

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	May 6, 2025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent	<input type="checkbox"/> Regular
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing
Department:			
Submitted By:	Human Resources		
Submitted For:	Human Resources		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title:** Staff recommends motion to receive and file: The Labor-Management Bargaining Agreement (Agreement) between the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners (County) and the Communication Workers of America (CWA), Local 3181, effective October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. The Agreement covers compensation, leave benefits, and employment rules for more than 1,300 County employees. The previous Agreement was in place from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2024.

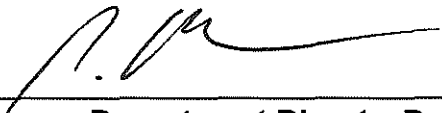
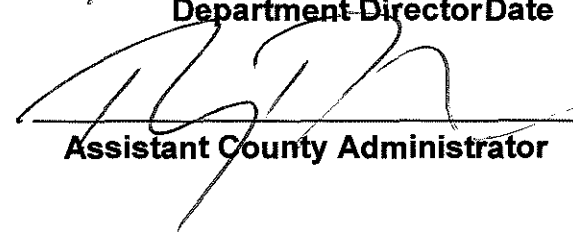
**Summary:** The County and the CWA have concluded contract negotiations with the production of the attached successor Agreement to the recently expired Labor-Management Agreement, which was in effect from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2024. The Agreement provides for a retroactive six percent (6%) wage increase on October 1, 2024. The CWA ratified the agreement on March 8, 2025. The wage increase for the current fiscal year has already been budgeted and approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the March 11, 2025 meeting. This Agreement is for one (1) year concluding on September 30, 2025. Countywide (DO)

**Background and Justification:** The Communication Workers of America, Local 3181, is the first bargaining unit to represent County employees with the original Agreement negotiated in 1982. The unit represents the County's trades employees, and skilled and semi-skilled blue collar workforce. Pursuant to Florida Statutes 447 any collective bargaining agreement shall not provide for a term of existence of more than three (3) years. As such, this item seeks BCC ratification of the negotiated agreement.

Attachments:

- 1. October 1, 2024 CWA Labor-Management Agreement

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Recommended by:		4/23/25
	Department Director	Date
Approved By:		4/23/25
	Assistant County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Capital Expenditures					
Operating Costs	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
External Revenues					
Program Income(County)					
In-Kind Match(County)					
NET FISCAL IMPACT	\$0				
#ADDITIONAL FTE					
POSITIONS (CUMULATIVE					

Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes ☒ No ☐  
Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes ☐ No ☒  
Does this item include the use of state funds? Yes ☐ No ☒

Budget Account No: Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Object \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

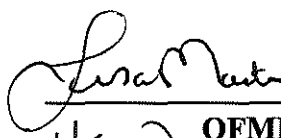
B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

The FY 2024 of the ATB increase is 6%, has already been budgeted and approved by the Board in the current budget. This increase was the same afforded to non-represented employees. Funding included in the General Fund.

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: \_\_\_\_\_

III. REVIEW COMMENTS:

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

  
4/30/2025  
OFMB 4/30

  
4/30/25  
Contract Dev. & Control

B. Legal Sufficiency

  
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review

  
Department Director

# Labor Management Agreement

Between



**Communications Workers  
of America**  
AFL – CIO – CLC  
Local #3181



**Palm Beach County  
Board of County  
Commissioners**



**October 1, 2024  
to  
September 30, 2025**



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PREAMBLE

This Agreement is entered into by and between Palm Beach County, hereinafter referred to as the County, and Local 3181, Communications Workers of America, hereinafter referred to as the Union, for the purpose of establishing an orderly and peaceful procedure for good faith labor relations, providing an orderly and prompt method for handling grievances, and setting forth the basic and full agreement between the parties concerning wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment.

**ARTICLE 1**

**Recognition and Bargaining Unit**

Section 1. The County recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent with respect to wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment required by Florida law to be negotiated, for the employees within the bargaining unit as defined in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 2. The recognized unit includes all full-time and part-time employees in permanent positions certified by the Public Employees Relations Commission on May 12, 1981, as amended thereto by the parties, and as set forth in Exhibit A, effective the date of this Agreement. Excluded from the unit are the following: on-call, student, substitute or other types of temporary employment.



## ARTICLE 2

### General Provisions

Section 1. It is the intent and purpose of the parties hereto to promote the efficient administration of Palm Beach County Government in the public interest and for the well-being of its employees.

Neither the Union nor the County shall discriminate against any employee covered by this Agreement on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, ancestry, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or genetic information. The County and the Union mutually agree to support the Affirmative Action Program of the County. Charges of discrimination by an employee against the County, its officers, or representatives must be filed with any appropriate agency having jurisdiction of such charge, and are not subject to the grievance procedure under this Agreement.

Employees in the bargaining unit shall have the right to form, join and participate in, or to refrain from forming, joining or participating in the Union. Neither the County nor the Union will discriminate against any employee in regard thereto.

Section 2. This Agreement applies only to bargaining unit employees and does not cover or impact in any manner upon persons or positions outside the certification of exclusive recognition.

Section 3. As of the effective date of this Agreement, all past practices which conflict with the provisions of the Agreement have no binding effect and do not constitute precedents for future action.

Section 4. The County Graphics Division bargaining unit workers will reproduce copies of this Agreement for use by unit employees and management personnel. The County and the Union shall share the cost of printing the Agreement.

Section 5. References to days in this Agreement shall mean calendar days unless otherwise specified.

Section 6. For purposes of disciplinary action, a one to five day suspension shall be eight (8) to forty (40) hours and a six (6) to ten (10) day suspension shall be forty-eight (48) to eighty (80) hours. For purposes of grievance and disciplinary time frames, workdays are Monday through Friday, excluding holidays and weekends.

Section 7. Leave approval forms are required for all absences. Management

[REDACTED]

will approve or disapprove all leave requests for paid time off by the end of the workday for requests of one (1) day. Requests are to be submitted to the appropriate supervisor with authority to approve or disapprove no later than the beginning of the work shift the day before the requested day off. Management will approve or disapprove leave requests of more than one (1) day within 48 hours of receipt. If management fails to respond within the time limits specified above, the requested leave is automatically granted. This does not supersede Departmental and Merit Rule requirements for notice. The use of this leave will not be used against an employee for any reason.

Section 8. New Employee On-Boarding: One Union Representative will be allowed to attend the New Employee On-Boarding and will be allowed to have 10 minutes to make a presentation. The union will be notified by the County as to the dates and times of the on-boarding. The Union representative attending will be paid by the County.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Payroll Deduction of Union Dues**

Striked from Collective Bargaining Agreement per SB No. 256 or  
F.S.S. 447.303

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ARTICLE  
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ARTICLE 4

Grievance Procedure

Section 1. Definition. For the purpose of this Agreement, a grievance is any dispute or difference of opinion between the County and the Union, or between the County and any of its employees covered by this Agreement, involving the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Agreement; or the written reprimand, suspension, or discharge of an employee covered by this Agreement. Disputes concerning the meaning or application of any rules, regulations, ordinances, laws or policies not specifically contained within this Agreement are not subject to the grievance procedure set forth below except for their application in a case of discipline or discharge.

Section 2. Both parties endorse the concept that individual grievances should be resolved at the lowest possible level of management.

Section 3. Procedures: Grievances shall be handled in the following manner:

a. Individual Employee Grievances:

Step 1: Any employee who believes s/he has a grievance shall present it to the Division Head or designee in writing on a form to be supplied by the Union to include the following (See Section 4, Time Limit for Filing):

- (a) the employee’s name and signature;
- (b) date of alleged incident giving rise to the grievance;
- (c) all known relevant information concerning the grievance;
- (d) provision of the Agreement allegedly violated;
- (e) relief sought by the employee;

The referral to this level of management must be made within fifteen (15) working days after the event giving rise to the grievance or within fifteen (15) working days after the employee, through the use of reasonable diligence, should have obtained knowledge of the occurrence of the event. The Division Head or designee shall meet with the grievant, investigate and give consideration to available facts, and consult with any other person(s) he/she believes may be able to help resolve the matter. The Division Head or designee shall reply in writing stating all known relevant information on which the decision was based within fifteen (15) working days of the meeting.

Step 2: If the grievance is not settled satisfactorily in Step 1 above, it may be referred by the grieving employee(s) to the department head or designee within fifteen (15) working days after the first step answer is given or the time by which the first step answer should have been given if not provided. If requested, the department head or designee will meet with the grievant. The department head or designee shall reply in writing stating all known relevant information on which the decision was based within fifteen (15) working days of the meeting.

Step 3: If the grievance is not settled satisfactorily in Step 2 above, it may be referred by the grieving employee(s) to the Director of Human Resources within fifteen (15) working days after the second Step answer is given or the time by which the second Step answer should have been given if not provided. The Director of Human Resources or his/her designee shall meet with the grievant within thirty (30) working days of receipt of the grievance and shall reply in writing stating all known relevant information on which the decision was based within fifteen (15) working days of the meeting. If for any reason, the Director of Human Resources or designee fails to reply within the fifteen (15) working days of the meeting with the grievant, the grievance shall be deemed denied

**b. Class Action or Union Grievances:**

The Union may file a class action grievance on behalf of several employees or a grievance relating to contract language disputes. Such grievances shall be filed at Step 3 of the grievance procedure within fifteen (15) working days after the Union/Grievant, through the use of reasonable diligence, should have obtained knowledge of the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance.

Step 4: If the grievance is not settled in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the Union/Grievant may invoke arbitration by sending a Notice to Arbitrate to the Human Resources Director or designee, within thirty (30) working days after receipt of the Director of Human Resources decision, or (30) working days after the date that the grievance is deemed denied, whichever occurs first.

Within fifteen (15) working days of sending Notice of Intent to

[REDACTED]

arbitrate, Union/Grievant shall request a list of at least five (5) arbitrators from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Unless formally agreed upon by both parties in writing, failure to meet within the specified timeframe will result in the grievance being denied and the Union's right to pursue the matter deemed waived.

The parties shall meet within (twenty) 20 working days upon receipt of the list and, if unable to agree upon an arbitrator, shall choose an arbitrator from the list by alternate striking of names, two at a time with the Union striking first. The arbitrator should be notified of his/her selection by a joint letter from the County and the Union requesting that s/he set a time and place for the hearing subject to availability of the County and Union representatives.

Each party is allowed one cancellation of a scheduled arbitration and any associated costs will be shared equally by the parties. Any associated costs for additional requests to cancel will be fully paid by the cancelling party. If an employee is reinstated by the arbitrator and if back pay/benefits is awarded, the award will be calculated from the originally scheduled arbitration date, except for any cancellation unilaterally requested by the County

The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to or subtract from the provisions of this Agreement. In a discipline case, s/he shall not have the right to modify the degree of discipline if just cause for any discipline has been found, unless the discipline is not provided for in the Merit Rule Disciplinary Guidelines. S/He shall consider and decide only the particular issue presented in writing by the County and the Union and his/her decision and award shall be based solely upon interpretation of the meaning or application of the terms of this Agreement to the facts of the grievance presented. If the matter sought to be arbitrated does not involve an interpretation of the express terms or provisions of this Agreement, the arbitrator shall so rule in his/her award and the matter shall not be further entertained by the arbitrator. The fee and expenses of the arbitrator shall be divided equally between the parties. In no event shall an award be retroactive to a date more than fifteen (15) working days prior to the date of the filing of the grievance.

Where the Union is not a party and does not represent the aggrieved non-member in the arbitration proceedings, the grievant must deposit, twenty (20) days prior to the Arbitration Hearing, in a County escrow account, a sum equal to the estimated cost of the compensation and expenses of the arbitrator. Each party shall bear all costs of preparing and presenting its own case. Either party desiring a record of the proceedings shall pay for the record and/or stenographic services. The County will require the grievant to make the appropriate deposit by cash, money order, or certified check, to be held by the County in escrow toward payment of the arbitration costs. If there is a dispute as to the appropriate deposit, said dispute shall be submitted, in writing, to the arbitrator for resolution prior to the hearing.

c. Expedited Arbitration:

Any grievance of a disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, except those grievances that also involve one or more issues of arbitrability or contract interpretation, may be submitted by either party to expedited arbitration by notifying the other party in writing within thirty (30) working days after the filing of a request for arbitration by the Union.

For expedited arbitration of grievances involving termination of employment, any decision by the arbitrator to award back pay or benefits shall be based on the time period from the effective date of the grievant's termination up to the date of the arbitrator's decision, not to exceed six (6) months from the effective date of the Human Resources Director's final written response at Step 4 or the effective date that the grievance is deemed denied.

In cases of termination, either party may notify the other party in writing within thirty (30) working days after receiving written notice of the other party's election to submit the grievance to expedited arbitration that they elect not to go to expedited arbitration. If such an election is made, the grievance will not be submitted to expedited arbitration.

A panel of five (5) arbitrators will be selected and agreed upon by the parties. Each arbitrator will serve until his or her services are

terminated by written notice from either party to the other party. The arbitrator will be notified that his or her services are terminated by a joint letter from both parties. The arbitrator will conclude his or her services by deciding any grievances heard by the arbitrator before the date of the joint letter notifying him or her of termination of services. A successor arbitrator will be selected and agreed upon by the parties.

Arbitrators will be assigned grievances in rotating order designated and agreed upon by the parties. If a grievance is postponed after an arbitrator has been assigned, the grievance will continue to be assigned to the same arbitrator.

If an arbitrator is not available for a hearing within thirty (30) working days after receiving an assignment, the grievance will be assigned to another arbitrator agreed upon by both parties.

d. Procedure for Expedited Arbitration

The parties will notify the arbitrator by joint letter of the intent to proceed to expedited arbitration. The arbitrator and the parties will agree to a hearing date.

Before the hearing, the parties may submit to the arbitrator a joint stipulation of any facts that the parties agree are not in dispute.

The hearing will be generally conducted the same as any other arbitration hearing. The hearing will be informal without formal rules of evidence. However, the arbitrator must be satisfied that the evidence submitted is relevant and of a type on which he or she can reasonably rely, that the hearing is in all respects a fair one, and that all facts reasonably obtainable and necessary for a fair decision are brought before the arbitrator.

A transcript of the hearing is not required. However, either party at the party's own expense, may order a court reporter to attend the hearing. If either party orders a transcript of the hearing, the other party may obtain a copy of the transcript of the hearing upon payment of half the cost of the transcript.

Upon completion of the arbitration hearing, the arbitrator will render



a bench decision consistent with and pursuant to this Agreement, including but not limited to Article 4.

The decision of the arbitrator will determine the grievance; however, it will only apply to the grievance being arbitrated and will not set practice or precedent.

The time limits above may be extended by written agreement of the parties or at the arbitrator's request.

The decision of the arbitrator will settle the grievance, and the County, Union and Grievant agree to abide by such decision. The compensation and expenses of the arbitrator and the general expenses of the arbitration will be borne by the County and the Union in equal parts. Each party will bear the expense of its representatives and witnesses.

Any expenses incurred or fees charged by the arbitrator because of one party's unilateral cancellation or postponement of an expedited arbitration hearing will be borne by the party requesting such cancellation or postponement in accordance with Section 3b above.

All provisions of the Agreement, including but not limited to Article 4, that are not specifically in conflict with the expedited arbitration provisions above shall remain in full force and effect for, and apply to, any grievance submitted to expedited arbitration.

**Section 4. Time Limit for Filing.** No grievance shall be entertained or processed unless it is submitted to the County at Step 1 above within fifteen (15) working days after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance, or within fifteen (15) working days after the employee, through the use of reasonable diligence, should have obtained knowledge of the occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance. If the grievance is the result of a discharge \*, the grievance must be submitted only to Step 3 within the time frame specified above. Newly hired employees serving a probationary period may grieve termination during probation only to Step 3 of the grievance procedure.

**Section 5. Time Limits for Appeal.** A grievance must be filed and appealed within the time limits set forth above or the grievance shall be considered withdrawn. Any grievance not timely answered by the County shall be deemed denied and immediately grievable to the next step. Waiver of these time limits may

only be accomplished by mutual agreement in writing. Steps one and two may also be waived in writing and time limits will commence from the date of the waiver accordingly.

Section 6. Union Representation. Employees who are grieving discipline must be present at all step meetings, and may also be represented by a Union representative at any step of the grievance procedure if they choose.

Section 7. Nothing in this grievance procedure shall be construed to prevent any employee from presenting, at any time, his/her own grievances, in person or by legal counsel, and having such grievances adjusted without the intervention of the Union, if the adjustment is not inconsistent with the terms of the Agreement and if the Union has been given reasonable opportunity to be present at any meeting called for the resolution of such grievances.

After an employee(s) has referred a grievance to the Union and the Union representative has informed the County that the Union represents said employee(s), the County will not discuss (except in the course of any investigation conducted by the County) or adjust such grievance directly with said employee(s).

Section 8. Time Limit for Issuing Discipline. In the event management determines that there is or may be cause to discipline an employee for any reason, management shall either impose discipline or notify the employee of its intent in writing to investigate the occurrence giving rise to the possible discipline within thirty (30) working days of the occurrence, or the date on which management first became aware of the occurrence, whichever date is later. After notification of intent to investigate, management must impose discipline within forty-five (45) working days of the notice. If management fails to meet the time limits specified above, no discipline shall be imposed on the employee for the occurrence.

Section 9. Waiver of Personnel Appeals Board or Employee Grievance Committee Appeals. Any matter defined as a grievance in Section 1 of this Agreement may only be processed through the grievance procedure of this Agreement and may not be appealed to the Personnel Appeals Board or through the County's Merit System Grievance Procedure. Employees covered by this Agreement hereby waive any right to resort to the Personnel Appeals Board or to the County Merit System Grievance Procedure concerning any matter defined in this Agreement as a grievance.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Union Representatives**

Section 1. Designation of Representatives. The Union shall have the right to designate a maximum of thirty-five (35) employees of the County who are covered by the Agreement as representatives, regardless of title or position held, including the Local President and officers. The County shall recognize such representatives upon presentation of their names in writing to the Director of Human Resources. Any changes in the representatives as designated will not be effective until after receipt of written notice of such change to the Director of Human Resources. Five (5) of these representatives whose names will be submitted separately to the Director of Human Resources will only be allowed Union time off without pay and shall not represent a grievant or handle grievances. All other sections of this Article shall apply.

Section 2. Performance of Union Representative Business. Only employees designated under Section 1 above will be granted time off from work for the purpose of attending to any Union representative activities, and any such activities must be performed while off duty and without pay except in the following circumstances. No more than two employees from a Department will be permitted off for Union business at any one time.

- a. In the event Management requests a meeting with a Union representative during work hours, the County will be responsible for paying the representative.
- b. At steps one, two and three of grievance hearings with Management, the employee and one Union representative will be paid for attendance at meetings occurring at a time the employee would otherwise have been working.
- c. Employees may request the presence of a Union representative if called into a disciplinary interview or an investigatory interview that may lead to disciplinary action of any bargaining unit employee. In such cases, Management is responsible for paying the Union representative. Management can call in a representative immediately if available, such as when a representative is employed in the same department, or postpone the meeting for 48 hours to allow the employee to obtain a representative. Alternatively, Management must hold such a meeting after the Union representative's working hours.

- d. One Union representative will be paid by the County for attending a pre-termination conference when the Union President cannot attend. However, the Union may have other representative(s) attend pre-termination conferences if they so choose and will be responsible for paying the Union Representative(s).

No Union representative will be paid for meetings scheduled after hours.

Time during which an employee is off duty to attend to Union representative activities will be considered as time worked for seniority, insurance benefits, vacation and sick leave accrual purposes only, unless it accumulates to more than thirty (30) days per year, in which case the excess will not be counted for these purposes. In the event the Local President and Executive Vice-President is a County employee, it will be one hundred-fifty (150) days for the President and one hundred-fifty days for the Executive Vice-President.

Section 3. Requests for Time Off. Employees designated under Section 1 above will be granted time off for Union representative activities only upon the submission of a request in writing submitted to the representative's supervisor at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the requested time off. Periods of time off granted will be in increments of one hour and the requests will be denied or postponed if management believes that the absence of the representative under the circumstances will adversely affect County operations.

Section 4. Visitation. Representatives as designated under Section 1 of this Article and any other duly authorized representative whose name has been previously submitted in writing to the Director of Human Resources shall be permitted on the County's premises for the purpose of investigating grievances, adjusting grievances, or ascertaining whether the Agreement is being observed. Visitation for any such purpose shall not occur until 24 hours after notice to the Director of Human Resources, who shall not unreasonably deny the visitation.

Section 5. Non-interference with Production or Services. The investigation, handling, or adjustment of grievances shall not, insofar as is practical, be conducted by employees and Union representatives during normal working hours. If grievance matters must be attended to during normal working hours, it will be done so as to cause a minimum of interference with production or services, and employees who

[REDACTED]

are to be so engaged shall be required to obtain permission and be without pay as set forth under Section 2 and 3 above.

Section 6. Bulletin Board. The Union shall be permitted space on existing bulletin boards to post necessary Union notices of a businesslike non-inflammatory nature. All notices posted must be signed by an elected official of the Local Union and approved in advance by the Director of Human Resources. Notices in pre-approved format need not be resubmitted for approval for subsequent postings. The Union shall supply at its own expense bulletin boards where none exist or are not adequate, and such boards shall be placed at mutually agreeable locations.

## ARTICLE 6

### Management Rights

Section 1. All rights of management which are not specifically limited by the provisions of other articles of this Agreement are retained by the County. Unless it is provided specifically to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed as a guarantee or obligation to continue any operation, or portion thereof, performed by employees in the bargaining unit, nor shall this Agreement guarantee employment to any employee.

Section 2. The exclusive functions of Management include but are not limited to: the management of the County and the direction of the working forces; the right to plan, direct and control all the operations or services to be performed in or at any facility or by employees of the County; to schedule the working hours; to hire, promote, demote, transfer, layoff, and recall; to suspend, discipline, or discharge for just cause; to relieve employees because of lack of work or for other reasons; to make and enforce production standards; to make and enforce rules and regulations of employee conduct and performance; to classify and reclassify employees, and to determine the content of job classifications; to introduce new and improved methods, materials, equipment or facilities; to change or eliminate existing methods, materials, equipment, or facilities; to administer the County Merit System Rules and Regulations.

Section 3. The County shall retain the right to subcontract any of its operations. In the event that a subcontract results in the elimination of a position, incumbents will be given consideration for the filling of any existing vacancies for which they are qualified, or failing that, they may be laid off. Upon request of the Local Union President or designee, the County will discuss the effects of the subcontracting upon the members of the bargaining unit; however, this shall not constitute a restriction upon the County's right to subcontract and lay off employees.

## ARTICLE 7

### Filling of Vacancies

Section 1. In the event management determines to fill a regular permanent budgeted position which is vacant, it may do so through any of the following actions:

- (a) Reclassification, if feasible in management's judgment; or
- (b) Repromotion of an employee who had taken a demotion in lieu of layoff, or recall of any employee on the rehire list, if the employee is currently qualified; or
- (c) Transfer of employee(s) if desirable in management's judgment; or
- (d) Open competitive selection procedures; or
- (e) Continuous Register selection procedures for entrance level positions in a job series; or
- (f) Departmental Promotional selection in a classification series.
- (g) County wide promotional competitive selection procedures.

In the case of filling of vacancies by open or promotional competitive selection procedures, a notice shall be posted for a minimum of one (1) week and applications will be received in accordance with instructions set forth in the notice. Qualified persons covered by this Agreement shall be given equal consideration with other applicants seeking the position.

In the case of using a Register system, designated job classifications may be advertised continuously. Applications will be screened/reviewed and referral lists will be sent to the interviewers from among the qualified applicants on the Register at the time the requisition is received. Applicants need only apply once every six months for each job classification. Application details will be listed in the notice.

Section 2. Management retains the right to determine whether a permanent vacancy will be filled and, if so, which of the procedures will be used. In the event employees (applicants) covered by this Agreement are employed in the department which seeks to fill the vacant position through the departmental promotional selection procedure he/she will be awarded the position based on seniority if they have minimum qualifications.

Section 3. In the event the permanent vacancy is to be filled through the County-wide promotional competitive selection procedure or the open competitive selection procedure from among employees covered by this Agreement, seniority shall be

[REDACTED]

the controlling factor among bargaining unit applicants only if they have equal skill, ability and qualifications. Skill, ability and qualifications may be determined by interview results, the employee's official personnel file (in accordance with the Merit Rules) and written or practical examinations. Applicants with greater skill, ability or qualifications may be awarded a vacancy over an employee with greater seniority.

Section 4. Vacancies which are temporary (normally not exceeding 180 days) or those in on-call, student, or FRS retiree positions, shall be filled in any manner determined by management.



## ARTICLE 8

### Overtime/Hours of Work

Section 1. The workweek for payroll purposes shall be a seven (7) consecutive day period commencing at 12:01 a.m. Saturday and ending at 12:00 midnight the following Friday. A workday shall be the 24-hour period commencing with the employee's scheduled starting time. A work shift shall be that portion of a workday during which the employee is scheduled, or assigned on an unscheduled basis, to work. Overtime is that time during which a full time employee works over 40 hours per week, not including any sick or disability leave. Previously scheduled vacation leave, funeral leave, holiday, jury duty, incentive leave, and union time and voluntary furlough leave without pay under Article 10 of this Agreement will be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime. If an employee works more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period, s/he shall be paid time and one-half for the hours in excess of their normally scheduled shift (not to apply to employees who may be regularly scheduled for 12 hour shifts).

Section 2. Overtime pay or compensatory time off shall be at the employee's option. Overtime premium pay shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half (1-1/2) of the regular hourly rate of pay (including shift differential and standby) for all overtime hours. Compensatory time off shall be at time and one half. If the employee has any compensatory time left at the end of the fiscal year, the employee shall be paid for any unused compensatory time. Records will be kept by the Department or Division Head's office.

Section 3. Overtime assignments may be required and shall be distributed among those employees who normally perform the work and such assignments shall be made as equally as is practicable. Employees shall be notified of overtime assignments reasonably in advance of the assignment, based upon the reason for the assignment, and normally 24 hours prior thereto. Overtime work records shall be maintained in the Department Director's and/or Division Director's office and may be examined there.

Section 4. Employees shall be notified of work schedule changes other than overtime reasonably in advance of the change and normally 48 hours prior thereto, consistent with the County's planning of its needs.

Section 5. Employees shall be allowed one (1) necessary relief or rest period per one half shift, provided the time and length of the break is determined by the employee's supervisor (normally 15 minutes) and the granting of the break does not adversely affect or interfere with operations or service to the public. If for any

reason a break is not granted, this shall not be subject to the grievance procedure. However, breaks should not be unreasonably denied.

The purpose of granting breaks is to relieve fatigue and mental strain on the job, therefore, it is not permitted to combine two breaks into one longer break, to use breaks to lengthen lunch hours or to leave work early, or to accumulate breaks from day to day.

ARTICLE 9

Sick Leave/Compensation

Section 1. Amount of Sick Leave. All regular, full-time employees covered by this Agreement shall be provided with eight (8) paid sick leave days (64 hours) per fiscal year commencing October 1 of each year. All permanent part-time employees shall be entitled to a pro-rated portion of the eight (8) day payment based upon their scheduled hours, i.e., a 20 hours per week employee will receive 32 hours pay. For employees out on an existing C85/65 at the commencement of the new fiscal year, sick leave benefits (64 hours) and compensation (C85/65) will start over October 1 each year. Only one 85/65 benefit allotment will be granted per fiscal year. Employees hired after October 1, 1997, will accrue sick leave days based upon their hire date and the following schedule:

New Hires		Transferring County Employees*	
Month of Hire	Days Accrued	Month of Hire	Days Accrued
October	8	October	8
November	7	November	8
December	6	December	8
January	5	January	8
February	4	February	8
March	3	March	8
April	2	April	8
May	1	May	8

*\* Existing County employees transferring into the Union in the month of May or prior will receive the full allotment of eight (8) paid sick leave days (64 hours) immediately upon transfer. Existing County employees transferring into the Union in the months of June, July, August, or September will not be provided with paid sick leave days.*

Payment for any unused sick leave shall be made to the employee in the form of a bonus check in a lump sum amount at the end of the fiscal year, provided the employee is still on the payroll at that time. The check shall be calculated as of September 30 and paid to employees in mid-December. Employees who terminate after September 30, but before the mid-December payment, will be paid this balance at their date of termination. Employees who leave County employment shall receive 50% of their unused sick leave. New employees who terminate must work a complete pay-period prior to receiving any payment for their sick leave.

Section 2. Utilization of Sick Leave. Sick time taken during the year, up to the maximum of eight (8) days, will be time off with pay at the time it is taken. Employees may only use vacation time to supplement the first 8 days/64 hours of absence after using any remaining balance of the 64 hours, at the employee's option. Time taken in excess of eight (8) days for an employee's own injury or illness will be paid according to the following compensation benefit:

- a. If employees are eligible because of seniority for 85% or 65% compensation benefits, they must use these benefits second after exhausting the 64 hours, or the pro-rated portion thereof. No vacation leave can be used to substitute for or supplement the 85/65% compensation benefits.\*
- b. If an employee has previously used all eight (8) days sick leave, but is eligible for 85% compensation benefit on day #9 (or hour 65) of the leave, s/he may choose to use vacation leave or be docked while waiting until the 85% compensation benefit becomes effective.
- c. Employees will be eligible for one first-time 85/65% compensation benefit per fiscal year in accordance with Section 3 below. If the employee returns to work from a first-time 85/65% compensation benefit without utilizing all available benefits and is out again due to illness/injury for five (5) or more consecutive work days, the 85/65% compensation benefit will continue from where it left off payable from day one of the subsequent absence. The same shall apply to any additional qualifying absences during the fiscal year until all 85/65% compensation benefits are exhausted. Employees who return to work from an 85/65% compensation benefit due to a critical or life-threatening illness/injury but who continue on a scheduled treatment plan directly related to this medical condition may be eligible to use their remaining 85/65% compensation benefits to cover time off for such treatment without serving another waiting period. The treatment plan must be prescribed by the employee's physician and is subject to authorization by the County's Occupational Health Clinic.

Sick leave may be used for illness or injury to the employee or to his/her immediate family if the employee is needed to provide care to the family member. Immediate family is defined as spouse, parent or child as per the Family Medical Leave Act and County FMLA/Domestic Partner Policy. Sick leave may also be used for medical or dental appointments of the employee or the employee's immediate family.

Employees with an authorized FMLA/Domestic Partner leave certification for a personal or covered family member and, who have exhausted their 64 hours of allotted sick leave, may use accrued vacation leave for an absence from work that is covered by the certification. This provision does not alter the 85/65% compensation benefit language.



Section 3. Compensation Beyond Eight (8) Days Sick Leave. Regular, full-time (40 hours) employees who are off work due to illness or injury of the employee for eight (8) consecutive days or more\* shall receive pay in the amount of 85% compensation of their regular straight-time earnings for each consecutive workday missed in accordance with their years of service and the following schedule:

<u>Days of Consecutive</u> <u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Absence Paid for</u>
6 mos but less than 1 yr	9 **
1 but less than 3	9 through 16 (64 hours)
3 but less than 5	9 through 26 (144 hours)
5 and over	9 through 30 (176 hours)

All permanent part-time employees shall be entitled to receive pay under this Section based upon their normal scheduled day, i.e., employees who work 4 hours per day will receive 85% or 65% of their regular, straight-time pay for 4 hours of each covered day of absence. Full-time employees who have been absent and receiving 85/65% compensation benefit pay and who can return to limited and/or modified duty part-time can continue to receive 85/65% compensation benefit pay for the portion of their scheduled hours they are not able to work.

- \* For purposes of this section, eight (8) consecutive workdays mean 64 hours of work, and a workday shall be 8 hours.
- \*\* Meaning that the employee is paid for the 9th day of absence, or for the 65th-72nd hours.

Employees with six (6) or more years of service will be paid for an absence due to illness or injury of the employee for consecutive days of absence beginning with the 31st day, in the amount of 65% of the employee’s regular, straight-time earnings, for a maximum of 1040 hours. This payment will be paid by the County or by an insurance carrier at the County’s option but will only be paid under any circumstances until the sooner of:

- (a) the employee returns to work;
- (b) receives a disability retirement
- (c) retires on any other basis;
- (d) quits;
- (e) is determined by competent medical expert of the County’s choosing to be fit to return to work; or

- (f) it is determined by competent medical expert of the County's choosing that the employee will not be fit to return to work within six (6) months from the 31st consecutive day of the absence; or
- (g) six (6) months measured from the 31st consecutive day of the absence.

Payment received under this Section 3 shall be offset by any Worker's Compensation benefit received by the employee for the same period. An employee who received 65% compensation benefit for the maximum period of six (6) months, and who is still not fit to return to work may be terminated at that time if the County so elects.

Section 4. Proof of Sickness or Injury. As a condition for receipt of pay for an employee's own illness or injury as set forth in Section 3 above, the County may require proof of illness or injury which shall be in accordance with the requirements of Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and other applicable laws. Failure to supply such proof as is satisfactory to the County or duly authorized agent will result in pay being withheld or not paid.

Section 5. Current Sick Leave Banks. An employee may elect to use accrued sick leave banks for any days of consecutive absence but shall not be paid under Section 3 for any such days for which he/she uses accrued sick leave. Employees covered by this Agreement who have accrued sick leave under the County's policy in effect at the time of the signing of this Agreement shall be entitled to use their accrued amounts in any manner permitted by that policy, but no employee covered by this Agreement shall accrue any additional sick leave beyond that which is accrued as of September 30, 1982. Except for the application of the County's policy for the purpose of utilization of previously accrued sick leave, that policy shall be null and void for all employees covered by this Agreement.

Section 6. Return to Work. Employees who are absent due to sickness or injury may be required to provide medical approval for their return to work.

Section 7. Approval. Leave forms are required for all absences, Management will approve or disapprove leave requests by the end of the workday for requests of one (1) day. Requests are to be submitted to the appropriate supervisor with authority to approve or disapprove no later than the beginning of the work shift the day before the requested day off. Management will approve or disapprove leave requests of more than one (1) day within 48 hours of receipt. This does not supersede Departmental and Merit Rule requirements for notice.

# LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING


## Labor - Management Contract Language Interpretation

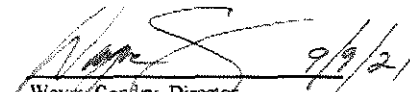
### Article 9 **Sick Leave/Compensation**

“Section 2. Utilization of Sick Leave. Sick time taken during the year, up to the maximum of eight (8) days, will be time off with pay at the time it is taken. Employees may only use vacation time to supplement the first 8 days/64 hours of absence after using any remaining balance of the 64 hours, at the employee’s option.”

Management and CWA Local 3181 agree that the preceding contract language allows CWA employees to use accrued vacation leave for personal illness after expending their annual allotment of 64 hours of sick leave and prior to the start of their 85% benefit. Use of vacation leave is at the employee’s option and does not need to be consecutive in nature. Employees are required to follow their respective department’s established call-in procedures when utilizing this leave. Use of this leave may also result in an occasion of unscheduled absence or other attendance violation as established by department policy.

Signatures below indicate agreement on the interpretation and proper execution of this contract language.

  
Rick Poulette, President  
CWA Local 3181

 9/9/21  
Wayne Condry, Director  
Human Resources

## ARTICLE 10

### Leave With Pay

Section 1. Attendance at Meetings. Leave with pay may be granted for County approved attendance at official or educational meetings, if authorized in writing by the Department Head.

Section 2. Witness or Jury Duty. Leave with pay will be granted for jury duty or witness duty (provided the employee is not a party to the lawsuit or has a personal interest in the matter) pursuant to a subpoena, upon presentation to the Department or Division Head of the summons or subpoena. Such leave will be granted based upon the employee's current daily work schedule. Payment received by the employee for jury or witness duty, except for mileage reimbursement, must be endorsed over to the County and submitted to the Finance Department.

Section 3. Blood Donation. Upon request and approval by the appropriate supervisor, employees who wish to give blood to the County Blood Bank(s) will be permitted to take two (2) hours off with pay in order to donate. If the "Blood Mobile" is not located at the employee's work location, verification of donation may be required.

Section 4. Voluntary Furlough Days Without Pay. Commencing October 1, 2009, up to 5 days per fiscal year of voluntary furlough days without pay may be granted to employees covered by this agreement. Any unused voluntary furlough days without pay remaining at the end of the fiscal year will not carry-over to the following fiscal year. Requests for time off under this section are to be submitted to the appropriate supervisor with authority to approve or deny the request and must be submitted no later than the beginning of the work shift on the work day before the requested day off. Management will approve or deny leave requests of more than one (1) day under this section within 48 hours of receipt of the request. Management has sole discretion to approve or deny requests for time off under this section. For the purposes of this section only, denial of any request for time off is not grievable. This section does not supersede Department and Merit Rule requirements for notice. Pre-approved time off under this section will not be used against an employee for any reason. Voluntary furlough days without pay will be considered as time worked for the purpose of computing overtime.



## ARTICLE 11

### Compassionate Leave

Section 1. In the event of a death in the employee's immediate family, the employee will be granted leave with pay. Such leave will be for four (4) consecutive work days. Requests for the leave shall be made to the Department or Division Head on a form to be supplied by the County. Documentation/Verification may be requested by management.

Section 2. The immediate family shall include the employee's mother, father, sister, brother, children, grandparents, grandchildren, spouse, mother-in-law, father-in-law, stepchildren, stepparents and certified domestic partner and eligible dependents of a certified domestic partner.

## ARTICLE 12

### Seniority

Section 1. Definition. Seniority for purposes of application of this Agreement, is an employee's length of continuous service with the County, dating from his/her date of hire into a permanent position. No County Department may substitute a different definition of seniority in complying with the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Section 2. Loss of Seniority. Seniority and the employment relationship shall be broken and terminated if an employee:

- (a) quits;
- (b) is discharged for just cause;
- (c) is absent from work for three (3) consecutive working days without proper notification to the County;
- (d) is rehired after a break in service of more than thirty (30) days;
- (e) fails to report for work at the termination of a leave of absence or extension thereof; or
- (f) accepts gainful employment without permission while on leave of absence.

## ARTICLE 13

### Layoff

Section 1. When and if the County decides to reduce the number of employees within a given classification in any department, employees shall be laid off in the following order:

- (a) Temporary or on-call employees.
- (b) Probationary employees.
- (c) Permanent part-time employees.
- (d) Permanent full-time employees.

Section 2. Permanent employees, within a classification, will be laid off in a department in the inverse order of their seniority if they have equal skill, ability and employment records. In the event that a position of the same title is vacant anywhere in the County, the employee will be offered a transfer to that position provided they meet the minimum qualifications.

Section 3. The Department Head or designee will provide written notification to each affected employee sixty (60) days prior to the date of layoff. Such notice will inform the employee of all retention rights due him/her, explain, if the employee has no retention rights, whether any other position is to be offered the employee.

a. Retention Rights

Permanent employees selected for layoff shall be offered a demotion to a lower rated classification within the same job series and Department, if there is a position for which the employee is qualified and s/he has an equal or better employment record than the incumbent, and is senior to the incumbent. Employees who are “bumped” under this provision may in turn bump to a lower classification within the same Department in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Section 4. In the event a CWA bargaining unit worker has been demoted in lieu of layoff, the County shall implement the following procedures:

- a. All of the provisions of the Palm Beach County Merit System Rules and Regulations relating to pay upon demotion will apply, except that no employee’s rate of pay will be reduced by more than 6% if the employee’s base rate of pay does not exceed the maximum of the position demoted to, in which case demotion will be to the maximum.
- b. For two years, in the event a position becomes vacant County-wide in the

[REDACTED]

same job classification from which the worker was demoted, the worker shall be awarded the position on a non-competitive basis by seniority.

- c. Any employee who is demoted in lieu of layoff will be given priority consideration for any position for which they apply.
- d. In the event the worker is promoted back into the classification from which s/he was demoted, no probationary period will be required.

Section 5. Laid off employees shall have recall rights County-wide for thirteen (13) months and be recalled to the classification from which they were laid off if openings occur in the reverse order in which they were laid off. If recalled, the employee's seniority date and hourly rate at time of separation will be reinstated. Laid off employees who are not recalled shall be placed on a preferred rehire list for one (1) year after their recall rights have expired. Employees on this list who have applied for any posted job openings will be considered before other external candidates.

ARTICLE 14

Wages

Section 1. Increases. Employees covered by this Agreement shall receive the following salary increases for the term of this contract. Under no circumstances shall an increase cause an employee's base rate of pay to exceed the maximum rate established for the job class. As of October 1, 1997, employees at or above the maximum rate will continue to receive their across-the-board increases on their base rate of pay. Employees, who are at the maximum of their pay grade, will receive the percentage increase indicated below as a lump-sum.

Effective the payroll period in which falls:

**October 1, 2024:** 6% across the board

Section 2. Working In Higher Classification. Employees assigned to work in a higher classification for eight (8) hours shall be paid at the minimum of the higher classification or five (5) % of the employee's current rate, whichever is higher, from the 1st hour until they are returned to their regular classification.

Section 3. Hire Above Minimum. The County and the Union agree that applicants will not be hired above the applicable start rate. Employees may not be granted special wage increases.

Shift Differential:

Employees who work a shift (majority of the shift falls after 5:00 p.m.) shall receive an additional five (5) % on their current rate of pay, provided their current pay does not exceed the maximum of the pay grade. In such case, the employee will receive five (5) % above the maximum of the pay grade. If the employee is transferred from either of the night shifts to the day shift, the shift differential will be discontinued.

Standby Pay:

All employees who are on standby-duty/on-call will receive \$2.50 for each hour they are on standby duty including time worked while on standby duty.

Lead worker:

Lead worker pay shall be six (6) % of the employee's current rate of pay. If the lead worker duties cease, the lead worker pay will be discontinued.

**ARTICLE 15**  
**Holidays**

Section 1. Employees covered by this Agreement, who are entitled to a paid Holiday benefit under the County’s present policy, will continue to receive Holiday pay for the following holidays:

New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King’s Birthday, Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and two (2) floating holidays to be added to or substituted for any of the above, at the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 2. The conditions for receipt of holiday pay shall be as provided by County policies as they presently exist or are changed from time to time, provided that employees who do not receive pay for the scheduled workday immediately before or after the holiday (excluding disciplinary suspensions or union business), shall not receive holiday pay. The Union shall be notified of any changes in holiday pay policies. If the change is an increase or decrease in the number of general application to employees covered by this Agreement, it shall be negotiated with the Union prior to implementing the change.

Section 3. A holiday will be paid as an eight hour day. In departments/divisions where employees are scheduled to work four ten-hour days, the Department will either change work schedules during the holiday week or opt for a yearly schedule of ten holidays at ten hours pay (omitting Washington’s Birthday and Columbus Day), at the Department’s discretion. Under no circumstances will a 40 hour week employee receive less than 40 hours of pay during a holiday week.

ARTICLE 16

Vacation Leave

Section 1. Accrual of vacation leave.

a. Vacation leave accrual for full time employees is as follows:

	<u>Years of Employment</u>	<u>Hours per Pay Period</u>
	1st year	4.00 hours
Beginning of	2nd year <i>thru</i>	
Completion of	5th year	4.62 hours
Beginning of	6th year	4.93 hours
Beginning of	7th year	5.24 hours
Beginning of	8th year	5.54 hours
Beginning of	9th year	5.85 hours
Beginning of	10th year	6.16 hours

- b. Permanent part-time employees will earn pro-rated vacation hours based on their scheduled hours per week. Part-time employees can calculate the amount of vacation hours they will accrue each pay period by dividing their scheduled hours per week by 40 and multiplying the result times the vacation hours accrual of a full time employee.
- For example: 30 divided by 40 = .75 times 6.16 (accrual for a 10 year employee) = 4.62 hours per pay period.
- c. Employees who are paid less than their weekly schedule will have their vacation accrual pro-rated for the pay period. For example, a ten (10) year employee who is docked eight (8) hours of pay would accrue 5.54 hours instead of 6.16 hours (8 hours divided by 80 = 10% reduction in the accrual).
- d. Vacation accruals are reflected in the employee’s paycheck the week following the end of the pay period. Employees cannot take more vacation time than is shown as a balance on their last paycheck.
- e. No vacation leave shall accrue to employees in any bi-weekly pay period in which more than one-half (½) of their bi-weekly schedule is reported as LWOP.
- f. A new employee shall begin accruing vacation leave after one (1) full pay period.
- g. The maximum accumulation of vacation leave that can be carried over

from one calendar year to another is 400 hours. Any employee who has accrued vacation leave in excess of 400 hours at the end of the last pay period of each calendar year shall forfeit the excess leave and the vacation leave balance shall automatically be reduced to 400 hours.

Exception: Employees who have requested leave and because of documented extenuating circumstances have not been able to use excess vacation leave during the year will be allowed to carry over the excess time to the next calendar year.

Section 2. Use of vacation leave.

- a. Notification - No vacation leave may be taken without prior approval by the employee's immediate supervisor, and the denial of vacation leave is not grievable.
- b. All employees are charged the number of their regularly scheduled daily hours for each day used for vacation leave.
- c. Vacation leave may be granted to attend funerals of friends or family. It may also be used to extend a compassionate leave absence after that leave has been expended.
- d. Vacation leave is to be used for personal religious holidays other than those specified as legal holidays.
- e. Vacation leave is to be used to transact personal business which cannot be transacted except during working hours.
- f. Each employee is required to take a minimum of 80 hours of vacation leave per calendar year after completion of one (1) year of service.

Exception: Upon approval of the Department Head, an employee may be granted a waiver from this requirement if the employee submits a request to use the leave for a future specified occurrence such as an extended vacation.

- g. Management will approve or disapprove leave requests by the end of the workday for requests of one (1) day. Requests are to be submitted to the appropriate supervisor with authority to approve or disapprove no later than the beginning of the work shift the day before the requested day off.



Management will approve or disapprove leave requests of more than one (1) day within 48 hours of receipt. This does not supersede Departmental and Merit Rule requirements for notice.

Section 3. Payment for unused vacation leave credits.

- a. Payment of all accrued vacation leave credits is effective the payday following the date of separation from County service.
- b. Employees terminating with less than three (3) months of service shall not receive payment for unused vacation leave.
- c. In the event of the death of a permanent-status employee, all payments for accrued vacation leave will be made to the employee's beneficiary, estate, or as provided by law.

ARTICLE 17

Waiver and Entire Agreement

Section 1. The Union acknowledges that, during negotiations resulting in this Agreement, it had the right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any and all subjects not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining and that the complete understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement. Therefore, the Union waives the right, during the term of this Agreement, to bargain collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this Agreement, and it particularly waives the right to bargain over the County’s exercise of any of its management rights set forth in Article 6 of this Agreement.

Section 2. The parties intend that this Agreement shall constitute the sole source of their rights and obligations from and to each other for its term, either by specific provision or by silence.

Section 3. This Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement of the parties but any amendment must be in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of the parties before it will be effective.

ARTICLE 18

Labor-Management Committee

Section 1. The County and the Union agree to establish a Labor-Management Committee to encourage and foster effective labor-management cooperation and communication.

Section 2. The Committee shall be composed of three (3) members designated by the Union from the bargaining unit and three (3) members designated by the County. The parties shall provide each other with the names of their designated committee members.

Section 3. Meetings will be held bimonthly or at the request of either party, by mutual consent on official time during duty hours, for the purpose of discussing problems that may arise under the implementation of this Agreement, rules, regulations and policies of the County, and other matters of interest. The parties agree that grievances of bargaining unit members shall not be appropriate for discussion during committee meetings.

Section 4. The Union, through one of the representatives designated for that purpose, shall submit agenda items to the committee chair designated by the County. Likewise, the chair designated by the County shall provide the Union with agenda items to be raised at the meetings. Agenda items shall be exchanged by both parties at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the scheduled meeting. If there are no agenda items submitted, the meeting will be canceled. Agenda items will only be discussed by mutual consent of both parties. Each party shall maintain its own minutes of the meetings, but may arrive at joint recommendations. Such recommendations will not be binding on the County.

## ARTICLE 19

### Employment of Union President

Section 1. Upon a County employee becoming Local President, s/he may elect to resign his/her position with the County. If and when the President elects to resign his/her position with the County, s/he must give a notice of at least two (2) weeks. The Local President will be allowed to continue insurance benefits; however, the president and/or the Union will be responsible to pay the cost of the County's part.

Section 2. Upon resignation, the employee will retain a one time recall right to an available, vacant County position within the bargaining unit for which s/he meets minimum entrance requirements, without competition, at a pay grade level at or below the pay grade left. Within ninety (90) days of vacating the position of Local President or at any time while still the Local President, the County must be notified of the wish to exercise the option to return to work. Upon return to work, past seniority and insurance benefits will be reinstated.

**ARTICLE 20**  
**Communicable Diseases**

Section 1. Presumption: The County recognizes that the following employees have an increased potential for exposure to HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis-B, or Hepatitis-A. It shall be presumed that employees from the following job classes who contract HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis-B or A shall have contracted the disease on the job, if the employee can reasonably prove, according to medically acceptable standards of occupational exposure, that they, in fact, did contract the disease while on duty.

Parks and Recreation:     Pool Lifeguard  
                                     Ocean Lifeguard  
                                     Ocean Rescue Lieutenant  
                                     Assistant Pool Manager  
                                     Park Ranger

Facilities Management:     All employees

Water Utilities:             Employees of the Water Utilities Department  
                                     in the following classes who are involved in  
                                     handling of wastewater:

                                     Utility Maintenance Worker I, II, and III  
                                     Lift Station Technician I and II  
                                     Infiltration & Inflow Technician I and II  
                                     General Maintenance Mechanic  
                                     Industrial Electrician  
                                     Maintenance Worker II  
                                     MEO III  
                                     Odor Control Tech I and II  
                                     Utility Plant Mechanic  
                                     Utility Plant Operator I and II  
                                     Public Works Crew Chief

This section in no way shall be construed to expand or increase the rights of employees under the Workers’ Compensation Law.

Section 2. Immunization: The County shall provide a one-time immunization during the term of this Agreement for the following classes of workers:

Tetanus - any employee  
Rabies pre-exposure - any employee of Animal Care and Control

Hepatitis-B - Assistant Pool Manager  
Facilities Management employees  
Ocean Lifeguard  
Ocean Rescue Lieutenant  
Park Ranger  
Pool Lifeguard  
Water Utilities employees assigned to work with wastewater.

Employees who refuse to be immunized for Hepatitis-B and who later contract the disease shall not be presumed to have contracted the disease while on duty.

**ARTICLE 21**  
**Certification or Re-Certification**

Section 1. Any employee who is required to take County-imposed courses, classes, certification or re-certification will be entitled to the following:

- a. If there is a cost involved in taking the above, the County will pay the cost, including books.
- b. All County-imposed classes, courses, certification or re-certification may be held during regular working hours if available during regular working hours. In the event employees must take the above on non-work time, the employee’s work schedule may be changed.
- c. The above shall apply to all job classifications in the bargaining unit.
- d. If an employee who has received reimbursement for the cost of any classes, courses, certification or re-certification leaves County employment prior to the expiration of the above; the employee will be required to pay back to the County a prorated portion of the cost.

Section 2. All licenses, certifications, etc., that are required by Federal or State laws, rules or regulations are not eligible for the above referenced reimbursement.

Section 3. All Bargaining Unit Certifications and pay for such certifications are listed in the Palm Beach County Classification and Pay Plan. Any changes to the certifications, including the elimination of a certification, additional certifications and certification pay must be negotiated.

**ARTICLE 22**

**Duration**

This Agreement shall be effective on October 1, 2024 and shall remain in full force and effect through September 30, 2025. The terms of the agreement shall remain in effect unless either party gives written notice of a desire to modify, amend or terminate the Agreement at least sixty (60) days prior to the anniversary date of this Agreement.



**ARTICLE 23**  
**Drug Testing**

Section 1. The parties recognize that Palm Beach County and the Communications Workers of America (CWA) have a strong and legitimate interest in ensuring that employees are fit to perform their duties and to promote an alcohol and drug-free workplace. In recognition of the above, the parties agree that employees are prohibited from possessing, consuming or reporting to work or working with the presence of alcohol or drugs in their body and further that the County may require employees to submit to drug and alcohol testing for reasonable suspicion.

Section 2. “Reasonable suspicion” is a belief that the employee has violated the County’s alcohol and drug prohibitions based on specific observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the employee. The required observations for alcohol and/or drug testing for reasonable suspicion shall be made by two supervisors trained in indicators of probable alcohol and drug abuse. A written record shall be made of the observations leading to a test and signed by the supervisors who made the observations.

Section 3. Employees with a first-time confirmed positive drug or alcohol test result, shall be given a one-time opportunity to participate in a rehabilitation program, coordinated through the County’s Employee Assistance Program. Such employees will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as provided for in the disciplinary guidelines, excluding termination, provided that there have been no additional violations of the Merit Rules and Regulations in the previous 12 months. If the employee does not successfully complete the rehabilitation, tests positive at a later date, or is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at a later date, they will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Employees testing positive under this article may be subject to additional follow-up testing.

Section 4. Testing shall be in accordance with the policies and procedures of PPM CW-P-060, “Controlled Substances Use and Testing Policy,” which covers testing of employees under the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

APPENDIX A

Job Classifications

Appendix A will be updated as the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) updates the Communication Workers of America’s (Local 3181) job classification listing.


04133	A/C & Refrigeration Specialist I	09111	Custodial Worker
04134	A/C & Refrigeration Specialist II	09035	Dredge Operator
09359	Air Quality Technician	04116	Electrician
04101	Airports Striping Technician	04208	Equipment Analyst
06211	Animal Behavior & Enrichment Coordinator	04214	Equipment Mechanic
06210	Animal Care Coordinator	04151	Facility Plant Mechanic
06200	Animal Care Specialist	09201	Field Office Coordinator
06205	Animal Care Veterinary Assistant	09202	Field Office Coordinator II
06207	Animal Control Officer I	03510	Gardner
06212	Animal Control Officer II	04103	General Maintenance Mechanic
04135	Apprentice I	02135	Golf Attendant
04136	Apprentice II	04422	Graphics Designer I
04137	Apprentice III	04425	Graphics Designer II
04138	Apprentice IV	04427	Graphics Production Coordinator
04210	Automotive Technician I	04118	Industrial Electrician
04211	Automotive Technician II	09367	Infiltration & Inflow Technician I
04226	Bindery Worker	09368	Infiltration & Inflow Technician II
04140	Bridge Mechanic I	04106	Irrigation Technician
04141	Bridge Mechanic II	01960	Land Management Assistant
09025	Bridge Repairer	01961	Land Management Assistant II
09015	Bridge Tender	02200	Library Associate Driver
04110	Carpenter	09329	Lift Station Technician I
02001	Certified Playground Safety Inspector	09330	Lift Station Technician II
02008	Chemical Spray Technician	04107	Locksmith
02170	Child Development Assistant	09000	Maintenance Worker I
04130	Commercial Equipment Technician	09001	Maintenance Worker II
00237	Communicator (Bargaining Unit)	09002	Maintenance Worker III
05111	Cook II	09003	Maintenance Worker IV
05112	Cook III	04119	Mason
		00325	Messenger
		09305	Meter Reader


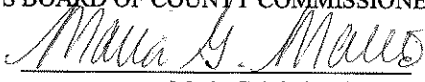
APPENDIX A - CONTINUED

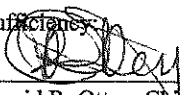

Appendix A will be updated as the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) updates the Communication Workers of America’s (Local 3181) job classification listing.

09375	Meter Service Technician	01110	Traffic Construction Worker I
09376	Meter Service Technician (Senior)	01112	Traffic Construction Worker II
01957	Mosquito Control Inspector	01103	Traffic Maintenance Worker I
01958	Mosquito Control Inspector II	01104	Traffic Maintenance Worker II
09005	Motor Equipment Operator I	01105	Traffic Maintenance Worker III
09006	Motor Equipment Operator II	01113	Traffic Sign Installer
09007	Motor Equipment Operator III	01109	Traffic Sign Servicer
09008	Motor Equipment Operator IV	01107	Traffic Signal Technician I
02101	Ocean Lifeguard	01108	Traffic Signal Technician II
02102	Ocean Rescue Lieutenant	01114	Traffic Systems Technician I
04104	Painter	01117	Traffic Systems Technician II
02015	Park Ranger	01100	Traffic Technician I
04223	Parts Specialist	01101	Traffic Technician II
01057	Party Chief	02005	Tree Trimmer
09004	Passenger Driver	09380	Utility Construction Crew Chief
04113	Plumber	09377	Utility Construction Technician I
02100	Pool Lifeguard	09378	Utility Construction Technician II
04420	Printer I	09379	Utility Construction Technician III
04421	Printer II	09360	Utility Line Crew Chief
09101	Public Works Crew Chief	01102	Utility Line Locate Technician
04105	Security Door Technician	09361	Utility Line Technician I
05025	Security Officer	09362	Utility Line Technician II
04437	Sign Shop Technician	09363	Utility Line Technician III
04438	Sign Shop Technician (Senior)	09401	Utility Maintenance Worker
00313	Storekeeper	09325	Utility Plant Mechanic
00310	Stores Clerk	09315	Utility Plant Operator Apprentice
06243	Spay Shuttle Driver	09317	Utility Plant Operator I
06246	Stray Shuttle Driver	09318	Utility Plant Operator II
01053	Survey Aide	09303	Utility Routing Specialist
01055	Survey Instrument Technician	04123	Welder I
04145	Trades Crew Chief	04124	Welder II

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County, Florida, has executed this Agreement on behalf of the County, and the Union, having ratified this Agreement, has executed this Agreement by and through its designated representatives.

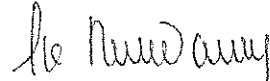
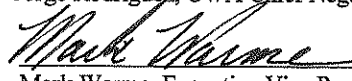

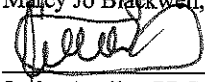
ATTEST: PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY  
ITS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
  
Verdenia C. Baker, County Administrator

Palm Beach County  
By   
Deputy Clerk  
Palm Beach County  
BO  
Palm Beach County, Florida, BY  
ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
  
Maria G. Marino, Mayor

Approved as to form and legal  
sufficiency  
  
David R. Ottey, Chief Assistant  
County Attorney  
Approved and accepted by:  
  
David S. Kahn, Director II  
Human Resources Department

Ratified by the Union on  
the 8th day of March 2025

COMMUNICATION WORKERS OF AMERICA

  
Jorge Rodriguez, CWA Chief Negotiator  
  
Mark Warne, Executive Vice President  
  
Nancy Jo Blackwell, Secretary/Treasurer  
  
Javier Aguilar, PBC Vice President





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