide the City an invoice with these detailed charges.
  - iiii. Court ordered hold. If a Court Order requires an animal to be held past the stray hold period, the Society will continue to provide care for the animal. The Society will bill the City at the applicable animal reclamation fee rates for all days held past the stray hold period. The Society will bill the City for any non-routine veterinary services or surgery that is agreed upon for these animals at cost. The Society and the City will consult regarding these veterinary services or surgeries within 24 hours of the health issue being identified as needing service.



400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Attn: Director of Finance  
City of La Crosse  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

To the Society:

Attn: Executive Director  
Coulee Region Humane Society  
911 Critter Court  
Onalaska, WI 54650

Notices shall be deemed given upon receipt in the case of personal delivery, three (3) days after deposit in the mail, or the next business day in the case of facsimile, email or overnight delivery. Either party may from time to time designate any other address for this purpose by written notice to the other party delivered in the manner set forth above.

12. **No Personal Liability.** Under no circumstances shall any trustee, officer, official, commissioner, director, member, partner, or employee of the City have any personal liability arising out of this Agreement, and the parties shall not seek or claim any such personal liability.
13. **Insurance.** The Society shall, at its own expense, obtain and maintain in effect at all times during this Agreement the following insurance coverage:
  - A. Commercial general liability insurance of not less than \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage;
  - B. Umbrella liability insurance of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence for bodily injury, personal injury and property damage in excess of coverage carried for commercial general liability;
  - C. Professional liability insurance of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per claim and annual aggregate; and
  - D. To the extent that the Society employs any employees or as otherwise required by law, Workers' Compensation and Employees' Liability insurance within Wisconsin statutory limits.

On the certificate of insurance, the City shall be named as an additional insured on any general liability insurance and umbrella insurance. The certificate must state the following: The City of La Crosse, its officers, agents, employees and Police Reserve volunteers shall be additional insureds. Prior to execution of the Agreement, the Society shall file with the City a certificate of insurance signed by the Insurer's representative evidencing the coverage required by this Agreement. Such evidence shall include an additional insured endorsement signed by the insurer's representative. The Society shall provide the City with a thirty (30) day notice prior to termination or cancellation of the policy. The City reserves the right to require review and approval of the actual policy of insurance before it executes this Agreement.



14. **Dispute Resolution.** Any dispute arising out of or relating to this Agreement, including the alleged breach, termination, validity, interpretation and performance thereof ("Dispute") shall be resolved with the following procedures: .
- A. **Negotiation.** Upon written notice of any Dispute, the parties shall attempt to resolve it promptly by negotiation between individuals who have authority to settle the Dispute on behalf of the parties and this process should be completed within twenty (20) days (the "Negotiation").
- B. **Arbitration.** If the parties cannot resolve the Dispute after reasonable efforts, either party may demand arbitration conducted in accordance with chapter 788, Wis. Stat., or any successor statute, by a single arbitrator, chosen by mutual agreement of the parties or, if they do not agree, by the Circuit Court for La Crosse County, on application of either party. The party demanding arbitration shall bear all the costs of arbitration. Chapter 788, Wis. Stat., or any successor statute, shall govern the arbitration proceedings, except that the parties waive any right to trial by jury if a dispute concerning the arbitration proceeding is resolved by a court. Each party is hereby authorized to file a copy of this Section in any proceeding as conclusive evidence of this waiver of jury trial by the other party.
- C. **Remedies.** In the event of a Dispute, each party shall have all remedies available at law or in equity. This Agreement is intended to provide the parties with the right and standing to seek any available legal or equitable remedy to enforce or seek damages for the breach of this Agreement.
15. **Access to Records.** The Society, at its sole expense, shall maintain books, records, documents and other evidence pertinent to this Agreement in accordance with accepted applicable professional practices. The City, or any of its duly authorized representatives, shall have access, at no cost to the City, to such books, records, documents, papers or any records, including electronic, of the Society which are pertinent to this Agreement, for the purpose of a making audits, examinations, excerpts and transcriptions.
16. **Public Records Law.** The Society understands and acknowledges that the City is subject to the Public Records Law of the State of Wisconsin. As such, the Society agrees to retain all records as defined by Wis. Stat. § 19.32(2), applicable to this Agreement for a period of not less than seven (7) years after the termination or expiration of this Agreement. The Society agrees to assist the City in complying with any public records request that the City receives pertaining to this Agreement. Additionally, the Society agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City, its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees and authorized representatives for any liability, including, without limitation, reasonable attorney fees, related to or in any way arising from the Society's actions or omissions which contribute to the City's inability to comply with the Public Records Law. In the event that the Society decides not to retain its records for a period of seven (7) years, then it shall provide written notice to the City whereupon the City shall take custody of said records assuming such records are not already maintained in the City. This provision shall survive termination of the Agreement.
17. **Compliance with Law.** The parties shall comply in all material respects with any and all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
18. **Authority.** The persons signing this Agreement warrant that they have the authority to sign as, or on behalf of, the party for whom they are signing.
19. **Execution of Agreement.** The Society shall sign and execute this Agreement on or before ten (10) days of its approval by the Common Council, and the Society's failure to do so will render the approval of the Agreement by the Common Council null and void, unless otherwise authorized.

20. **Severability.** Should any part, term, portion or provision of this Agreement, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances be in conflict with any state or federal law, or otherwise be rendered unenforceable, it shall be deemed severable and shall not affect the remaining provisions, provided that such remaining provisions can be construed in substance to continue to constitute the agreement that the parties intended to enter into in the first instance.
21. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire understanding between the parties with respect to the subject matter herein. There are no representations, agreements or understandings (whether oral or written) between or among the parties relating to the subject matter of this Agreement which are not fully expressed herein. This Agreement may not be amended, except pursuant to a written instrument signed by both parties.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the parties have executed and delivered this Agreement effective the date set forth next to the City's signature below.

**City of La Crosse**

**Coulee Region Humane Society, Inc.**

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: *Laura Olson*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mitch Reynolds, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Olson, Board President

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: *Heather Drievold*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nikki Elsen, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Drievold, Executive Director

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

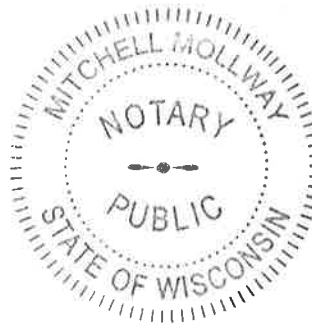
Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
20 day of December, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of \_\_\_\_\_

*Mitch Mollway*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public, State of WI

My Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission: 02-15-2027





# ***CITY OF LA CROSSE***

400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
(608) 789-CITY  
[www.cityoflacrosse.org](http://www.cityoflacrosse.org)

## **LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT FOR COUNCIL**

File ID                      Caption

Staff/Department Responsible for Legislation

Requestor of Legislation

Location, if applicable

Summary/Purpose

Background

Fiscal Impact

Staff Recommendation



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
LA CROSSE

24-0040

January 3, 2024

I hereby approve the submitting of the attached Legislation "Resolution approving a 3-year contract with Coulee Region Humane Society for animal impoundment" to be considered at the Common Council. This approval is given due to the time element necessitating consideration of the attached Legislation at the earliest possible date.

Mayor Mitch Reynolds



# City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

## Text File

File Number: 24-0001

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**Agenda Date:** 1/4/2024

**Version:** 1

**Status:** New Business

**In Control:** Finance & Personnel Committee

**File Type:** Status Update