

MEMORANDUM

OF

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

AND

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,

COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

HOWARD COUNTY LOCAL 3888

COUNCIL 3, AFL-CIO

EFFECTIVE:

JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2027

PREAMBLE	1
ARTICLE 1 - RECOGNITION AND UNIT DESCRIPTION	1
Section 1.1. - Recognition	1
Section 1.2. - Unit Description.	1
Section 1.3. - Exclusions	1
Section 1.4. - New Classifications	1
Section 1.5. - Reserved	2
Section 1.6. – Union Continuity	2
Section 1.7. - Reserved	2
ARTICLE 2 - AUTHORIZED DUES DEDUCTIONS	2
Section 2.1. - Employee Rights	2
Section 2.2. – Dues Deduction for Employees who Join the Union	2
Section 2.3. - Periodic Dues Deduction	3
Section 2.4. - Authorization for Dues Deductions	3
Section 2.5. - Insufficient Pay for Dues	3
Section 2.6. - Amount of Dues	3
Section 2.7. - Indemnification Clause	3
Section 2.8. – P.E.O.P.L.E. Deduction	3
ARTICLE 3 - RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES/UNION REPRESENTATIVES	3
Section 3.1. - Designation of Representatives	3
Section 3.2. - Non-Discrimination	4
Section 3.3. - Individual Representation	4
Section 3.4. - Union Visitation	4
Section 3.5. - Union Representation.	4
Section 3.6. - Reserved.	5
Section 3.7. - Union Office	5
Section 3.8. - Orientation	5
Section 3.9. - Reserved	5
Section 3.10. -Informational Meetings.	5
Section 3.11. -Investigations.	5
Section 3.12. -Document Security.	5

ARTICLE 4 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS	5
ARTICLE 5 - HOURS OF WORK	6
Section 5.1. - Regular Workweek	6
Section 5.2. – Work Schedules	6
Section 5.3. - Tardiness	6
Section 5.4. - Reserved	6
Section 5.5. – Testing; Medical Examinations	6
Section 5.6. – Paid Status.	7
Section 5.7. – Fatigue Status.	7
ARTICLE 6 – LAYOFFS AND FURLOUGHS	7
ARTICLE 7 - COMPENSATION	7
Section 7.1. - Salary Scale; Adjustments	7
Section 7.2. - Step Increment; Copy of Performance Review	7
Section 7.3. - Reserved	7
Section 7.4. - Meal Allowances	8
Section 7.5. - Reserved	8
Section 7.6. - Reserved	8
ARTICLE 8 - PREMIUM PAY	8
Section 8.1. - Shift Differential	8
Section 8.2. - Overtime.	9
Section 8.3. - Call-in-Pay	9
Section 8.4. - Stand-by Pay	10
Section 8.5. - Reserved	10
Section 8.6. - Commercial Driver’s Licenses (CDLs)	10
Section 8.7. - No Duplication or Pyramiding of Premium Pay	10
Section 8.8. - Reserved	11
Section 8.9. - Mechanics’ Certification Premium	11
Section 8.10. Emergencies	11
Section 8.11. - Reserved	11
Section 8.12. - Temporary Assignment Pay	11
Section 8.13. - Reserved	12
Section 8.14. – Court Time	12
Section 8.15. - Reserved	12

ARTICLE 9 – SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT	12
ARTICLE 10 - LEAVE BENEFITS	12
Section 10.1. - Holidays	12
Section 10.2. - Annual Leave	13
Section 10.3. - Personal Leave	14
Section 10.4. - Disability Leave	14
Section 10.5. – Worker’s Compensation Leave	14
Section 10.6. - Jury Leave	16
Section 10.7. - Military Leave	16
Section 10.8. - Bereavement Leave	16
Section 10.9. - Leave of Absence	16
Section 10.10. - Union Leave	16
Section 10.11. - Compensatory Leave _____	17
ARTICLE 11 - INSURANCE	18
Section 11.1. - Health Insurance	17
Section 11.2. - Life Insurance	18
ARTICLE 12 - PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS	18
ARTICLE 13 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	18
Section 13.1. - Scope	19
Section 13.2. - Election of Remedies	19
Section 13.3. - Time Limitations	19
Section 13.4. - Procedural Steps	20
Section 13.5. - Other Conditions	21
Section 13.6. – Class Action	20
ARTICLE 14 - PERSONNEL FILES	21
Section 14.1. - Employee Access	21
Section 14.2. - Removal of Information	21
Section 14.3. - Employee Additions	21
ARTICLE 15 - SAFETY	21
ARTICLE 16 - TOOL REPLACEMENT	22
ARTICLE 17 - USE OF TELEPHONES	22
ARTICLE 18 - RESERVED	22
ARTICLE 19 - PROMOTIONS	22

Section 19.1. - Vacancies	22
Section 19.2. - Work Standards – Trial Period	22
Section 19.3. - Demotions	23
Section 19.4. - Job Announcements	23
Section 19.5. – Employee Framework for Success	23
ARTICLE 20 – LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	23
ARTICLE 21 - PENSION	23
ARTICLE 22 - NO STRIKE OR LOCKOUT CLAUSE	23
Section 22.1. - No Strikes	23
Section 22.2. - No Lockouts	24
ARTICLE 23 – DURATION AND FINALITY OF AGREEMENT	24
ARTICLE 24 - SAVINGS CLAUSE	24
ARTICLE 25 - SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL	24
EXHIBIT A & B – SALARY SCALES –	26
EXHIBIT D – HEALTH PLAN RATES.....	28
EXHIBIT E - CELL PHONE POLICY.....	29

PREAMBLE

This **AGREEMENT**, effective as of July 1, 2025, is entered into between Howard County, Maryland, hereinafter referred to as the "County", and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Howard County Local 3888, Council 3, AFL-CIO hereinafter referred to as the "Union".

WHEREAS, the County and the Union have as their intent and purpose to promote and improve the efficiency and quality of the public service provided by the County to the citizens of Howard County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the Union and the County agree that this goal can best be achieved through a harmonious relationship between them. In consideration of the mutual covenants and promises herewith contained, the County and the Union do hereby agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 - RECOGNITION AND UNIT DESCRIPTION

Section 1.1. - Recognition

The County recognizes AFSCME Local 3888 as the exclusive representative on matters with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment for those employees in Section 1.2. below.

Section 1.2. - Unit Description.

- (a) The unit is composed of employees occupying the following list of job class titles.

4119 Operations Supervisor I
4121 Operations Supervisor II

- (b) Re-titled Classifications. In the event that any of the above listed classifications are re-titled without any change in job duties, such classifications shall be included in Section 1.2.(a).

Section 1.3. - Exclusions

A six (6) month probationary employee occupying a job in the unit is eligible for Union membership and representation after successfully completing a six-month probationary period. Probationary employees, regardless of length of probation, may not use the grievance procedure under this agreement or appeal process under the Howard County Employee Manual for any matter, to include an evaluation, discipline, and/or discharge. A bargaining unit member who is required to serve a probationary period as a result of a promotion to a higher classification within the unit is eligible to continue union membership within the bargaining unit.

Section 1.4. - New Classifications

In the event that any new classifications are created, which fall within the first sentence of the unit description in Section 1.2(a) of this Article, the inclusion or exclusion of the new classifications shall be subject to the mutual agreement of the County and the Union. In the event the County and the Union are unable to agree on the inclusion or exclusion of a classification, either party may submit the issue to arbitration. The County and the Union shall attempt to select a mutually acceptable arbitrator within 10 working days. If no arbitrator is selected, the party seeking arbitration shall request a list of arbitrators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. The arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. In reaching a decision, the arbitrator shall be guided by the standards used by the National Labor Relations Board in similar cases. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding. The cost of the arbitration shall be borne equally by the County and the Union, except the costs incurred in presenting or defending the case to the arbitrator shall be borne by the side incurring the expense.

Section 1.5. - Reserved

Section 1.6 - Union Continuity

The County shall make every effort not to contract out work normally performed by the bargaining unit. In the event that a position within the unit is eliminated as a result of the contracting out of work normally performed by the unit, the County shall place the employee in a vacant position for which the employee is qualified.

Section 1.7. - Reserved

ARTICLE 2 - AUTHORIZED DUES DEDUCTIONS

Section 2.1. - Employee Rights

No employee is required to join the Union and each employee has the right not to join the Union.

Section 2.2 – Dues Deduction for Employees who Join the Union

The County agrees to deduct from the earnings of each employee who has properly authorized such deductions, in writing, by a proper authorization card duly executed, membership dues to be remitted to the Union as indicated below. The Union shall provide each employee executing an authorization, a copy of such card clearly indicating that such authorization is irrevocable for the period of one year and shall be automatically renewable from year to year thereafter, unless a written notice of termination by the unit member is given to the County and the union at least 30 days prior to the anniversary date of the authorization. Deductions shall continue through the anniversary date. Such notice shall be sent in one of the following ways:

- (a) By mail to both the Union and the County, addressed to:

Director, AFSCME Council 3
Re: Local 3888
1410 Bush Street, Suite A
Baltimore, MD 21230

Cc:

Director of Human Resources
Howard County Government
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

OR

- (b) By email to both the Union and the County, addressed to:

Council 3 Chief Shop Steward and HRAdministrator@HowardCountymd.gov

The County will send a copy of any requests to withdraw from the Union to one of the Union addresses listed above.

Section 2.3. - Periodic Dues Deduction

Withholdings for union dues, or any other agreed upon voluntary deductions for union endorsed programs are to be transmitted via electronic fund transfer to the account authorized by the Comptroller of AFSCME Council 3. Such transfer shall take place no later than the 15th day after said collections(s) were made.

The employer agrees to furnish to the Union a list of all bargaining unit employees quarterly on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, and October 15th in an electronic report in excel to afscmemddues@afscmemd.org containing the following information for positions within the Union's jurisdiction:

- a. Name
- b. Service date (date of hire)
- c. Employee unique identifier number
- d. Job profile (position classification)
- e. Department
- f. annualized salary
- h. Hourly rate where applicable
- i. Work site
- j. Work telephone number
- k. Work email address
- l. Home address
- m. Cell/home phone number on File with the County
- n. Bargaining unit
- o. Dues deduction status
- p. Deduction for AFSCME People
- q. Race
- r. Gender

Section 2.4. - Authorization for Dues Deductions

The authorization for deductions pursuant to this Article shall be made on a form supplied to the employee by the Union that has been approved by the County. A deduction regarding any employee shall not be made by the County during any month unless the authorization form signed by the employee has been delivered to the County not later than the first day of the month in which the first deduction is to be made.

Section 2.5. - Insufficient Pay for Dues

The County will not deduct the Union's dues when an employee's net pay for the pay period involved is insufficient to cover the dues after other legal deductions have been made.

Section 2.6. - Amount of Dues

The amount of the dues deducted will remain the same until the Union certifies to the County, in writing, over the signature of an authorized officer of the Union, that it has been lawfully changed and what the new deduction will be each pay period. The County shall be notified at least two months in advance of the effective date of such a change.

Section 2.7. - Indemnification Clause

The Union shall indemnify and save the County harmless of and from any and all claims, grievances, actions, suits or other forms of liability or damages arising out of, or by reason of, any action taken by the County for the purpose of complying with any of the provisions of this Article, and the Union assumes full responsibility for the disposition of the funds deducted under this Article as soon as they have been remitted by the County to the Union.

Section 2.8. – P.E.O.P.L.E. DEDUCTION

Employees shall be allowed to have monies deducted from their salary either once per year or per pay period for P.E.O.P.L.E. (Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality).

ARTICLE 3 - RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEES/UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Section 3.1. - Designation of Representatives

- (a) The County recognizes and shall deal with appropriate Union Representatives as set forth herein.
- (b) Union employee representatives shall be selected in any manner determined by the Union from among those actively employed by the County. It is the intent of both the County and the Union that a Shop Steward be selected at each shop from among employees working at that site. It is also the County and the Union's mutual desire that selected Shop Stewards be appropriately trained. The Union shall prepare, keep current and provide the County with a list of accredited Stewards, Union President, Union Officers or Board Members, designated full time paid Representative or Council Representatives. The list shall include one alternate steward who shall serve only in the absence of the accredited steward. The Union shall promptly notify the County of any changes of such stewards and/or alternatives.
- (c) The County shall prepare, keep current and provide to the Union a list of County representatives and their work locations with whom the Union is to deal. The County shall promptly notify the Union of any changes of such County representatives.

Section 3.2. - Non-Discrimination

The County and the Union shall not discriminate against any employee because of race, sex, creed, religion, color, age, national origin, physical or mental handicap, occupation, marital status, political opinion, sexual orientation, personal appearance, gender identity or expression, affiliation, association or non-association, or his membership or non-membership in the Union.

Section 3.3. - Individual Representation

- (a) Employees have the right to represent themselves individually or designate their personal representative in any or all of their employment relations with the County.
- (b) The Union recognizes and will not interfere with management's right to investigate incidents or question employees regarding job related activities. However, when an employee is ordered to leave his/her immediate job site for a private conference, interview, hearing, or any other meeting with a representative of management within the department, other than the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee shall be entitled to Union representation if it is reasonably expected that such interaction could lead to disciplinary action.
- (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, an individual employee may present a grievance or meet with members of management at any time without intervention of

the Union, provided that the Union is advised in advance of said grievance, and is notified of the specific disposition of the matter and provided further, than any adjustment made shall not be inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement.

Section 3.4. - Union Visitation

With permission of the appropriate Department Head or his/her designee, representatives of Council 3, AFSCME shall have reasonable access to the County premises for the purpose of conferring with a shop steward while investigating a grievance. The County shall not unreasonably withhold such permission.

Section 3.5. - Union Representation.

Presuming there will be no abuse, the County agrees to hear grievances filed by the Union on behalf of an employee, pursuant to a provision of this Agreement, during normal work hours. Only one union representative employed by the County shall be permitted to attend these hearings at Steps 1 and 2 as set forth in Article 13 of this Agreement on a paid basis. Presuming there will be no abuse, two union representatives employed by the County, to include the Union President, shall be permitted to attend grievance hearings at Step 3 and above on a paid basis if held during their regular working hours. The County reserves the right at its option, after five days' notice to the Union, to schedule grievance hearings during non-work hours.

Section 3.6. - Reserved

Section 3.7. - Union Office

In the event that the Union President is not assigned an office as part of his regular work duties, based on space availability, the County shall provide a furnished office, including a telephone at the work site of the Union President. If space is not available at the President's work site, some alternative space may be made available. Said office will be used for the purpose of storing records and conducting official Union business at such times and by such persons as provided for in this Agreement.

Section 3.8. - Orientation

- (a) The Office of Human Resources will notify the Union President when New Employee Orientations contain employees hired to fill vacant positions in the bargaining unit. The Union will be allowed to make a presentation during the orientation for a maximum of 60 days. Reasonable notice will be provided to the Union President regarding the anticipated time slot to meet with employees in represented classifications.
- (b) The Union will work in good faith to ensure that orientation sessions will be covered on a rotating basis by Union officials to prevent a disparate impact on any one agency or bureau.

Section 3.9. - Reserved

Section 3.10. - Informational Meetings

Upon prior notice to and approval of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Union may conduct meetings with employees to disseminate information on issues having a substantial impact on the workplace.

Section 3.11. – Investigations

Investigations shall be completed by the Appointing Authority or Human Resources Administrator within 40 calendar days but in no event more than one hundred and twenty calendar days after the Appointing Authority or Human Resource Administrator has knowledge of a potential violation of policy that could result in discipline. After forty days have elapsed, the Union and/or employee may request a written status of the matter, from the Department and/or Office of Human Resources who shall promptly answer within eight (8) calendar days and which shall include, if the investigation is ongoing, the cause of any delay. The requirements of subsection do not apply to misconduct, to include actions that allegedly involve theft, an offense of dishonesty, ethics violations, loss of license or certification required for job performance, violations related to the Harassment in the Workplace policy, and /or potential criminal liability on the part of the offending employee. Completed investigatory reports, subject to appropriate redactions, that result in a discipline against a member will be provided to the member or the union representative of record.

Section 3.12. – Document Security

The County will meet with the Chief Shop Steward to discuss document security concerns by December 31, 2025.

ARTICLE 4 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The County shall retain the exclusive right and authority, at its discretion, to maintain the order and efficiency of the public service entrusted to it, and to operate and manage the affairs of the County in all aspects including, but not limited to, all rights and authority held by the County prior to the signing of this Agreement (including that provided by State law, County Charter, County Code, Rule or Regulation), except where abridged by an express provision of this Agreement.

The Union recognizes that the following rights, which are in no way wholly inclusive, belong to the County exclusively, except where abridged by an express provision of this Agreement.

- (a) To determine the purposes and objectives of each of the County's constituent offices and departments.
- (b) To set standards of services to be offered to the public.
- (c) To determine the methods, means, personnel and other resources by which the County's operations are to be conducted.
- (d) To exercise control and discretion over its organization and operations.
- (e) To direct its employees.
- (f) To hire, promote, transfer, assign or retain employees.
- (g) To establish work rules.
- (h) To demote, suspend, discharge or take any other appropriate disciplinary action against its employees for just cause and in accordance with the County Charter and other applicable laws.
- (i) To relieve its employees from duty because of lack of work or other legitimate reasons.
- (j) To determine the mission, budget, organization, number of employees, number, type and grade of

employees assigned, the work project, tour of duty, methods, processes by which such work has to be performed, technology needed, internal security practices and relocation of facilities.

- (k) To determine the qualifications of employees for appointment, promotion, step increases, etc., and to set standards of performance, appearance and conduct.
- (l) To judge skill, ability, and physical fitness, and to create, eliminate, or consolidate job classifications, department or operations.
- (m) To control and regulate the use of all equipment and other property of the County.
- (n) To set and change work hours.

ARTICLE 5 - HOURS OF WORK

Section 5.1. - Regular Workweek

For all employees, the regular workweek shall consist of 40 hours composed of five eight-hour workdays, Monday through Sunday, inclusive. There shall be no broken workdays. All hours worked on an assigned workday shall be consecutive. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the workday shall be composed of eight hours of work plus an unpaid meal period. The County reserves the right to implement at its own discretion an alternate 40-hour workweek, including but not limited to, a workweek consisting of four 10 hour workdays (not including unpaid meal periods), Monday through Sunday inclusive. The County will give the Union five days' notice before changing the regular workweek.

Section 5.2. – Work Schedules

Work schedules showing the employees' regular workweek, including shifts, workdays, and hours shall be posted on the appropriate department bulletin board at all times. An employee will be given five days' notice of a change in his/her regular work week. Paid leave is considered time worked for the purpose of computing overtime earned.

Section 5.3. - Tardiness

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, an employee who is more than seven minutes late will be docked to the closest 15-minute increment.
- (b) An employee who is required to work during inclement weather shall report to work no later than one hour after the scheduled reporting time in order to be considered present for the full work period. Any time over the one-hour period shall be deducted from the employee's annual or compensatory leave balance or, if no leave is available, charged as leave without pay.

Section 5.4. - Reserved

Section 5.5. – Testing; Medical Examinations

- (a) Except for a license to operate a motor vehicle, time required to take a test or to obtain a re-certification that is mandated by the employee's classification, including travel time, shall be considered part of the employee's workday.
- (b) An employee will take the medical examination required for renewal of a commercial driver's license that is a requirement of the employee's job during work hours as arranged by the County.

Section 5.6. – Paid Status.

During a weather-related or other emergency event, an employee shall remain on paid status at all times the employee is on County premises between work assignments.

Section 5.7. - Fatigue Status

This provision shall not apply during snow or weather-related events. If during a non-snow or weather-related event, an employee works 14 or more hours within a 24-hour period without one 8 hour break, he/she shall be placed on fatigue status and not have to report for their regularly scheduled shift for a period of 10 hours. Employees shall not be required to report to work and shall be paid administrative leave with pay for any portion of the 10-hour fatigue status period that falls within the scheduled reporting time for their regular shift. Employees shall be required to work the balance of their scheduled shift.

ARTICLE 6 – LAYOFFS and FURLOUGHS

The County agrees to the following policy with respect to layoffs:

- (a) In the event that it becomes necessary to lay off or furlough employees, no regular full-time employee shall be laid off or furlough prior to the lay-off of temporary or part-time employees.
- (b) The order of layoff or furlough shall be the less senior member within the job classification to be laid off, bargaining unit wide, to the most senior member of the classification to be laid off provided that the senior employee has the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform tasks within the same job classification at the job site of the junior employee being displaced. Employees in higher classifications may not move or bump employees in a lower classification to avoid layoff.
- (c) Prior to layoffs or furlough, employees shall receive not less than 10 working days' notice.

Laid off bargaining unit members shall have their names placed on the appropriate re-employment list for the classification they held at the time of their layoff. Such names shall remain on the appropriate list for a period of two years and shall automatically be placed on eligibility lists submitted to department heads.

ARTICLE 7 - COMPENSATION

Section 7.1. - Salary Scale; Adjustments

The salary scales for Fiscal Year 2026 are provided in Exhibit A1. Exhibit A1 shall be in effect in the pay period that includes January 1, 2026 and reflects a 3% across the board increase. The salary fiscal year 2027 is provided in Exhibit A2. Exhibit A2 shall be in effect the pay period that includes January 1, 2027 and reflects a 2% across the board increase.

Section 7.2. - Step Increment; Copy of Performance Review

- (a) An annual performance review must be correlated to said job. Any “does not meet standards” evaluation shall be supported by documentation of the deficiencies at the evaluation.
- (b) During the term of this Agreement, employees who are eligible for a step increment and who meet the standards established by the Department for satisfactory performance shall receive an increment of one step beginning with the first day of the pay period in which the anniversary date occurs.
- (c) If an employee is otherwise entitled to a step increment during a probationary period following a promotion, the step increment shall be effective beginning the first day of the pay period during which the employee’s step increment effective date occurs.
- (d) Employees shall receive copies of their performance evaluations at the time that they sign them. Should any changes be made to that evaluation, the Department Head and the employee shall initial the change, and the employee will receive a copy of the updated evaluation.

Section 7.3. - Reserved

Section 7.4. - Meal Allowances

- (a) As provided in subsection (d) of this section, the County will provide a paid meal to employees who are required to work unscheduled overtime beginning two hours or more before the regular starting time of the employee's shift or lasting two hours after the close of the employee's shift.
- (b) As provided in subsection (d) of this section, the County will provide a paid meal if an employee is required to work unscheduled overtime of two hours or longer on a day when he/she is not scheduled to work.
- (c) Unscheduled overtime is defined as overtime assigned with less than 24 hours’ notice given.
- (d) For operational purposes, a supervisor may require employees to eat at designated restaurants. Employees may be allowed to purchase meals at other nearby locations, and with appropriate receipts shall be reimbursed up to a maximum of \$18 per meal, including tips and taxes.
- (e) The supervisor will determine if individual receipts are necessary or if one person will buy meals for the group and be reimbursed based upon a single receipt.

Section 7.5. - Reserved

Section 7.6. – Reserved

ARTICLE 8 - PREMIUM PAY

Section 8.1. - Shift Differential

- (a) Fixed Shifts. For those employees who work a fixed shift, a shift differential shall be paid for house worked as follows:

- (1) Employees whose shift begins at 12 noon or later and who work a full ten (10) hours shift shall receive a differential increment of five percent (5%) over their base hourly rate of pay.
 - (2) Employees whose fixed shift begins from 3:00 PM through 8:59 PM shall receive a shift differential increment of five percent (5%) over their base hourly rate of pay.
 - (3) Employees whose fixed shift begins 9:00 PM through 4:59 AM shall receive a shift differential increment of seven and one-half percent (7 ½%) over their base hourly rate of pay.
- (b) Rotating Shifts. For those employees who work a rotating shift, a shift differential shall be paid for hours worked as follows:
- (1) Employees working the 4:00 PM – 12 Midnight shift shall receive a shift differential increment of five percent (5%) over their base rate of pay.
 - (2) Employees working the 12 Midnight – 8:00 AM shift shall receive a shift differential increment of seven and one-half percent (7 ½%) over their base rate of pay.
 - (3) Employees working the 11:00 AM to 11:30 PM shift will receive five percent (5%) shift differential for the hours worked between 3:00 PM and 11:30 PM.
 - (4) Employees working the 11:00 PM to 11:30 AM shift will receive a seven and one-half percent (7.5%) shift differential for the hours worked between 11:00 PM and 7:30 AM.
- (c) Current Schedules. Current schedules cannot be changed or altered for the sole purpose of avoiding payment of this premium.

Section 8.2. - Overtime.

- (a) All employees will be paid overtime at the rate of time and one half of their base hourly rate of pay for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in any one-work week.
- (b)
 - (1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, at the option of the employee, in lieu of payment for overtime, the County shall grant compensatory time at a rate of time and one-half for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in one week, not to exceed a total accrual of 120 hours. When scheduling use of compensatory time, the supervisor shall attempt to accommodate the wishes of the employee. Compensatory hours not used within six months of the date that they are earned shall be paid to the employee at the prevailing overtime rate. Compensatory hours can be taken in periods of one-half (1/2) hour or more.
 - (2) Employees who work overtime in work units other than those to which they are normally assigned shall not have the option of accepting compensatory time but shall be paid overtime for the work performed in the other unit.
- (c) Scheduled overtime is overtime which is scheduled at least 48 hours in advance. As provided under rules mutually agreed upon by the Union and the County, if a supervisor is unable to fill a shift with scheduled overtime from within the specific work unit, the supervisor may fill the shift with employees from other work units.

- (d) If an employee at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled to work a shift beginning between 3:00 PM and 8:59 PM on Sunday and is required to stay over to work the following shift, representing a new pay period, the employee shall be paid at a rate of time and one half the employee's base hourly rate of pay for the hour(s) worked during the subsequent contiguous shift.

Section 8.3. - Call-in-Pay

- (a) Employees called in to work hours not contiguous to their regular shift shall be paid a minimum of 4 hours pay at time and one-half. Pay shall start when the employee reports to work.
- (b) Employees officially assigned to stand-by status as defined in Section 8.4 below shall receive minimum call-in pay, in addition to their stand-by pay, for the first call-in during any one stand-by period. Any additional required work time during the same stand-by period shall be paid as overtime (i.e. time and one-half) for actual hours worked.
- (c) Employees not being paid stand-by cannot be disciplined for failure to report or respond to a call-in, except in cases where a bona-fide public safety emergency exists. An emergency can only be declared by an employee whose rank is no lower than Bureau Chief.
- (d) For the purpose of determining call-in pay, if an employee is officially assigned to stand-by status under Section 8.4 below, pay shall start when the employee receives notice to report to work.
- (e) At the request of the employee, in lieu of paid call-in pay, the County shall grant compensatory time equal to the hours earned under this section. All compensatory hours will be subject to the aggregate maximum accrual and terms of use under section 8.2.

Section 8.4. - Stand-by Pay

- (a) An employee who is specifically assigned to stand-by status and scheduled through Central Communications as the Bureau's representative shall be granted two hours of pay at straight time for the stand-by period between his/her regular shifts or for each 24 hours in between his/her regular shifts. On weekends, employees specifically assigned to stand-by status shall be granted three hours of pay at straight time for stand-by period. If the employee works 40 hours in the workweek, then the additional hours will be paid at time-and-one-half. To qualify for stand-by status and pay, the employee must be in immediate communication with the dispatcher and assigned to respond to all emergency calls.
- (b) Being on-call for snow removal or other emergency weather conditions does not qualify for stand-by pay.
- (c) Stand-by pay is in addition to any pay for time actually worked during the stand-by period unless such stand-by pay is in violation of Section 8.7 of this Agreement.
- (d) At the request of the employee, in lieu of paid stand-by pay, the County shall grant compensatory time equal to the hours earned under this section. All compensatory hours will be subject to the aggregate maximum accrual and terms of use under section 8.2.

Section 8.5. – Construction Maintenance Premium

Supervisors who participate in construction assignments with the Bureau of Utilities will receive a one dollar and eighty cents (\$1.80) per hour increase to their base hourly rate of pay during the period that they are assigned to construction maintenance.

Section 8.6. - Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs)

An employee whose regular assigned duty requires that they possess and keep current a CDL will have the annual renewal cost paid by the County.

An additional 60¢ per hour will be paid to an employee for hours worked, if the employee is required to obtain and maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL). The CDL payment is not applicable to overtime or pension calculations.

During FY21, the County will meet with the Union to discuss new CDL regulations and the impact those regulations may have on employees.

The County agrees to modify the Job Descriptions for Supervisors who do not need a CDL as a requirement of their job. The Union will provide a list to the County for review.

Section 8.7. - No Duplication or Pyramiding of Premium Pay

There shall be no duplication or pyramiding in the computation of overtime or other premium wages and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require the payment of overtime more than once for the same hours worked. If more than one of the provisions of this Article shall be applicable to any time worked by an employee; the employee shall be paid for such time at the highest rate specified in any one applicable section, but the employee shall not be entitled to additional pay for such time under any other section.

Section 8.8. – Water Treatment License Premium

A member of the bargaining unit whose job description requires them to possess a valid water operator license will receive an additional \$0.25 per hour for all hours worked and an additional \$0.25 per hour for all hours worked for a valid sewer operator license. If the bargaining unit member possesses both valid licenses, they would receive \$0.50 per hour for all hours worked. The payment is not applicable to pension calculations.

Section 8.9. - Mechanics' Certification Premium

Operations Supervisors working in Fleet who obtain and maintain ASE certifications pertinent to their shop assignment will receive \$.10 per hour for each separate certification maintained. Operations Supervisors working in Fleet who obtain and maintain EVT certifications pertinent to their shop assignments will receive \$.15 per hour for each separate certification maintained. In order to receive the premium, the employee must present a copy of the ASE or EVT Certificate indicating successful completion of the required course(s) and examination(s) and accept assignment to duties that utilize the certification.

Section 8.10. Emergencies

- (a) Some unit members will be required to work during an emergency, which is defined as an unforeseen event or an event requiring critical action that results in the closing of County offices for normal business operations.

- (b) An employee who is required to work during an event under subsection (a) of this section shall be compensated at the regular rate or in compensatory time for hours worked during the employee's regular assigned shift when County offices are closed. An employee shall also be credited with compensatory time or pay equal to the number of hours that County offices were closed. The County shall determine whether compensation under this Subsection shall be pay or compensatory time.

Section 8.11. – Supervisor Pay

- (a) Employees designated to supervise apprentices for the apprenticeship program shall receive an additional \$1.00 per hour added to their regular rate for all hours actively engaged as the direct supervisor of the training employee.

Section 8.12. - Temporary Assignment Pay

Employees who are temporarily assigned to a job classification in a higher pay grade than their regular job classification for a period in excess of six consecutive eight hour days shall be paid for all hours worked in such higher pay grade, beginning with the first day worked, at either five percent (5%) above their regular rate of pay or the minimum rate for the higher pay grade, whichever is greater, provided the Personnel Officer has determined that all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- (1) The position to be filled temporarily is an authorized budgeted position.
- (2) There is no incumbent in the position or the incumbent is absent from duty.
- (3) The assigned employee meets the minimum qualifications for the classification.
- (4) The assigned employee is able to perform all the normal duties expected of a person occupying that position. Employees who are directed to perform duties of a higher classification will be told from the outset whether they will qualify for temporary assignment pay or are being assigned higher duties for training purposes which will be explained to them.

Section 8.13. – Deer Management Program Premium

Members who have obtained and utilized the:

- Maryland NRP Hunter Education Instructor Certification
- Maryland NRP Treestand Safety Certification
- NRA Basic Rifle Certification

And have completed the HCRP Shooter Competency Checklist shall receive an annual stipend of \$2,500 in their base pay calculated as an hourly rate.

Section 8.14. – Court Time

When a unit member is required to make a work-related court appearance or summoned to give a work-related deposition during non-working hours, the employee will be paid at the appropriate overtime rate for all hours, with a minimum of (4) hours.

Section 8.15. – Reserved

ARTICLE 9 - SECONDARY EMPLOYMENT

The County shall not restrict an employee's ability to engage in secondary employment unless such employment interferes with or renders the employee unavailable or unable to perform the duties and responsibilities of the employee's employment position or is deemed a prohibited practice by the County Ethics Commission. Such decision shall be made on a case by case basis. The Union shall be notified whenever an employee is denied the ability to engage in secondary employment. Such denial shall be subject to the grievance procedure; except that a decision of the County Ethics Commission respecting a violation of the County Ethics Law is final and binding upon the County and the employee.

ARTICLE 10 - LEAVE BENEFITS

Section 10.1. - Holidays

- (a) All employees shall be entitled to 13 paid holidays as follows:

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, The Fourth of July, Labor Day, Indigenous People's Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, The Day after Thanksgiving, Christmas Day or as designated by the County Executive.

- (b) Except as provided in paragraph (e) below, if an employee's work schedule is such that the employee is unable to observe a holiday on the specific day established by this section or as designated by the County Executive, the employee will receive his/her regular rate of pay for all hours worked on the holiday plus, at the option of the employee, either

- (i) eight hours of pay at his/her regular rate of pay, or
- (ii) one day of leave.

- (c) An employee who is required to work on a holiday and is given less than 48 hours' notice of such change in his/her schedule will receive double his/her regular rate of pay for all hours worked on the holiday plus, at the option of the employee, either

- (i) eight hours of pay at his/her regular rate, or
- (ii) one day of leave.

- (d) A unit member shall receive one and one half times his/her regular rate of pay for all hours worked on a holiday plus eight hours of pay at his/her regular rate, if the unit member:

- (i) Works rotating shifts or rotating days; and
- (ii) Is a Water Reclamation Plant employee covered under this agreement.

- (e) If an employee's work schedule is such that they are unable to observe Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day (December 25), or the 4th of July (July 4), the unit member will receive time and one half for all hours worked on the holiday plus, at the employee's option, either (i) eight hours of pay at his/her regular rate, or (ii) one day of leave.

- (f) An employee exercising the option to receive one day of leave under paragraph (b), (c), or (e) must do so by notifying the employee's supervisor prior to the pay period in which the holiday falls.

- (g) Holiday pay will not be paid when an employee is on approved leave of absence without pay or

when an employee is directed to report to work and fails to do so.

- (h) Employees placed on standby status for a holiday who are called in on the holiday shall receive double time for any hours worked beyond 4 hours.
- (i) If the County sponsored Fourth of July event is not held on the day the County recognizes the Fourth of July holiday and falls on a members regular day of work, a Department of Recreation and Parks employee who works the County sponsored Fourth of July event shall receive time and half for all hours worked on the event.

Section 10.2. - Annual Leave

- (a) After six continuous months of service, employees shall be entitled to use paid annual leave earned in accordance with the following schedule, which shall be accrued monthly:

Continuous Service	Annual Leave Accrual
Appointment through 5 th year	13 days per year
6 th year through 10 th year	16 days per year
11 th year through 20 th year	19 days per year
21 st year and above	21 days per year

- (b) Employees may carry over no more than 370 hours of annual leave from one fiscal year to the next, except where an employee is required to forego the use of annual leave because of a work emergency, in which case the employee will have until December 31 of the current fiscal year to utilize those hours in excess of 370. Every employee must use a minimum of five days annual leave per fiscal year.
- (c) The rate of pay while an employee is on annual leave shall be the regular straight time rate of pay for the employee's regular job.
- (d) Requests for scheduling annual leave shall be submitted before the Department Head's deadline and will be granted according to seniority where practicable. Those requests submitted after the deadline will be granted as received based on departmental requirements.
- (e) Upon termination of employment, employees with six or more months of continuous service shall be paid any accumulated leave credits minus one day's pay for each day the employee fails to have given the County 10 days minimum notice.
- (f) All employees who request annual leave (vacation) time for two days or less will receive a response from supervision within two normal working days or less after it has been received.
- (g) Annual leave may be taken in periods of one-half (1/2) hour or more.

Section 10.3. - Personal Leave

- (a) Existing employees shall receive seven personal leave days each calendar year.
- (b) Employees hired after April 30 of the calendar year shall receive 4.5 personal leave days for that year.
- (c) Employees hired after August 31 of the calendar year shall receive 2.5 personal leave days for the year.

- (d) Employees hired after November 30 of the calendar year shall not receive any personal leave for that year.
- (e) Personal leave must be taken during the calendar year in which it is granted, upon prior approval of the immediate supervisor, and may be taken in periods of one-half (1/2) hour or more.

Section 10.4. - Disability Leave

- (a) Employees shall earn disability leave at the rate of one working day per month with unlimited accrual. Disability leave shall accrue to the employee's credit for a given month as long as the employee is in pay status and leave balances may be carried over from one fiscal year to the next with no maximum carryover limitation. Disability leave may be taken in periods of one-half (1/2) hour or more.
- (b) Disability leave may be used for the incapacitating illness of an employee, the employee's spouse or the employee's minor child residing in the employee's household.
- (c) Fathers may use up to three days of disability leave related to the birth or adoption of a child.
- (d) Disability leave may be used for medical/dental/optical appointments; to the extent such appointments cannot be scheduled during non-working hours.
- (e) When an employee requests disability leave, he/she shall be required to notify his/her immediate supervisor of the illness or incapacity before the start of the employee's shift on the first day of illness or incapacity and the probable date of return to work.
- (f) When an employee uses more than three consecutive days of disability leave, such absence must be substantiated by a certificate from the treating physician or other licensed practitioner describing the nature of the illness or incapacity, the dates of treatment, which contains a release to return to work outlining any applicable work restrictions. Notwithstanding the above, if the employee's supervisor suspects abuse of disability leave, the employee may be put on notice that a doctor's certificate confirming the nature and extent of the illness or incapacity must be submitted upon the employee's return to work from the next incident of sick leave, even though this may be less than three days. Failure to notify the supervisor of illness, or abuse of disability leave, will be considered sufficient cause for disciplinary action.
- (g) When an employee has been counseled regarding the use and possible abuse of disability leave and improvement has not been noted, the County may require that employee to report to the County's physician each time he/she calls in sick to substantiate such absence. In cases of a documented illness which temporarily incapacitates the employee, that employee will be required to be examined by the County's physician prior to reporting back to work. An employee's failure to do so upon request shall result in being placed in an "absent without leave" status and will result in loss of pay and possible disciplinary action.

Section 10.5. - Worker's Compensation Leave

Eligibility - an employee is eligible for Worker's Compensation Leave if an injury or disease which causes the employee to be disabled is compensable under Maryland Worker's Compensation Law; the employee is completely unable to work at their regular job or modified duty; and the inability to work is supported by sufficient medical evidence.

Medical Appointments - Worker's Compensation Leave shall be authorized for medical appointments if the appointment is at the request of the County or its authorized claims adjuster or the appointment is with the designated medical provider selected by the County.

Modified Duty - Worker's Compensation Leave shall not be authorized if the employee has been offered a temporary modified duty position in accordance with medical restrictions.

Rate - An employee who suffers a compensable work-related injury will receive full pay during the period he/she is disabled to a maximum of 12 months from the date of injury if the employee is evaluated by a County approved medical provider as to the ability to work with or without restrictions. Employees electing not to be evaluated by a County approved medical provider shall receive benefits, if applicable, at the rate established under the Workers' Compensation Laws of Maryland.

After 12 months, the employee is eligible to receive benefits to the extent available under Maryland Workers' Compensation Law.

In the event that the evaluations of the County approved medical provider and the employee's doctor are conflicting with respect to ability to work with or without restrictions, an independent evaluation may be requested by the employee. The physician conducting the independent evaluation will be selected based on mutual agreement of the parties. The cost of the independent evaluation shall be paid by the County. If the independent physician concurs with the opinion of the employee's doctor, the employee shall receive full salary for periods of authorized lost time up to one year from the date of injury, subject to all other provisions of Maryland Worker's Compensation Law. If the independent physician concurs with the opinion of the County approved medical provider that the employee can return to work, no benefits shall be payable.

If at any time during the course of the claim, the employer requests an independent medical exam in accordance with Maryland Worker's Compensation Law, the provision allowing for a third opinion will not apply.

Continuation of Other Benefits - During the period for which an employee is receiving Worker's Compensation Benefits, all health and life insurance premiums and retirement fund contributions shall continue as if the employee was receiving wages. If the employee is receiving Workers' Compensation benefits through a source other than County payroll, the employee will be responsible for reimbursement to the County for the employee's contributions for health and life insurance premiums and will be responsible for other personal payroll deductions.

Use of Accrued Leave - If the employee's Worker's Compensation payments are not payable or are suspended for any reason, the employee may elect to use available annual, personal, or disability leave with the approval of their supervisor, as long as the usual requirements for such leave are met.

Section 10.6. - Jury Leave

Any employee called for jury duty by a State or Federal Court will receive full pay for the time needed to serve.

Section 10.7. - Military Leave

Rate - Paid leave for hours equivalent to two times the employee's weekly hours (maximum).

Authorization - An official copy of military orders must be submitted to the employee's supervisor immediately upon receipt of the orders and prior to commencement of leave.

Limitations - Paid Military Leave benefits are granted time covered by written orders, to a maximum of the above rate. Time off for other military obligations will be granted as annual leave, personal or leave without pay at the request of the employee. In order for leave time to be approved as excused, the County may require documentation of required service dates for leave requested that is not covered by orders which designate the time as Active Duty Training or Active Duty Tour.

Section 10.8. - Bereavement Leave

The Department Head shall grant an employee bereavement leave for a maximum of three consecutive work days following the death of the employee's wife, husband, son, daughter, mother, father, brother, sister, parents-in-law, stepmother, stepfather, grandparent or grandchild. Additionally, upon the death of a brother-in-law or sister-in-law, one day of bereavement leave shall be granted. Bereavement leave shall not be deducted from any other leave earned by the employee. At the discretion of the department head up to 2 days of additional bereavement leave may be granted if the death or funeral occurs out of state.

Section 10.9. - Leave of Absence

The Personnel Officer may grant requests for leave of absence without pay for a period not to exceed one year for each year of this Agreement under such terms and conditions as set forth in the Howard County Employee Manual.

Section 10.10. - Union Leave

- (a) Members of the bargaining Unit shall be granted an aggregate total of 50 days to conduct Union business. Prior approval to use such leave must be obtained based upon a written request approved by the CAO. Such leave shall not be unreasonably denied. Union leave will not be required to attend negotiation sessions. Leave for negotiations will be determined when the ground rules for negotiations are established each negotiating year.
- (b) Donated Leave: The bargaining unit may create and administer a bank of donated annual/personal leave for the purpose of providing additional paid time to conduct Local business. The Union must provide to the County a signed authorization form. In addition to member donated leave, at the end of each fiscal year, the union may roll over any unused union leave into the bank as long as the union leave bank balance does not exceed 100 days. Locals may donate Union leave to another local at its direction. If the leave bank exceeds 100 days, any unused union leave will not carry over into the bank.
- (c) One member of AFSCME Local 1810, 3085 or 3888 shall be appointed to serve as an AFSCME Council 3 Chief Shop Steward. The Chief Shop Steward shall be on full-time leave and responsible for investigating and handling grievances, attending labor management meetings, attending new employee orientation and managing day to day labor management relations. The Chief Shop Steward will remain on the County payroll as a full time active employee and shall maintain all benefits as other full-time personnel employed by the County covered under the CBA to include but not limited to pension accruals, seniority and other fringe benefits. In the event that an emergency impacting the department's mission requiring additional resources of the Chief Shop Steward's work assignment, the County may call the Chief Shop Steward into service for the duration of the said emergency. The Chief Shop Steward will be required to keep all required certifications and attend mandated training for their job classification.
 - a. The President of AFSMCE Council 3 will forward three names for review by the County Chief Administrative Officer.

- b. The County may reject and request a replacement name in the event the individual occupies a position in which an absence would cause undue hardship to the agency in which the member is located.
 - c. The Chief Administrative Officer may use one strike of the three members solicited in their discretion.
 - d. The President of Council 3 will select a Chief Shop Steward from the recommended members not stricken by the Chief Administrative Officer.
 - e. The Chief Shop Steward will serve at the discretion of the President of AFSCME Council 3. If the Chief Shop Steward position becomes vacant, above process will be used to select a new Chief Shop Steward.
- (d) During the first year of the agreement, the Chief Shop Steward will be on half time union leave to be coordinate with the Chief Shop Steward's appointing authority. After the first year of the agreement, the Chief Shop Steward will be subject to the provision of (a) through (c) of this section.

Section 10.11. - Compensatory Leave

When scheduling compensatory leave, the supervisor shall attempt to accommodate the wishes of the employee. Compensatory leave should be requested at least 24 hours in advance, however, supervisors may grant compensatory leave with less notice depending on staffing needs.

ARTICLE 11 - INSURANCE

Section 11.1. - Health Insurance

- (a) During the term of this agreement, members of the bargaining unit shall be eligible for the medical (including vision and prescription drug), dental, life, long term disability, flexible spending accounts and any other insurance benefit programs on the same basis as all other groups of County employees. This includes eligibility for participation, contribution rates, plan coverage, and all other terms and conditions as stipulated in each benefit's governing document.

Consistent with all other groups of County benefit eligible employees, Aetna EPO and Kaiser HMO plans will remain funded at a 90% (employer cost) and 10% (employee cost) and Aetna PPO plans will remain funded at a 85% (employer cost) and 15% (employee cost) for calendar year 2026.

- (b) Health insurance rates for Calendar Year 2025 are provided in Exhibit C.
- (c) Unit members may participate in a pre-tax voluntary benefit program offered by SF&C Select Benefits Communication Group covering critical illness.
- (d) *Bidding.* When it becomes necessary for the County to bid for health insurance coverage, the Union shall be given, on a timely basis, the opportunity to meet with the County to discuss health benefit issues and provide input into the development of bid specifications.
- (e) *Dependent Children Eligibility.* In the managed care options (HMOS), employees' unmarried dependent children are eligible to be enrolled under the County's group medical insurance program until the first of the month following their 25th birthday, regardless of student status.
- (f) *Health Insurance Renewal.* When a multi-year agreement exists with a health care provider, the County will make the Human Resources Administrator, or other County employee who oversees the health care

costs process, available upon request to the Union President to review and offer suggestions prior to establishing the actual Health Care costs for each year.

- (g) *Plan Deductible*. In the event the County implements a change of plan year dates, amounts that employees have accrued toward required deductibles or co-insurances during the partial plan year shall be applied to the deductible required during new plan year.

Section 11.2. - Life Insurance

The County shall provide, at no cost to the employee, basic group life insurance coverage in an amount equal to two times (2x) annual salary.

ARTICLE 12 - PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS

It shall be mandatory for employees to wear the uniforms provided by the County.

Each Department and/or Bureau will determine the proper uniform, color, style and types of clothing to be worn by bargaining unit employees.

Each Department and/or Bureau may choose to purchase or rent uniforms as appropriate. The Department or Bureau may choose to provide a stipend to allow members to purchase designated items from a designated uniform supplier.

At a minimum, each employee requiring a uniform will be provided with one Tee-shirt for each day worked during the normal workweek. Employees in the Department of General Services (Facilities) and the Department of Recreation and Parks will receive tee-shirts with collars

The County will issue either one set of winter coveralls or a winter jacket to each bargaining unit member. Coveralls/winter jackets will be replaced on an as needed basis, depending upon fair wear and tear. With documentation (Loss/Theft Report), jacket/coveralls will be replaced.

The County will have disposable coveralls available at the Water Reclamation Plant to be used, as needed, and protective clothing to other employees as appropriate.

The County will provide full uniform service to Animal Control Officers, Park Rangers, Mechanics, and bargaining unit members within the Bureau of Utilities and Department of General Services (Facilities).

The County will continue its present policy on providing safety eyewear. The County will comply with the Safety Footwear Program as contained in Policy & Procedure 200.6 and will monitor such compliance in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources. The County will pay any additional cost associated with the purchase of safety footwear under the policy that is directly attributable to the fact that the shoe is large.

If the Union determines there is a particular need for a uniform(s) in a work area, it shall present appropriate justification of need to the County in which case the prescribed uniform provided may be adjusted.

ARTICLE 13 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Section 13.1. - Scope

This Article sets forth a grievance procedure, which shall apply and be limited only to questions concerning the interpretation or application of a specific provision of this Agreement. Grievances not covered by the scope of this Agreement may be filed in accordance with Section 1.500, formerly Section 1.121 of the

The order of presentation in all grievance hearings shall be as follows. For grievances resulting from disciplinary actions, the County shall proceed first. For all other grievances, the Union shall proceed first.

Section 13.2. - Election of Remedies

- (a) As an alternative to the grievance procedure set forth in this Article, and except for grievances related to suspension or termination as contemplated in Section 13.4. of this article, an employee may use the grievance procedure provided in Section 1.500 of the Howard County Code and the "Appeals" section of the Howard County Employee Manual. A member may elect only one of these remedies and by electing one procedure automatically, waives the other. The County will not interfere and takes no position as to the Union's determination as to whether an individual unit member is able to elect to present a grievance to the County.
- (b) If a member elects the grievance procedure under this article:
 - (1) Management personnel may communicate with the employee only through the Union or at scheduled grievance proceedings; and
 - (2) A settlement or other resolution of the grievance may be made only with the express approval of the Union.

Section 13.3. - Time Limitations

A grievance covered by this Article must be presented promptly within 10 working days or two weeks after it arises and be processed in accordance with the following steps, time limits and conditions. The parties recognize that the prompt settlement of grievances is important to a sound and harmonious relationship between the Union, the County, and the employees.

The aggrieved employee shall present all grievances at the first step of this grievance procedure or the Union within the time limitation contained herein or they shall be considered waived. If the County fails to give its answer to a grievance within the time limits set forth in any step, the Union and/or employee may appeal the grievance to the next step at the expiration of such time limit.

The time limits prescribed herein may be waived by mutual agreement, in writing, by the parties hereto. A grievance not appealed within the time limits herein set forth shall be considered settled on the basis of the answer provided by the County at the last step of the procedure utilized by the Union or the employee, which answer shall be final and binding upon the aggrieved employee member or the Union.

The parties may, by mutual agreement, waive certain steps and/or extend stated time frames. Such mutual agreement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the parties prior to the expiration of said time frames. In no event may waiver or extension of any time limit hereunder for presentation or appeal be implied by any action or inaction of the County or the Union.

Section 13.4. - Procedural Steps

Step 1

The aggrieved employee, with or without his/her Union representative, shall meet with the lowest level County supervisor capable of resolving the grievance to present the grievance orally. If that supervisor lacks the

authority to resolve the grievance, he/she shall refer the Union or the employee to the appropriate member of management, who may include the original supervisor in the adjustment process. The lowest level supervisor capable of resolving the grievance shall attempt to satisfactorily adjust the matter and reply to the unit member or the Union orally within five working days of the presentation of the grievance.

Step 2

In the event that the supervisor's decision at Step 1 is not satisfactory to the employee or the Union, the employee or the Union may, within 10 working days of receipt of that supervisor's answer at Step 1, present the grievance, in writing, to the Bureau Chief on a form to be supplied by the County. The Bureau Chief shall, within five working days of receipt of the grievance, schedule a meeting to discuss the grievance with the employee and/or the Union and reply to the employee and/or the Union, in writing, within ten working days of the meeting.

Step 3

In the event that the Bureau Chief's decision is not satisfactory to the employee or the Union, the employee or the Union may, within five working days from receipt of the Bureau Chief's answer at Step 2, present the Step 2 grievance form to the Department Head. All grievances concerning suspension or discharge shall begin at this step. The Department Head or his/her designee shall arrange to meet with the employee and/or the Union within five working days after receipt of the grievance, and shall reply to the grievance, in writing, to the employee and/or the Union within five working days of the meeting.

Step 4

In the event that the Department Head's decision is not satisfactory to the employee or to the Union, the employee or the Union may, within five working days from receipt of the Department Head's decision at Step 3, present the grievance form to the Personnel Officer. The Personnel Officer or his/her designee shall arrange to meet with the employee and/or Union within 10 working days after receipt of the grievance. The Personnel Officer shall reply to the grievance, in writing, to the employee and/or the Union within 10 working days of the meeting.

Step 5

Any grievance that has been properly processed through the above procedure and has not been settled at Step 4, may, at the request of the Union, be appealed to binding arbitration.

The Union shall serve written notice of its intention to proceed to binding arbitration upon the Personnel Officer within 14 calendar days of receipt of the Personnel Officer's decision at Step 4.

The County and the Union may use the services of either the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service or the American Arbitration Association. In any event, the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. The Arbitrator shall have no authority to amend, alter or modify any provision of this Agreement or to limit, diminish or in any manner interfere with the authority of the County and its administration as provided by State law and/or County Charter. The written decision of the Arbitrator shall be rendered within 30 days after the hearing and shall be final and binding upon the aggrieved employee, the Union and the County. The cost of arbitration shall be shared equally by the County and the Union except that costs incurred in presenting or defending the grievance to the arbitrator shall be borne by the side incurring the expense.

Section 13.5. - Other Conditions

No reprisals shall be invoked against any employee for filing or processing a grievance.

If an employee is given a directive by a supervisory authority, which he/she believes to be in conflict with a provision of this Agreement, the employee shall comply with the directive at the time it is given, and thereafter, may exercise his/her right to grieve the matter. The employee's compliance with such directive will not prejudice the employee's right to file a grievance, nor will his/her compliance affect the resolution of the grievance.

The County may present a grievance to the Union, in writing, at Step 5 of this procedure provided that it has filed a notice of intent with the Local 3888 President. The notice of intent, outlining the details of the complaint, must be presented 30 days prior to filing the demand for arbitration.

Section 13.6. - Class Action Grievance

If such grievances affect a group or class of employees involving two (2) or more employees, the Union or the employees may submit such grievances in writing to the respective Director. The processing of class action grievances shall commence at Step 3. An employee may elect to file an individual grievance and thus not participate in the class action grievance.

ARTICLE 14 - PERSONNEL FILES

Section 14.1. - Employee Access

The Personnel Officer shall permit inspection of an employee's personnel file as provided by law. All personnel records shall be treated as confidential information. Employees with or without Union representation shall have access to their individual personnel files by prior appointment with the Personnel Office. Presuming there will be no abuse, employees who do not work at the main County office complex will be allowed, with prior supervisory approval, to inspect their personnel files during their normal work day. All items contained in such file shall be available for review and copy with the exception of outside confidential references relating to original employment or promotion.

Section 14.2. - Removal of Information

Any correspondence related to disciplinary action may be removed from the employee's personnel file if requested in writing by the employee, provided two (2) years have elapsed since the most recent entry.

Section 14.3. - Employee Additions

Employees shall have the right to respond in writing to any information contained in their personnel file, which will be kept in said file.

ARTICLE 15 – SAFETY

- (a) The County agrees to continue to follow its current safety policy as set forth in the County's Safety and Health Manual and Policy and Procedure 200.1. Additionally, a Union representative selected by the Union shall be allowed to sit as a member of Departmental or Bureau Safety committees.
- (b) If an employee believes a violation of Policy and Procedure 200.1 or other workplace-related safety law or regulation has occurred, the employee shall immediately notify his or her

supervisor. A supervisor with authority to address the situation shall complete an investigation of the report within 24 hours of receipt and shall take any remedial action deemed necessary.

- (c) The Union President or designee shall be notified of a safety violation reported to MOSHA or OSHA. The Union President or designee shall be permitted to accompany the safety inspector responding to investigate a reported safety condition. Upon request, the Union shall receive copies of report findings from any Health and Safety inspection provided they are available for inspection pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act.
- (d) The County will establish an accident/incident review board by 7.1.2026. AFSCME shall designate a member to sit on this board.
- (e) The Office of Risk Management, through the Office of Human Resources, will develop a Union Safety Committee that will meet monthly. The Office of Risk Management shall develop an outline of an expanded Safety Program and send to the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Shop Steward by January 5, 2026. The Chief Shop Steward shall provide comments to the Chief Administrative Officer by February 5, 2026. The Chief Administrative Officer shall review the comments by the Chief Shop Steward and decide within 30 days whether to accept, amend, or deny the proposal.
- (f) Workplace Violence

AFSCME Council 3 (Local 3085, Local 3088, 1810) supports the Violence policy of Howard County, Maryland. Both parties remain committed that all employees shall have the right to work in an environment which is free of harassment, threats, intimidation or violence. Such behavior, in any form, will not be tolerated in the workplace.

No employee shall:

- Harass, Threaten or commit any violent act against another person or employee;
- Intentionally or maliciously damage or destroy the property of another person or employee;
- Bring weapons of any kind onto County property without written permission from an Appointing
- Authority, except that law enforcement personnel may possess weapons which are legally authorized.
- The Risk Management Office, through the Office of Human Resources, shall establish a workplace violence training curriculum for new and current employees by December 31, 2025.

- (g) Reproductive Hazard

Any pregnant employee assigned to work in an environment that may be harmful to pregnancy or to the fetus may make a reasonable accommodation request to the Office of Human Resources.

ARTICLE 16 - TOOL REPLACEMENT

Based on a recorded and approved inventory, the County will provide replacement in-kind for tools stolen from

Operations Supervisors working in Fleet who are required to purchase the necessary tools to perform their jobs. A departmental form or Police Report must be filed by the employee to be eligible for recovery. Additionally, for these same employees and subject to prior approval, worn tools will be replaced in like kind. Supervisors, upon request may approve upgraded replacement of tools. All replacements will be initiated by reimbursement to the employee upon submission of a receipt. The employee will be required to turn in the worn tool.

ARTICLE 17 - USE OF TELEPHONES

Presuming there will be no abuse, a unit member may use County telephones or the County email system, on the clock, to contact the Union representative, President, or Shop Steward or to post unit messages when a grievance occurs and the contact is needed. The supervisor must be informed that the contact will be made. If abuse occurs, the County reserves the right at its option, after five days' notice to the Union, to withdraw this permission.

The County cell phone policy in effect on March 1, 2016, as attached in Exhibit F, shall remain in effect for the duration of this agreement. This paragraph shall remain in effect through June 30, 2018.

ARTICLE 18 - Reserved

ARTICLE 19 - PROMOTIONS

Section 19.1. - Vacancies

Vacancies in higher positions shall be filled by promotion, as far as practicable, from the lower classes, provided that the filling of such vacancy thereby will enhance governmental efficiency and be compatible with the intent and spirit of the County's Affirmative Action Program. The County encourages employees to develop skills and attain greater knowledge of their work, and to make known their qualifications for more responsible and different work. No employee shall be required to obtain the permission of his immediate supervisor or appointing authority before applying to the Personnel Administrator for a promotion and/or transfer between departments; however, upon receipt of any such application, the Personnel Administrator shall give immediate notice of same to the applicant's present department head. In the event that personnel on the promotional list and replacement list have substantially the same qualifications as personnel on the open competitive file, they shall be given preference in the placement on the qualifying register, except where such preference conflicts with the intent of the Affirmative Action Program.

Section 19.2. - Work Standards – Trial Period

When an employee has been promoted and does not meet departmental work standards in the higher position, he may be demoted prior to the end of the trial period, without prejudice, to a position in a class equal to the same pay level held prior to promotion. In such cases, his/her pay shall be restored to the rate, plus general pay plan changes, in effect as though the promotion had not been granted.

Section 19.3. - Demotions

In such cases, an effort shall be made to place the employee being demoted in a vacant position so as not to interfere with those promotions, which were made possible by his promotion. An employee who is selected and promoted to a vacant or newly created position and is rejected due to his inability to carry out the responsibilities of the new position, shall be assigned to a vacant or newly created position by the appointing authority, subject to Personnel Officer approval, at the same pay level held prior to promotion, plus general pay plan changes. In the event there is no available position of the same or comparable grade, the employee's name will be placed on an eligibility list for 12 months.

Section 19.4. - Job Announcements

Howard County job opportunities are available online at:

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/howardcounty/default.cfm> and hard copies of announcements will be provided to any requesting unit member through either their timekeeper or the office of human resources.

Section 19.5. – Employee Framework for Success

AFSCME Council 3 (Local 3085, Local 3088, 1810) supports the mission of Howard County, Maryland which fosters an environment that welcomes and accepts diversity within the County. Both parties are committed to: (1) maintaining an inclusive, productive, supportive, open, innovative, and challenging workplace environment in which every individual is valued for his or her unique characteristics; (2) fostering respect, understanding, and acceptance of differences; and (3) enabling employees to be positive and creative, and to reach their full potential, thus enhancing the relationships among ourselves and optimizing the quality of services to our residents and our fellow employees.

ARTICLE 20 – LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The County and the Union agree to establish a Labor-Management Committee to discuss issues related to take-home vehicles. The Committee Chair shall submit any Committee recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer.

ARTICLE 21 - PENSION

The County shall provide a defined benefit pension plan as provided by the Howard County Code for members of AFSCME Local 3888.

The County agrees to fund a joint pension study with AFSCME Local's 1810, 3888, 3085 to determine a prospective enhanced retirement plan for bargaining unit members. The pension study shall include the study of enhancements multipliers of 1.85% and 2.0%. The Chief Shop Steward on behalf of the AFSCME Locals will forward for consideration, their preferred proposal to the Chief Administrative Officer. If approved by the Chief Administrative Officer, legislation will be submitted to the Pension Oversight Commission (POC) for approval and if approved by the POC to the County Council for approval.

As provided in Section 1.455(a)(5) of the Howard County Code (Retirement Plan Committee), a representative of Local 3085 shall be a member of the Retirement Plan Committee of the Howard County Retirement Plan. AFSCME Local 3085, Local 3888, and Local 1810 have requested that legislation be submitted to amend 1.455(a)(5) of the Howard County Code to allow a member from any of the aforementioned Locals to serve as a member of the Retirement Plan Committee instead of only a member from Local 3085 as designated by AFSCME Council 3. The County agrees to submit legislation reflecting this amendment.

ARTICLE 22 - NO STRIKE OR LOCKOUT CLAUSE

Section 22.1. - No Strikes

For the duration of this Agreement, the Union, its officers, representatives, stewards and members, and the employees covered by this Agreement, shall not in any way, directly or indirectly, individually or concertedly engage in, initiate, sponsor, support, direct, ratify or condone any strike, sympathy strike, sit-down, secondary boycott, or picketing, which interferes with or interrupts the County's operations, to include but not limited to the individual or concerted failure to report for duty, willful absence from one's position, stoppage or slowdown of work, or abstinence in whole or in part from the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of

employment. In the event of a violation of this Article, the Union shall, immediately upon learning of such activity, publicly disavow such action by the employees and shall so advise the County and the employees involved in writing.

In the event of any violation of this Article, the County Executive may, in addition to any other remedy or right of the County, take any or all of the following actions he deems necessary in the public interest:

- (1) Imposition of disciplinary action, including removal from County service of employees engaged in such illegal conduct;
- (2) Termination of the Union's dues deduction privilege, if any;
- (3) Revocation of the Union's exclusive representation certification and disqualification of the Union from participation in representation elections for a period up to a maximum of two years.

Any grievance involving disciplinary action against an employee charged with a violation of this Article shall be limited to the question of whether such a violation occurred.

Section 22.2. - No Lockouts

The County shall not, under any circumstances, engage in, initiate or direct a lockout of County employees.

ARTICLE 23 – DURATION AND FINALITY OF AGREEMENT

- (a) This Agreement shall become effective as of July 1, 2025 12:01 AM, and remain in full force and effect until midnight, June 30, 2027.
- (b) It is understood that this Agreement can only be added to, amended, or modified by a document in writing, signed on behalf of the parties hereto by their duly authorized officers and representatives, after negotiations mutually agreed to by the County and the Union.
- (c) The parties acknowledge that this Agreement represents the complete Agreement arrived at as a result of negotiations during which both had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any negotiable subject or matter. Any subject or matter referred to or covered or not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement shall be negotiable only by mutual consent for the duration of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 24 - SAVINGS CLAUSE

Any Article or Section of this Agreement found to be in conflict with the Howard County Charter or with any law, ordinance, statute, County or government regulation or declared invalid by decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, will be null and void and the parties will enter into negotiations for a substitute provision. All other Articles and Sections of this Agreement will remain in full force and effect for the duration of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 25 - SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

The County Executive will make a submission to the County Council, in accordance with Section 1.606 of the Howard County Code as soon as possible following ratification by the Union members.

In witness whereof, the parties have executed this Memorandum of Agreement, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

**HOWARD COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND:**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Calvin Ball

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Brandee Ganz

COUNTY SOLICITOR
Gary W. Kuc

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR
Sean Malone, Esq.

DIRECTOR OF RECREATION & PARKS
Nicholas Mooneyhan

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
Yosef Kebede

HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
Anju Bennett

TEAM MEMBER
Jamar Herry

TEAM MEMBER
Raul Delerme

TEAM MEMBER
Dawn Tinker

UNION (Local 3888):

CHIEF NEGOTIATOR
Stuart Katzenburg, AFSCME Council 3

CHIEF SHOP STEWART
William Chenowith

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
Bradley Hoagland

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER
Kevin Hill

PRESIDENT, COUNCIL 3 AFSCME
Patrick Moran

EXHIBIT A

**OS SCHEDULE:
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - LOCAL 3888 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026***

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
I		\$32.03	\$32.99	\$34.02	\$35.02	\$36.10	\$37.18	\$38.27	\$39.46	\$40.70	\$41.92	\$43.19	\$44.49	\$45.85	\$47.24	\$48.65	\$50.13	\$51.62	\$53.17	\$54.77	\$56.41	\$58.09
		\$66,629	\$68,621	\$70,763	\$72,842	\$75,091	\$77,341	\$79,612	\$82,075	\$84,646	\$87,196	\$89,831	\$92,530	\$95,358	\$98,250	\$101,186	\$104,271	\$107,377	\$110,591	\$113,911	\$117,339	\$120,831
J		\$35.46	\$36.52	\$37.63	\$38.79	\$39.92	\$41.18	\$42.43	\$43.70	\$45.06	\$46.44	\$47.83	\$49.28	\$50.80	\$52.31	\$53.89	\$55.50	\$57.15	\$58.85	\$60.62	\$62.44	\$64.31
		\$73,763	\$75,970	\$78,262	\$80,683	\$83,039	\$85,653	\$88,245	\$90,902	\$93,730	\$96,601	\$99,493	\$102,492	\$105,663	\$108,812	\$112,090	\$115,433	\$118,882	\$122,417	\$126,080	\$129,872	\$133,771

NOTE:

* THE PAY PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PAY PERIOD IN WHICH JANUARY 1, 2026, FALLS.

EXHIBIT B

**OS SCHEDULE:
OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - LOCAL 3888 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2027***

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
I		\$32.67	\$33.65	\$34.70	\$35.72	\$36.82	\$37.93	\$39.04	\$40.25	\$41.51	\$42.76	\$44.05	\$45.38	\$46.76	\$48.18	\$49.62	\$51.13	\$52.66	\$54.23	\$55.86	\$57.54	\$59.25
		\$67,961	\$69,993	\$72,179	\$74,298	\$76,593	\$78,887	\$81,204	\$83,717	\$86,339	\$88,940	\$91,627	\$94,381	\$97,265	\$100,215	\$103,209	\$106,356	\$109,525	\$112,803	\$116,190	\$119,686	\$123,248
J		\$36.17	\$37.25	\$38.38	\$39.57	\$40.72	\$42.00	\$43.27	\$44.58	\$45.96	\$47.37	\$48.79	\$50.26	\$51.82	\$53.36	\$54.97	\$56.61	\$58.30	\$60.03	\$61.83	\$63.69	\$65.60
		\$75,238	\$77,489	\$79,827	\$82,296	\$84,700	\$87,366	\$90,010	\$92,720	\$95,605	\$98,533	\$101,483	\$104,542	\$107,776	\$110,989	\$114,332	\$117,741	\$121,259	\$124,865	\$128,602	\$132,470	\$136,447

NOTE:

* THE PAY PLAN WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PAY PERIOD IN WHICH JANUARY 1, 2027, FALLS.

EXHIBIT D

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT PLAN YEAR: JANUARY 1, 2025 - DECEMBER 31, 2025

Plan Option & Enrollment Tier	2025 Full Monthly Premium	2025 Benefitted Employee Working min. 20 hours per week Semi-Monthly (24 pays)	2025 Contingent Employee Working min. 30 hours per week Semi-Monthly (24 pays)
Aetna Open Choice PPO	85% County-Paid		
Employee	\$947.94	\$71.50	
Employee & Spouse	\$2,180.27	\$164.00	
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,658.89	\$124.50	
Family	\$2,701.63	\$203.00	
Aetna Open Access Select	90% County-Paid		
Employee	\$802.89	\$40.00	
Employee & Spouse	\$1,846.65	\$93.00	
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,501.42	\$75.50	
Family	\$2,376.58	\$119.50	
Kaiser HMO	90% County-Paid		
Employee	\$705.66	\$35.50	\$35.50
Employee & Spouse	\$1,623.02	\$81.00	\$81.00
Employee & Child(ren)	\$1,340.75	\$67.50	\$67.50
Family	\$2,116.98	\$106.00	\$106.00
VSP Vision PPO	85% County-Paid		
Employee	\$6.91	\$0.50	
Employee & Spouse	\$15.97	\$1.00	
Employee & Child(ren)	\$12.50	\$1.00	
Family	\$20.04	\$1.50	
Delta Dental PPO Plus	75% County-Paid		
Employee	\$38.93	\$5.00	
Employee & Spouse	\$84.36	\$11.00	
Employee & Child(ren)	\$64.89	\$8.50	
Family	\$103.82	\$13.00	
Delta Dental DHMO	75% County-Paid		
Employee	\$13.81	\$2.00	
Employee & Spouse	\$25.86	\$3.50	
Employee & Child(ren)	\$25.86	\$3.50	
Family	\$33.38	\$4.50	
The Standard Supplemental Life Insurance			
Attained Age per \$1,000 of coverage			
under 25	\$0.050	\$0.050	
25 - 29	\$0.060	\$0.060	
30 - 34	\$0.080	\$0.080	
35 - 39	\$0.090	\$0.090	
40 - 44	\$0.100	\$0.100	
45 - 49	\$0.190	\$0.190	
50 - 54	\$0.330	\$0.330	
55 - 59	\$0.430	\$0.430	
60 - 64	\$0.660	\$0.660	
65 - 69	\$1.270	\$1.270	
70 +	\$2.060	\$2.060	
The Standard Dependent Life Insurance			
\$20,000 benefit on spouse \$10,000 benefit on child(ren)	\$2.00 per month or \$1.00 per pay	\$2.00 per month or \$1.00 per pay	