




COUNTY OF MERCER
McDADE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
640 SOUTH BROAD STREET
P.O. BOX 8068
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
(609) 989-6584
Fax: (609) 392-0488

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

EBONY WITHERSPOON
DEPUTY CLERK

MEMORANDUM

TO: Donald Ryland, President, LOCAL PBA 167, Mercer County Correction Officers

FROM: Ebony Witherspoon, Deputy Clerk to the Board 

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN PBA LOCAL UNION NO. 167 MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION OFFICERS AND THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR A TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

DATE: September 15, 2025

Enclosed please find one (1) executed copy of the Memorandum of Agreement as referenced above.

This document has been signed by the County Executive and Deputy Clerk to the Board.

Also enclosed please find one (1) certified copy of Resolution No. 2025-730, which authorizes the execution of said Contract.

Please retain these documents for your files.

E.W.

JHW/gb

Encl. (2)

CC: Chris Marion, County Administrator
✓ Alejandra Silva, Personnel Director
Nick Trasente, CFO
IMLR Library

Approved as to Form and Legality

Date


.....
County Counsel

September 11, 2025
.....

COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN PBA LOCAL UNION NO. 167 MERCER COUNTY CORRECTION OFFICERS AND THE COUNTY OF MERCER FOR A TWO (2) YEAR PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2023 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024

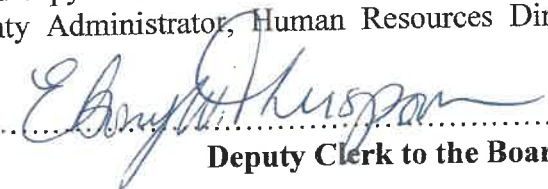
WHEREAS, Local PBA Union No. 167 is the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the Mercer County Correction Officers; and,

WHEREAS, a negotiated Contract has been ratified by the Union; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Mercer to execute said Contract; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Executive and Deputy Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute said Contract between the PBA Local Union No. 167, Mercer County Correction Officers and the County of Mercer for a two (2) year period from January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024, upon approval as to form and execution by County Counsel; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Deputy Clerk to the Board shall forward a certified copy of this Resolution, together with an executed copy of the Contract, to PBA Local Union No. 167, Mercer County Correction Officers, County Administrator, Human Resources Director, County Treasurer, and the IMLR Library.


.....
Deputy Clerk to the Board

| RECORD OF VOTE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|---------------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|
| COMMISSIONERS | Aye | Nay | N.V. | Abs. | Res. | Sec. | COMMISSIONERS | Aye | Nay | N.V. | Abs. | Res. | Sec. |
| Cimino | X | | | | | | Stokes | X | | | | ✓ | |
| Frisby | | | | X | | | Walter | | | | X | | |
| Lewis | X | | | | | ✓ | McLaughlin | X | | | | | |
| Melker | X | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| X—Indicates Vote Abs.—Absent N.V.—Not Voting Res.—Resolution Moved Sec.—Resolution Seconded | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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PREAMBLE

This Agreement between the County of Mercer, hereinafter referred to as the "Employer", and P.B.A. Local 167, Mercer County Correction Officers' Association, Rank and File Officers, hereinafter referred to as the "Union".

WHEREAS, the County has voluntarily endorsed the practices and procedures of collective bargaining as a fair and orderly way of conducting its relations with its employees, insofar as such practices and procedures are appropriate to the functions and obligations of the County to retain the right to effectively operate in a responsible and efficient manner, and are consonant with the paramount interests of the County and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that this Agreement is not intended to modify any of the discretionary authority vested in the County by the statutes of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, it is the intention of this Agreement to provide where not otherwise mandated by statute or ordinance, for the salary structure, fringe benefits, and employment conditions of employees covered by this Agreement, to prevent interruptions of work and interference with the efficient operations of the County and to provide an orderly and prompt method for handling and processing grievances; and

WHEREAS, this Agreement has been approved by the Board of Commissioners of Mercer County.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree with each other as follows:

1. RECOGNITION

1.1 The Employer recognizes the Union as the sole and for exclusive bargaining agent for the purpose of establishing salaries, wages, hours, and other conditions of employment for all of its employees covered by this Contract and represented by the Union, and for such additional classifications as the parties may later agree to include.

2. MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

2.1 The Employer retains and may exercise all rights, powers, duties, authority and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the Law and Constitution of the State of New Jersey. Except as specifically abridged, limited or modified by the terms of this Agreement, all such rights, powers, authority, prerogatives of management, and responsibility to promulgate and enforce reasonable rules and regulations governing the conduct and the activities of the employees are exclusively retained by the employer.

3. UNION SECURITY

3.1 Upon receipt of a lawfully executed written authorization from an employee, the Employer agrees to deduct the regular monthly Union dues of such employees from his/her pay and remit such deduction by the end of the next month following the pay period in which deductions were made to the official designated in writing by the Union to receive such deductions. The Union will notify the Employer in writing of the exact amount of such regular membership dues to be deducted. Such deductions shall be made in compliance with "Title 52 of the Revised Statutes" as amended. The authorization shall remain in effect unless terminated

by the employee upon written notice of withdrawal or by termination of employment. Such termination of dues deductions shall take place the 30th day after the anniversary date of employment after the employee has revoked such authorization by providing written notice to the County during the 10 days following the anniversary date of their employment and any other notices as required by law.

3.2 Any employee whose position is covered by the Recognition Clause of this Agreement, may pay a representation fee to the Union by automatic payroll deduction only if the employee provides written, voluntary consent to do so. The representation fees shall be in an amount equal to 85 percent of the regular Union membership dues, fees, and assessments as certified by the Union to the Employer.

The Union's entitlement to the representation fee shall continue beyond the termination date of this Agreement so long as the Union remains the majority representative of the employees in the unit, provided that no modification is made in this provision by a successor agreement between the Union and the Employer.

The determination of the appropriate representation fees, those employees covered, payroll deduction provision, challenges to fair share fee assessments, time for fair share payments, and all other questions relating to the Agency Shop Law and its proper interpretation shall be made in accordance with Public Law 1979, Chapter 447, and N.J.S.A. 34:13A5.4, et al.

3.3 The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the Employer harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders, or judgments brought or issued against the Employer under the provisions of this Article.

3.4 The Employer agrees to furnish the Union President with an office at the Corrections Center and a telephone and a desk will be provided at the Jail, probably in the conference room. The cost for the telephone shall be paid for by the PBA.

4. WORK SCHEDULES/JOB ASSIGNMENTS

4.1 The employer has the authority to establish a proforma work schedule, work shifts, and job duties and qualifications, but employees shall be able to select, based on seniority, their work schedule, days off and job assignment pursuant to the bidding procedure set forth in Article 35.

4.2 Whenever a vacancy occurs in a regular work schedule, days off, and job assignments, employees will be able to bid for that vacancy based on the job bidding procedure set forth in Article 35.

4.3 In the bid process, after officers have selected to be an "unassigned officer", then all unassigned officers in each shift shall be able to pick their job assignment based on seniority. For example, if there are five (5) unassigned officers with Monday and Tuesday off on the day shift, then those five (5) unassigned officers shall select their job assignment based on seniority. Therefore, the unassigned officers will be selecting their job assignments on the shift based on seniority, pursuant to Article 35. However, an employee should be given an opportunity to learn the special skills.

4.4 When a bid position is abolished, the officer shall have right to exercise bumping rights according to seniority.

5. EQUAL TREATMENT

5.1 The Employer agrees to comply with the mandatory provisions of relevant state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination in the workplace.

5.2 The Employer and the Union agree not to interfere with the right of employees to become or not to become members of the Union and further, that there shall be no discrimination or coercion against any employee because of Union membership or non-membership.

6. WORK RULES

6.1 The Employer may establish reasonable and necessary rule of work and conduct for employees. Such rules shall be equitably applied and enforced.

7. POSITION CLASSIFICATIONS

7.1 The classifications of employees covered by this Agreement are all classifications set forth in Article 11, Rates of Pay.

7.2 If during the term of this Agreement, the Employer determines that new classifications are to be established or that changes are to be made in the existing classifications, the parties agree that they will consult with each other for the purpose of arriving at a mutually acceptable determination, including the rate of pay thereof, prior to such changes being made effective.

7.3 Any failure on the part of the parties to agree to any provisions of this Article will be referred to Step 3 of the grievance procedure and will be governed by the rules and regulations of the Department of Personnel and the Public Employment Relations Commission.

8. SENIORITY

8.1 Seniority is defined as an employee's total length of service with the County, beginning with the date of permanent appointment as a Corrections Officer.

8.2 In the event that two (2) or more employees are permanently appointed on the same date, seniority shall be determined by the order in which their names appear on the Civil Service certification list as issued or amended.

8.3 The Employer shall maintain an accurate, up-to-date seniority roster showing each employee's date of hire, classification, and pay rate, and shall furnish copies of same to the Union upon request.

8.4 The Employer shall promptly advise the appropriate Union representative of any changes which necessitate amendments to the seniority list.

9. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

9.1 A grievance is defined as:

- a. A claimed breach, misinterpretation, or improper application of the terms of this Agreement.
- b. A claimed violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of rules or regulations, existing policy or orders, applicable to the division or department which employs the grievant affecting the terms and conditions of employment.
- c. A minor discipline up to and including five (5) days suspension shall be subject to this full grievance procedure, except letter of reprimand which may only be grieved to the Step 2 below, which is the County Administrator. All other minor discipline up to five (5) days suspension may be grieved through all steps, including arbitration.

A claimed grievance shall be discussed between the employee and his immediate supervisor and, if unresolved after discussion, shall be resolved in the following manner:

Step One: The Union Grievance Committeeman or President shall take up the grievance or dispute with the Superintendent, Mercer County Jails, within fourteen (14) days of its occurrence. Said grievance or dispute shall be presented in writing to the appropriate institutional official and they shall respond in writing to the Union President or designated representative within five (5) working days.

Step Two: If the grievance is still unsettled, it shall be presented in writing to the County Administrator or his/her designee within the Department of Administration within (5) days from receipt of the response of the department director. No later than ten (10) days after receipt of grievance, the County Administrator or his/her designee shall meet with the employee to discuss the grievance, The County Administrator or his/her designee shall give an answer in writing no later than ten (10) days after meeting.

Step Three: If the grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved at Step two, then the union may, within fourteen (14) days after the reply of the department director is due, request the Public Employment Relations Commission to supply the parties with a panel of arbitrators. A copy of said notice shall be served upon the department director. The arbitrator shall be selected by the parties in accordance with the rules promulgated by the Public Employment Relations Commission. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties, it being expressly understood that such binding arbitration is limited exclusively to disputes involving the application, meaning, or Interpretation of this Agreement.

9.2 Deleted

9.3 The Union and the Employer agree to give reasonable consideration to a request by the department director for meetings to discuss grievance pending at Step One and Two above. The parties further agree that the Union and/or the Department Director shall have the opportunity to meet with the County Administrator or his designee to discuss any grievance prior to moving to arbitration.

9.4 Expenses for the arbitrator's services and the proceedings shall be borne equally by the Employer and the Union. However, each party shall be responsible for compensating its own representatives and witnesses. If either party desires a verbatim record of the proceedings, it may cause such a record to be made, providing it pays for the record.

9.5 The Union will notify the Employer in writing of the names of its employees who are designated by the Union to represent employees under the grievance procedure. An employee so designated by the Union will be permitted to confer with other Union representatives regarding matters of employee representation during working hours without loss of pay provided, however, all employees shall secure the permission of their immediate superior, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

9.6 Representatives of the Union who are not employees previously accredited to the Employer in writing by the Union shall be permitted to come on the premises of the Employer for the purpose of Investigating and discussing grievances, so long as such right is reasonably exercised and there is no undue interference with work progress, if they first obtain permission to do so from the employee's department director or his designated representative, which permission shall not be unreasonably withheld.

9.7 Grievance forms shall be provided by the County. These forms (in structure) must be approved by the Union.

10. DISCIPLINE/DISCHARGE

10.1 It is expressly understood that the Employer shall have the right to discipline any employee; however, the Employer agrees that it shall not discipline or discharge any employee covered by the terms of this Agreement without just cause.

10.2 The Employer shall be required to set forth any charge or charges against any employee prior to removal, suspension, fine or reduction in rank. Said charge or charges shall be filed in writing and served upon the employee.

10.3 Any employee who is disciplined or discharged shall have the right to appeal this disciplinary action. It is expressly understood that an employee shall only be entitled to one avenue of appeal and further, that these appeals shall be handled in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. A permanent employee against whom disciplinary action has been taken which resulted in a suspension or fine of more than five (5) days at one time; suspensions or fines more than three (3) times or for an aggregate of more than fifteen (15) days in one (1) calendar year, demotion, discharge or resignation not in good standing shall be required to exercise his statutory right of appeal to the Civil Service Commission and shall be precluded from having the Union move his appeal to binding arbitration.
- b. The Union, on behalf of a permanent employee against whom disciplinary action has been taken which does not result in a penalty enumerated in paragraph 10.3 (a) above, shall have the right to appeal this disciplinary action to binding arbitration in accordance with Step Three of the Grievance Procedure.
- c. The Union, on behalf of a provisional or unclassified employee against whom any disciplinary action has been taken, shall have the right to appeal this disciplinary action to binding arbitration in accordance with Step Three of the Grievance Procedures.

10:4 Written letters of reprimand and written documentation resulting from the issuance of a

verbal reprimand shall be deleted from an Officer's personnel records file 180 days from the date of issuance provided that no additional written reprimands or disciplinary actions emanating from similar circumstances or Infraction are issued during this 180-day period.

11. RATES OF PAY

11.1

- (a) The salary range for all employees covered by this Agreement shall be set forth in Appendix A annexed hereto.
- (b) A recruit will stay at this officer recruit step for a maximum of six (6) months, however, if the officer recruit completes COTA prior to six months, then the officer will move to Step 1 after successfully completing COTA or six (6) months after date of hire, whichever occurs first.

11.2 During the term of this Agreement, the pay scales will not be changed unless by mutual consent of the Employer and the Union.

11.3 The salary for the years covered by this Agreement shall be as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto. During the term of this contract, the officers that are currently employed within the Department shall be compensated as follows:

- (a) Step movement effective and retroactive to December 31, 2023.
- (b) Effective and retroactive to January 1, 2024, employees at the maximum step as of January 1, 2024 will receive a 2.25% salary increase.
- (c) Effective December 31, 2024, employees not at maximum step shall receive step movement.
- (d) Effective December 31, 2024, the Recruit Step shall be increased to \$42,500.00.

11.4 A Correction Officer who works in the classification of Correction Officer-Sergeant shall receive the Correction Officer-Sergeant rate of pay for such work for any and all time that it is performed.

11.5 When a Correction Officer is promoted to the classification of Correction Officer-Sergeant, his/her salary shall be adjusted to Correction Officer-Sergeant rate of pay.

11.6. COVID Impact Stipend – Effective and retroactive to January 1, 2023, all employees hired on or before March 1, 2022, shall receive a one-time \$2,500.00 COVID Impact stipend, not to base; employees hired after March 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023, shall receive a one-time \$1,000.00 COVID Impact stipend not to base.

11.7. Police Training Stipend – In accordance with P.L. 2022, c.65, effective January 1, 2024, all Police Officers are required to achieve licensing by the New Jersey Police Training Commission (“PTC”) and continue to hold a valid, active license as a law enforcement officer. Accordingly, to maintain the post-academy, ongoing, professional training requirement set by the PTC, all members shall receive an annual stipend of \$1,400.00, not to base.

- (a) The stipend referred to above shall be earned on a monthly basis, provided the employee

works a minimum of one (1) day in any calendar month.

- (b) New employees, retired employees, deceased employees, or employees on an authorized leave of absence shall be paid a prorated share of the annual PTC License Stipend allowance for each calendar month in which the employee works at least one (1) day, paid annually by December 15. Employees on workers' compensation and the utilization of paid time off, i.e. vacation, sick, etc., counts towards the minimum of one (1) day worked in any calendar month set forth in (a) and (b).

11.8 Retention Bonus – Recruits hired after December 31, 2024, shall receive a one-time \$3,000.00 retention bonus, not to base, upon successful completion of the Police Training Academy, contingent upon the individual remaining in the employ of the County as a Corrections Officer for a minimum period of two (2) years. If the individual should separate from employment within the two (2) year period, the individual will be required to reimburse the County for the retention bonus for a pro-rata share of the retention bonus based on the amount of time they worked for the County. For example, if the officer remained employed in the County for one (1) year, they would have to pay back half of the retention bonus, or \$1,500.00 . Moreover, should the officer leave the County's employ prior to the minimum period of two (2) years, the officer would be required to pay back fifty-percent (50%) of the cost of the initial uniform allotment provided to them upon being hired.

11.9 Senior Officer Pay Stipend – Effective and retroactive to January 1, 2024, those officers at top step shall receive a one-time , non-recurring “Senior Officer Pay Stipend” not to base as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| i. For those officers with 30 years of service | \$3,000.00 |
| ii. For those officers with 20 years of service | \$2,000.00 |
| iii. For those officers with 10 years of service | \$1,250.00 |

12.

OVERTIME

12.1 Time and one-half the employee's regular rate of pay shall be paid for work under any of the following conditions, but compensation shall not be paid twice for the same hours:

- a. All work performed in excess of the daily work schedule.
- b. All work performed on a holiday plus the regular day's pay.

12.2 Double time the employee's regular rate of pay shall be paid for any work in excess of sixteen (16) hours and twenty (20) minutes in any twenty-four (24) hour period.

12.3 Overtime opportunities will be distributed as equally as possible among employees in the same classification in accordance with the following procedure:

- a. The names of all permanent employees shall be placed on an overtime list (a separate list, by classification shall be maintained by both the Correction Center and Detention Center) in order of their seniority as established by Article 8 herein.
- b. In utilizing the above lists, the officers will be called in the order in which their names appear on the list.
- c. In the event that more than one overtime slot is available, the assignment shall be chosen exclusively by the employee by seniority.
- d. If an officer either works or rejects the overtime assignment, his/her name will be placed on the bottom of the list.
- e. If the institution is unable to contact an officer regarding an overtime assignment, the officer's name will remain in the same position on the list, and the next officer on the list shall be called.
- f. An officer who accepts overtime on a scheduled day off is deemed to be the most senior officer for the purpose of determining mandatory overtime on the subsequent shift.
- g. Any employee who is in a Without Pay situation as a result of at least seven (7) incidents of absenteeism in the calendar year shall be prohibited from working any voluntary overtime during the next fourteen (14) day period following the date of Without Pay charge.

12.4 Any and all work performed beyond an employee's regular scheduled shift on a holiday shall be paid at the rate of double time. Therefore, any and all holiday overtime shall be paid at double time.

12.5 Provision of meals for employees working overtime through a regularly scheduled meal time with the stipulation that the employee has worked four (4) hours overtime, or if the employee is called in on an emergency basis before his starting time and works through the regular breakfast meal.

It is understood that nothing in Clause 12 shall require payment of overtime hours not worked.

12.6. Compensatory Time. When overtime is earned, then the employee, at his or her option, may elect to take compensatory time off, at the same one and one-half rate. No employee shall ever be forced to use his or her compensatory time off. Such compensatory time shall be utilized within 365 days (one (1) year) of the date on which it was earned. If the employee is unable to use the compensatory time within the 365-day period, then the employee shall be compensated for the time at the rate then in effect when the compensatory time is being paid, not at the rate it was earned at.

13. CALL-IN TIME

13.1 Any employee who is requested and returns to work during periods other than his regularly scheduled shift shall be paid time-and-one half for such work and is guaranteed not less than four (4) hours pay at the overtime rate, provided, however, if the employee elects to leave upon completion of the work assignment and such assignment requires two (2) hours or less, said employee will be paid a minimum of two (2) hours at the overtime rate.

If the assignment exceeds two (2) hours, the employee shall be entitled to the guaranteed four (4) hours pay at the overtime rate. If the employee is called into work and arrives within one hour of the time of the telephone call, he/she will be paid for the entire shift.

13.2 In the event that an employee's call-in time work assignment and his/her regular shift overlap, said employee shall be paid in the following manner.

If the employee's call-in time assignments commences more than two (2) hours prior to the start of his/her normal shift, said employee shall be paid time and one-half for all hours worked prior to the start of his normal shift. Effective as of the starting time of his/her normal shift, said employee shall then be paid at his/her normal straight time rate of pay.

If the employee's call-in time work assignment commences less than two (2) hours prior to the start of his/her normal shift, said employee shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half for the first two (2) hours worked and for the balance of this employee's regular shift, he/she shall be paid at their normal straight time rate of pay.

14. SHIFT PAY

14.1 Employees working on shifts of which the majority of working hours fall between 3:00 p.m. and 11 :00 p.m. shall receive, in addition to their regular pay, an additional thirty (\$.30) cents per hour.

14.2 Employees working on shifts of which the majority of working hours fall between 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. shall receive, in addition to their regular pay, an additional thirty-five (\$.35) cents per hour.

14.3 If an employee working either of the shifts referred to in the paragraphs above is entitled to overtime pay, shift pay will included in the calculation of the overtime rate and shift pay shall be paid in addition to said overtime. Also, shift pay shall be included by Employer when calculating an employee's overtime rate of pay.

15.

INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS

15.1 The Employer agrees to provide eligible employees and their eligible dependents with Hospitalization, Medical and Major Medical Insurance through the New Jersey State Health Benefits Program or to provide equivalent or better health benefits coverage through a self-insurance program or independent insurance carrier. The premium costs for said programs shall be paid for by the Employer, except for employee contributions required under P.L. 2010, c.2, and P.L. 2011, c.78, whichever is greater. Employees shall pay for health insurance benefits at the Tier 4 level as reflected under P.L. 2011, c.78.

15.2 The Employer agrees to provide Health/Medical Insurance to eligible retired employees in accordance with New Jersey statutes and regulations, including P.L. 2010, c.2 and P.L. 2011, c.78. Said Insurance will continue under any self-insurance program or independent carrier the Employer may choose.

15.3 The Employer agrees to provide retirement benefits to eligible employees in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Employees' Retirement System and/or the New Jersey Policeman's and Firemen's Retirement System.

15.4 The County agrees to provide a Prescription Drug Program to eligible employees and their eligible dependents; the premium costs for said program to be paid by the County. The level of benefits will be maintained at a substantially similar level. Further, for the purpose of this program, eligible employees shall be defined as all full-time permanent employees only. The schedule for co-payment and co-payment generic will be as follows:

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Drug Type | |
| Generic | \$4.00 |
| Brand | \$12.00 |

15.5 The Employer agrees to provide for the payment of accumulated unused sick leave at the time of retirement of an eligible County employee in accordance with the provisions established by Resolution Number 86-580 adopted December 9, 1986. The employer shall pay to each employee for accumulated unused sick leave at retirement up to \$15,000.00. However, the County is not entitled to recoup any money that has been paid out to any employees who retired before September 12, 2017.

15.6 The County agrees to provide a Dental Insurance Program to eligible Employees and eligible dependents as follows:

- (1) Basic Dental coverage (as defined by the current dental contract);
- (2) Premium Dental Insurance; and
- (3) Eastern Dental Insurance.

The County will pay all of the costs of the basic dental program. Employees and eligible dependents shall be responsible for any additional costs associated with the Premium Dental Program or the Eastern Dental Program in excess of the cost for basic coverage.

15.7 The insurance coverage provided for in this section shall be paid for by the County, with

contribution amounts from the employees as determined pursuant to P.L. 2010 c.2, and P.L. 2011 c.78, whichever is greater.

15.8 State Disability Plan: The County agrees to make available the State Disability Plan as of January 1, 1996. All eligible employees are required to make the mandatory co-payment and follow the procedures as outlined under this plan.

16. PAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE

16.1 BEREAVEMENT DAYS - In the event of the death of a member of the immediate family of any employee covered by this Agreement, the immediate family being mother, father, sister, brother, spouse, civil-union partner, domestic partner, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, stepmother, stepfather, grandparent and grandchild, stepchild, step-grandchild, stepsister, stepbrother, step-grandparent of said employee shall be excused for a period of no more than five (5) consecutive working days within a seven (7) day period. The start of the seven-day period is to be mutually agreed upon by the Department Head and the employee based on individual circumstances of the funeral. The employee will be paid his/her regular hourly rate for any such days of excused absence which occur during his/her normal work week, but in no event more than eight (8) hours pay for any one day. The employee shall have the right to request proof of death and/or living arrangements whenever said proof shall appear reasonable.

The Employer reserves the right to request evidence of death of a family member and/or proof of living arrangement.

16.2 UNION BUSINESS DAYS

- a) Any employee who is duly authorized in writing to be a representative of the PBA shall be granted a leave of absence with pay for the time necessary to conduct P.B.A. business. The P.B.A. shall designate no more than four employees to serve as P.B.A. representatives who shall be allowed to aggregate no more than eighty (80) days in any one calendar year.
- b) The P.B.A. President and/or his designees shall be permitted time off to conduct intra County/Union business such as disciplinary hearings, grievance hearings, contract negotiations, other hearings, arbitration hearings, meetings with Union representatives (including the P.B.A. attorney) to prepare for contract negotiations and other hearings and court appearances, meetings with any County personnel, and the State Delegate shall be allowed to attend State P.B.A. monthly meetings without any of these days being counted towards the eighty (80) P.B.A. days set forth in (a) above. Such authorization for time off shall not be unreasonably denied and shall not be charged against the eighty (80) P.B.A. days set forth above.
- c) The County of Mercer will use its best efforts to secure office space and install a telephone for the exclusive use of P.B.A. Local 167. The P.B.A. shall pay all the costs of installation and monthly fees for the telephone, and shall enjoy other benefits as described in Section 3.4.

16.3 Occupational Injury Leave - Any employee who is disabled due to an occupational injury or illness shall be granted a leave of absence with full pay for the period of time the employee is disabled. Such disability is to be determined by the County Physician. Said leave of absence shall be limited to a maximum of one year from the date of injury or until temporary disability payment would have terminated, whichever is sooner. New Jersey Workers Compensation law shall apply if the disability continues beyond one year.

Employees returning from authorized leaves will be restored to their original classification and shift at the then appropriate rate of pay with no loss of seniority or other rights or benefits.

16.4 Sick Leave - all full-time permanent, full-time temporary or full-time provisional employees shall be entitled to sick leave with pay.

- a. Sick leave may be utilized by employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, maternity, accident or exposure to contagious disease. Sick leave may also be utilized for short periods for the attendance by the employee upon a member of the immediate family who is seriously ill.
- b. The minimum sick leave with pay shall accrue to any full-time permanent employee on the basis of one (1) working day per month during the remainder of the first calendar year of employment after initial appointment and fifteen (15) working days in every calendar year thereafter, said fifteen (15) days to be credited effective January 1st of each succeeding year.
- c. The minimum sick leave with pay shall accrue to any full-time temporary or full-time provisional employee at the rate of one (1) working day per month as earned.
- d. Any amount of sick leave allowance not used in any calendar year shall accumulate to the employee's credit from year to year to be used if and when needed for such purpose.
- e. An employee shall not be reimbursed for accrued sick leave at the time of termination of his employment excepting as provided under Article 15.5.
- f. If an employee is absent for reasons that entitle him/her to sick leave, the employee's supervisor shall be notified prior to the employee's starting time or in conformance with departmental regulations:
 - 1) Failure to so notify his supervisor may be cause of denial of the use of sick leave for that absence and constitute cause for disciplinary action;
 - 2) Absence without notice for five consecutive days shall constitute a resignation under N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.14.
- g. An employee who has been absent on sick leave for five (5) or more consecutive work days shall be required to submit acceptable medical evidence substantiating the illness.
 - 1) An employee who has been absent on sick leave for periods totaling more than fifteen (15) days in one calendar year consisting of periods of less than five (5) days shall have his/her sick leave record reviewed and thereafter may be required to submit acceptable medical evidence for an additional sick leave in that year. In cases where an illness is of a chronic or recurring nature causing recurring absences of one day or less, only one

submission of such proof shall be necessary for a period of six (6) months.

- 2) The appointing authority may require proof of illness of an employee on sick leave, whenever such requirement appears reasonable. Abuse of sick leave shall be cause for disciplinary action.
- h. In case of leave of absence due to exposure to contagious disease, a certification from the Department of Health shall be required.
- i. The appointing authority may require an employee who has been absent because of personal illness as a condition of his return to duty to be examined, at the expense of the County, by a physician designated by the appointing authority. Such examination shall establish whether the employee is capable of performing his normal duties and that his return will not jeopardize the health of the other employees.

Sick leave credits shall continue to accrue while on a leave with pay. Credits shall not accrue while an employee is on any leave without pay except active military leave.

16.5 Sick Leave Buy Back - An employee who has used five sick days or less in any calendar year may sell up to five (5) sick days back to the County, at the sole discretion of the employee.

16.6 Personal Leave Days - Employees covered by the provisions of this Agreement shall be entitled to three (3) days a year of absence with pay for personal business. Provisional employees shall earn personal days at the rate of one (1) day for every four (4) months worked. Newly hired provisional or temporary employees shall not be entitled to personal leave days. Said leave shall not be taken unless forty-eight (48) hours notice thereof has been given to the employee's supervisor. In the event that forty-eight (48) hours notice cannot be given, said leave may be taken only upon authorization by said supervisor. The Employer reserves the right to deny requests for personal days as conditions warrant but authorization shall not be unreasonably withheld.

16.7 JURY DUTY - All employees covered by the terms of this Agreement shall be granted a leave of absence with pay when required to serve on jury duty. Employees granted this leave of absence shall be required to reimburse the Employer for any jury fees or compensation received by them for serving on jury duty.

In the event that an employee is released from jury duty prior to the end of their work shift, said employee shall be required to report to work for the remainder of their shift.

If an employee is scheduled to work his or her normal work days as Saturday and Sunday prior to the beginning of jury service, then that employee will be off on the Saturday and Sunday immediately after jury service. For example, if an officer was scheduled to work Saturday and Sunday, but was to begin jury duty on Monday, then the officer would be off the following Saturday.

Additionally, for example, if an officer was scheduled to work Saturday and Sunday, but went to jury duty on both Monday and Tuesday, then the officer will be off both the following Saturday and Sunday.

17.

NON-PAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE

17.1 All employees covered by this agreement shall be entitled to a leave of absence without pay for personal illness.

- a. Said sick leave of absence without pay may only be utilized by employees when they are unable to perform their work by reason of personal illness, accident or exposure to contagious disease.
- b. To be eligible for sick leave of absence without pay, an employee shall be required to provide the Warden, Mercer County Jails, with documentation from their personal physician detailing the nature of the illness, and the length of expected absence from duty. Said leave of absence must be approved by the County Physician. All employees shall be required to be examined by the County Physician and certified by him/her as fit to return to duty prior to their return to work.
- c. Said leaves of absence must be renewed every three (3) months with the approval of the County Physician.

17.2 The County will grant leaves of absence to two (2) employees to accept full-time P.B.A. employment in conformance with Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Sixty (60) days notice in writing shall be given to the County by any employee requesting such leave.

17.3 All other leaves of absence without pay shall be at the discretion of the County.

17.4 Employees returning from authorized leaves of absence as set forth above will be restored to their original classification, at the appropriate rate of pay, with no loss of seniority, or other employee rights, privileges, or benefits, provided however, that sick leave, vacation leave and longevity credits shall not accrue.

18.

CHILD CARE/MATERNITY LEAVE

18.1 A permanent employee covered by the terms of this Agreement shall be entitled to a leave of absence without pay for maternity purpose. Said leave shall be granted for a three (3) month period upon written certification of the employee's physician that she is unable to work due to her pregnancy and/or childbirth and may be extended for additional three (3) month periods. This certification is subject to approval by the County Physician. Further, all employees shall be required to be examined by the County Physician and certified by him/her as fit to return to work prior to their return to work.

18.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 16.4 (Sick Leave With Pay) and Article 18.1 (Maternity Leave Without Pay), a permanent employee covered by the terms of this Agreement shall be entitled to a leave of absence without pay for child care purposes for a period of three (3) months. Said leave shall commence effective upon the date of birth or the employee's child and under no circumstances shall it be extended beyond this three (3) month period.

18.3 The County and the Union agree that the provisions of the Family Leave Act and Federal Family Medical Leave Act shall be abided during the term of the Agreement.

19. MILITARY DUTY

19.1 All employees covered by the terms of this Agreement who are ordered or required to perform active military duty shall be granted the necessary time off from work or granted a leave of absence during the period of such military duty in accordance with applicable Federal and State statutory authority. This statutory authority shall be dispositive as to whether or not said time off on leave of absence shall be paid or unpaid.

20. HOLIDAY

20.1 The following days are recognized paid holidays whether or not worked:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| New Year's Day | Labor Day |
| Martin Luther King's Birthday | Columbus Day |
| President's Day | General Election Day |
| Good Friday | Veterans' Day |
| Memorial Day | Thanksgiving Day |
| Juneteenth (effective 2021) | Day after Thanksgiving |
| Independence Day | Christmas Day |

All other holidays formally declared by resolution of the Board of Commissioners.

20.2 Holidays enumerated in 20.1 and 20.2 above that fall on a Saturday or Sunday shall be observed on the Saturday or Sunday. This Saturday or Sunday observance shall be utilized as the date for overtime and holiday pay calculations. Holidays which fall within an employee's vacation period shall not be charged as vacation days.

20.3 In order to be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must be on the active payroll of the Employer and must have worked his full regularly scheduled work day before and after the holiday, unless such absence is authorized.

20.4 When a holiday falls on a regularly scheduled day off, employees shall receive an additional day's pay.

20.5 Holiday Forced-Off shall commence as follows: Voluntary requests shall be honored based on most senior-to-least-senior basis. Once voluntary requests are exhausted, the Warden, through his designee shall force-off Officers based on least-senior-to-most-senior bases until required operational temp is achieved. Regular rate of pay for this day shall be paid and no accrued time shall be charged.

21. ANNUAL VACATION LEAVE

21.1 All full-time permanent employees shall be entitled to vacation leave based on their years of continuous service. Periods on a leave of absence without pay except military leave shall be deducted from an employee's total continuous service for purposes of determining the earned service credit for vacation leave.

21.2 Annual vacation leave with pay for all full-time permanent employees shall be earned as follows:

- a. One (1) working day of vacation for each month of service during the remainder of the calendar year following the date of appointment.
- b. After one (1) year and to completion of five (5) years, twelve (12) working days.
- c. From beginning of sixth (6th) year to completion of tenth (10th) year, fifteen (15) working days.
- d. From beginning of eleventh (11th) year to completion of fifteenth (15th) year, twenty (20) working days.
- e. From the completion of fifteenth (15th) year to end of nineteenth (19th) year, twenty-five (25) working days.
- f. From beginning of twentieth (20th) year, thirty (30) working days.

21.3 Annual vacation leave with pay for all full-time temporary and full-time provisional shall be earned at the rate of one (1) day per month.

21.4 The rate of vacation shall be the employee's regular straight time rate of pay in effect for the employee's regular job on the pay day immediately preceding the employee's vacation period.

21.5 An employee who is called back to work while on authorized vacation, shall be paid time and one half per day and shall not lose vacation day or days.

21.6 A maximum of fifteen (15) vacation days, at the option of the employee, may be carried over from one (1) calendar year into the succeeding calendar year. However, the employee may request to carry over additional vacation days to a maximum of twenty-five (25) which shall be subject to the approval and procedures of the Office of Employee Relations. Approval to carry over vacation days will not be unreasonably withheld or denied.

21.7 A permanent employee who returns from military service is entitled to full vacation allowance for the calendar year of return and for the year preceding, providing the latter can be taken during the year of return.

21.8 An employee who is retiring or who has otherwise separated shall be entitled to the vacation allowance for the current year prorated upon the number of months worked in the calendar year in which the separation or retirement becomes effective and any vacation leave which may have been carried over from the preceding calendar year.

Whenever a permanent employee dies, having to his/her credit any annual vacation leave, there shall be calculated and paid to his/her estate a sum of money equal to the compensation figured on his salary rate at the time of death.

21.9 Part-time temporary, part-time provisional, seasonal or hourly paid employees shall not be entitled to vacation leave.

21.10 Vacation leave credits shall continue to accrue while an employee is on leave with pay. Vacation credits shall not accrue while an employee is on leave without pay except military leave.

22. LONGEVITY

22.1 Every full-time employee, provisional or permanent, classified or unclassified, of the County of Mercer, shall be paid longevity payments on a prorated basis with each salary check during the calendar year and such longevity payment shall be considered in total with the salary for pension purposes.

22.2 Employees having completed five (5) years of continuous service will have added to their gross per annum pay an additional \$300 commencing with the first day of the first full pay period following five (5) years of continuous service and for the completion of each additional five (5) years of continuous service thereafter, shall have added to their gross per annum pay an additional \$400.00. Longevity will be included in the officer's regular rate of pay for the purpose of calculating his/her overtime rate. For all employees hired after the full execution of the Contract, "service" as that term is used herein shall pertain to service with the Mercer County Department of Corrections.

22.3 Any interruption of service due to a cause beyond the control of the employee, i.e., for military service, injury or illness shall be considered as service for the County of Mercer for the purpose of determining the completion of said cumulative periods of service with the County of Mercer. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed to apply to any person whose employment has been terminated for any reason prior to the effective date of the execution of this contract.

22.4 Such additional longevity payments shall be paid notwithstanding the maximum salary theretofore provided for such employment or for future employment, by resolution, but shall not apply to those officers, positions or employment where compensation is set by State Statute and the maximum allowed by law is presently being received.

22.5 Bargaining unit members hired on or after January 1, 2021 shall not be entitled to the benefits of this Article.

23. WORK UNIFORMS. UNIFORM ALLOWANCE AND MEALS

23.1 (a) The Employer will provide one (1) full uniform issue to each Correction Officer upon permanent appointment to rank. The uniform issue shall consist of the following:

- a. Three (3) pairs of trousers;
- b. Three (3) short sleeve shirts;
- c. Three (3) long sleeve shirts;
- d. One (1) three-quarter ($\frac{3}{4}$) length winter jacket, water repellent;
- e. One (1) windbreaker;
- f. Uniform shall include in addition to normal Issue:
Baseball Cap, shoes, belts and ties.

(b) The employees may wear Class B uniforms.

23.2 One (1) meal per shift will be granted to all employees covered by the terms of this Agreement.

24. SAFETY AND HEALTH

24.1 The employer shall at all times maintain safe and healthful working conditions and will provide employees with wearing apparel, tools or devices deemed necessary in order to insure their safety and health. When such materials are issued, they shall be used.

24.2 The employer and the P.B.A. will participate in a safety committee in each institution. Each committee is to be compromised of one (1) member appointed by the employer and two (2) union officials.

24.3 The safety committee will confer on working conditions and, where necessary, make recommendations to the Warden and P.B.A. President.

24.4 The safety committee, with reasonable notice, is authorized to check safety equipment to ensure that it is in working order.

25. BILL OF RIGHTS

In order to safeguard fundamental rights of the Officers employed by the County of Mercer, it is agreed that:

25.1 Except when on duty or acting in his official capacity as a law enforcement officer, no law enforcement officer shall be prohibited from engaging in political activity, provided his position as a law enforcement officer is not used in any way, whether directly or indirectly, while engaging in said political activities. As employed herein, the term "law enforcement officer" shall mean any employee.

25.2 Whenever a law enforcement officer has received notice that he/she is under formal investigation after receipt of a filed complaint, which complaint shall be in the form of the Notification of complaint for alleged malfeasance, misfeasance, nonfeasance of official duty, with a view toward possible disciplinary action, demotion, dismissal, or criminal charges, the following minimum standards shall apply:

- a. Any formal interrogation of a law enforcement officer, whether as a subject of investigation or as a witness, shall take place at the location designated by the investigatory officer, except it shall not be conducted at the law enforcement officer's home unless the home is specifically involved in the complaint, and preferably when the employee is on duty. A member of the Department shall be compensated for lost time accruing from investigations in accordance with existing Department policy. The questioning of an officer shall be conducted at a reasonable hour in a non-coercive manner, without threat or promise of reward. The questioning shall be of a reasonable duration and rest periods allowed. Time shall be provided for personal necessities, meals, and telephone calls as are reasonably necessary. The law enforcement officer shall be entitled to the presence of his counsel or any other one person of his choice at any interrogation in connection with the investigation.
- b. The law enforcement officer being investigated shall be informed at the

commencement of any interrogation of the nature of the investigation, including whether the officer is a target of the Investigation, if known, the Statute, rule, or regulation allegedly violated, if known; the names and addresses of any complainants; and the identity and authority of those conducting the Investigation. This shall not preclude the Employer from subsequently modifying, amending, or changing the statute, rule, or regulation under which the charges are brought. Also, at the commencement of any interrogation of such officer in connection with any such investigation the officer shall be informed of the identity of all persons present during such interrogation. All questions asked in any such interrogation, whenever practicable, shall be asked by or through a single interrogator.

- c. No formal hearing by means of which a law enforcement officer may be disciplined or penalized may be brought except upon charges signed by the persons making those charges.
- d. The Interrogation of the employee concerned shall be recorded mechanically or by written form. "Off the record" questions shall not be permitted. Any recesses called during the interrogation shall be recorded.
- e. If an officer is placed under arrest or is likely to be placed under arrest for a criminal offense, he/she shall be afforded all constitutional rights, and, in addition, he/she shall be given the following warning prior to the commencement of any interrogation:

"I am advising you that you are being questioned as part of an official investigation. You will be asked questions specifically directed and narrowly related to the performance of your official duties. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws of the State of New Jersey, the Constitution of this State, and the Constitution of the United States, including the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself and the right to have legal counsel present at each and every stage of this investigation.

I further advise you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties, you will be subject to Departmental charges which could result in your dismissal from employment. If you do answer questions, neither your statements nor any information or evidence which is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceedings. However, these statements may be used against you in relation to subsequent Departmental charges."

- f. It is understood that the provisions of this paragraph shall not preclude initial or preliminary inquiries by the Employer and shall only apply upon the commencement of a formal investigation or the filing of a complaint.

25.3 All investigations against law enforcement officers shall be conducted expeditiously. At least every two (2) months after the commencement of such investigation, as determined by the date that the Notification of Complaint is served upon the officer, the officer, if he/she so requests, is to be informed of the status of the pending investigation. If charges are to be brought against the officer, they should be brought as promptly as possible to ensure that no unnecessary delay occurs which might prejudice the officer's defense; and, unless unusual circumstances exist, no officer should be prosecuted by the Department for the alleged infraction of any rule if more than

45 days transpire between the date the Warden or Superintendent had knowledge or should reasonably have had knowledge of the alleged infraction by virtue of information that is normally transmitted to him by routine administrative processes and the services of the Preliminary Notice of Disciplinary Action.

25.4 There shall be removed from an officer's personnel file all papers, files, reports, notes, and copies thereof relating to an investigation of a law enforcement officer when the investigation does not result in any disciplinary action or when the officer is exonerated. These items, if retained, shall be maintained separate and apart from the personnel file. The officer may on proper notice inspect these materials at the discretion of the Warden or Superintendent. Such inspection shall not be unreasonably denied.

25.5 No law enforcement officer shall be required to disclose, for the purpose of promotion or assignment, any information concerning his property, income, assets, debts, or expenditures, or those of any member of such officer's household, except where such information relates directly to the officer's assignment or duties. No officer shall be required to take any lie detector or other test designed to determine the truthfulness of any statement as part of any investigation or as a condition of employment.

25.6

- a. A union representative should be present when the written charges are given to an employee.
- b. The charges should be given to the employee in private, not in front of an inmate.
- c. An employee should be given copies of all reprimands.
- d. All hearings should be when an employee is on duty, and the employee should be relieved of duty for his or her respective hearing. The employer should make the appropriate arrangements to make sure that an employee is able to attend his or her respective hearing by allowing the employee to leave his or her assignment to attend the hearing.
- e. Adjournments - Officers shall be granted no more than two adjournments for each disciplinary action. A request must be made in writing and received by the hearing officer at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing. The request must state the reason for the adjournment request. Officers will not be granted adjournments for vacation or personal time off which was requested after the Notice of a Hearing had been presented to the officer. Also, the County shall notify the employee and the PBA at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing that the hearing has been adjourned. A request less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hearing, based on sick time, must be accompanied by a doctor's note or be supplied later.
- f. If and when discipline is ordered, and there is any suspension of up to 10 days, then an employee may use compensatory time, vacation time, personal days, etc., in lieu of being suspended without pay. The employee shall notify in writing the warden within seven (7) days of the employee being notified of the suspension of up to 10 days, that the employee wants to use the above days in lieu of being suspended without pay.

25.7 There shall be no penalty or threat of any penalty for the exercise by a law enforcement officer of his rights under this Bill of Rights.

26. SEPARABILITY AND SAVINGS

26.1 If any provision of this Agreement is subsequently declared by the proper legislative or judicial authority or court of competent jurisdiction to be unlawful, unenforceable or not in accordance with applicable statutes, all other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this Agreement.

Upon request of either party, the parties agree to meet and renegotiate any provisions so affected,

27. ORAL MODIFICATION

27.1 Any modifications of this Agreement must be formalized in writing and signed by the parties to this Agreement. No oral modification will be deemed valid unless same is reduced to writing and incorporated into the Agreement.

28. GENERAL PROVISIONS

28.1 The employer agrees to make available one (1) locked glass-enclosed bulletin board at each of the following locations:

CORRECTION CENTER DETENTION CENTER

The said bulletin boards shall be used for posting of the following notices: P.B.A. Meetings; P.B.A. Elections; P.B.A. Returns; P.B.A. Appointments to Officer; and P.B.A. Recreational or Social Affairs.

28.2 The provisions of this Agreement shall only apply to those employees in the Unit who are on the County payroll and actively at work in or after the date of the execution of this Agreement and those former employees who retired under a State administered pension plan prior to the date of the execution of this Agreement.

28.3 The County agrees to provide TB and hepatitis inoculations to all Association members by September 1, 1994 at no cost to each employee, and thereafter pursuant to OSHA and other applicable laws and regulations. The County agrees to provide flu shots annually at no cost to employees.

28.4 Police Training Commission - The PTC required training for all employees shall be observed and adhered to. All such training shall either be done during the officer's regular scheduled work shift or shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half.

28.5 The County will arrange parking assignments for 25 employees whose shifts begin between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

29. PERSONNEL FILES

29.1 Any employee shall have the right to inspect his personnel folder after reasonable notice to the Superintendent or the Deputy Superintendent during normal office hours in the presence

of a designated person by the County, an employee shall be allowed to inspect his personnel file no more than once per month.

29.2 Employees will be provided with a copy of material placed in their personnel folder. The employee shall be allowed to place in his folder a response to equal length of anything contained therein.

29.3 Any work performance evaluation shall be reviewed with the employee and evidence of this review shall be the required signature of the employee on the evaluation form.

29.4 No document of anonymous origin shall be placed in any employee's file.

29.5 An employee may copy any and all documents and written material in his personnel file. The County will provide a copy machine for the employee to make the copies, or the County may make the copies for the employee.

29.6 When an employee's record is free from any disciplinary action for a period of one (1) year, any letter of reprimand or documents, or written counseling notices which express dissatisfaction with the employee's work performance or conduct in any manner in the employee's record shall not be used by the employer for any future disciplinary action in any manner.

29.7 Only those documents, writings, disciplinary notices, etc., which are contained in the employee's file shall be allowed to be used against the employee for any reason, except as set forth in 29.6 above. Therefore, if a counseling notice, a notice of suspension, or any other writing which expresses any dissatisfaction with the employee's work performance or conduct is not contained in the employee's personnel file cannot be used in any manner against the employee for discipline or promotion, except the specifications and charges which are the subject matter of the discipline action which shall also be allowed to be used.

30. PBA PRESIDENT

30.1 At the option of the PBA President, he or she may work the day shift from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If the PBA President decides to work the day shift from Monday through Friday, then the PBA President does not bid on the day shift Monday through Friday, but shall automatically be given the day shift Monday through Friday.

31. RANDOM DRUG TESTING PURSUANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL GUIDELINES

31.1 The parties agree that all employees will be subject to random drug testing pursuant to the New Jersey Attorney General's Law Enforcement Drug Testing Policy, which has last been revised April 2018.

31.2 The parties agree to meet and agree as to the penalties to be imposed for voluntary submission, first offense, second offense, etc.

32. DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT

32.1 This Agreement shall become effective January 1, 2023 and shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 2024. The parties shall negotiate a successor Agreement. If a successor Agreement has not been entered into before January 1, 2025, then the terms and

conditions of this Agreement shall continue to be in full force and effect until a new Agreement is entered into between the parties. The provisions of this agreement shall only apply to those employees in the unit who are on County payroll and actively working on or after the date of the execution of this Agreement except those employees whose employment was terminated by death or retirement prior to the date of the execution of this Agreement.

33. VOLUNTARILY AGREED TO

33.1 The parties have voluntarily entered into this collective bargaining agreement.

34. MEALS

34.1 The parties have agreed that they will implement a food service for the officers in which the officers' meals are not prepared by inmates. If necessary, the officers will pay a higher rate to obtain the meals not prepared by inmates.

35. BIDDING OF DAYS OFF, SHIFTS, AND ASSIGNMENTS BY SENIORITY

35.1 Pursuant to Paragraph 4.1, employees shall be able to select, based on seniority, their days off, shift (day, evening, or night shift), and job assignment pursuant to the following bidding procedure:

35.2 The job bidding process that is hereby being established shall be based solely on seniority, except those jobs set forth below in 35.11, which have some job qualifications. Seniority shall be defined as set forth in Section 8 of the contract entitled "Seniority". The bidding shall include shifts, job assignments, and days off.

35.3 The PBA may request to have all jobs bid no more than once every twelve months. The term "jobs" includes shift, days off, and job assignment.

35.4 The County may ask the PBA for all jobs to be bid no more than once a year and the PBA has the discretion to either agree or disagree before this bid takes place. If the PBA does not agree for all jobs to bid, then there shall be no bidding process. But, in any twelve month period that the PBA has not requested all jobs be bid, then the County has the right to have all jobs be bid.

35.5 After the jobs, assignments and days off have been bid, then the assignments shall take place no later than the next pay period.

35.6 Nothing contained in this entire contract shall be interpreted to mean that the assignment of Internal Affairs is to be bid. This assignment shall remain the sole prerogative of the Warden or his designee, which shall be in accordance with controlling statutes.

35.7 In order to meet with needs of training and/or specialized abilities, shift assignments may need to be altered in order to meet the bona fide safety needs of citizens of the County.

In these cases, the changes shall be made with timely written notice and explanation and shall last until such time as the specific needs have been met, at which time the affected employee shall be returned to his bid shift and assignment.

35.8 Nothing in this contract shall preclude any employee from voluntarily switching or swapping shift assignments with another employee prior to the rebid date. However, such switches of shifts and assignments shall occur with approval of the Warden or his designee. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily, capriciously or unreasonably denied. Newly hired employees are not able to voluntarily switch or swap shifts and/or assignments with another employee until after they have completed their probationary period of employment.

35.9. All employees should be given an opportunity to learn the specialized skills of any and all job assignments.

35.10 If an employee in a bidded position will be out more than thirty (30) calendar days, then that bidded assignment shall be subject to a "temporary bid". These temporary bids will only occur when it is reasonable to assume or know that an employee will be out more than thirty (30) calendar days. Any officer may bid for this "temporary bidded position". The replacement officer who bids and obtains the temporary bidded position, will then vacate another previously bidded position, which shall also be subject to a "temporary bid". For example, if Officer "A" is going to be out more than thirty (30) days, then his bidded position will be subject to a "temporary bid". Assume Officer "B" selects "A"s bidded position, then Officer "B"s bidded position would now be subject to a "temporary bid" and so forth on down the line.

35.11 The following jobs (assignments) may be bid by any and all officers who meet the following minimum requirements, which have been established by the County and may be modified as necessary:

- a. A and B Pod Maximum Security- successful completion of C.O.T.A. and one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer.
- b. Star PC - Protective Custody, maximum security - successful completion of C.O.T.A.
- c. Transportation - qualified with a service weapon, successful completion of C.O.T.A., one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer, and Commercial Driver's License. (The County will train anyone who successfully bids for this position, which training shall be to obtain the commercial driver's license.)
- d. Outside Rec. -successful completion of C.O.T.A, one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer, and qualified with a service weapon.
- e. Escort A and B- successful completion of C.O.T.A. and one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer.
- f. Outside security- successful completion of C.O.T.A., one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer, and qualified with a service weapon.
- g. Laundry- successful completion of C.O.T.A., one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer, and commercial driver's license. (The County will train anyone who successfully bids for this position, which training shall be to obtain the commercial driver's license.)
- h. Detention Center - successful completion of C.O.T.A. and one (1) year experience as a Correction Officer.
- i. Training Department- successful completion of C.O.T.A. and three (3) years

experience as a Correction Officer at the Mercer County Correction Center. The County will comply with any applicable legal requirements as to the number of training officers.

35.12 A "non-qualified employee" is an employee who because of the qualifications set forth above in 35.11 is not qualified to bid any of the jobs in a through h. A non-qualified employee may work any assignment, but cannot bid the jobs or assignments set forth in 35.11 above; however, the employer may assign a non-qualified employee to any of the above.

35.13 A non-qualified employee cannot bid for the above assignments in 35.11; however, if there is one qualified employee in any of the jobs in 35.11, and there is a second daily or temporary assignment to the same assignment (such as A Pod or B Pod), then a non-qualified employee can be assigned from unassigned or for overtime. For example, if in A Pod there is an opening and there is already a qualified employee working the same shift, days off in A Pod, then the next employee may be a non-qualified employee assigned to that A or B Pod.

35.14 In the bid process, after officers have selected to be an "unassigned officer", then all unassigned officers in each shift shall be able to pick their job assignment based on seniority. For example, if there are five (5) unassigned officers with Monday and Tuesday off on the day shift, then those five (5) unassigned officers shall select their job assignment based on seniority. Therefore, the unassigned officers will be selecting their job assignments on the shift based on seniority, except for those assignments requiring minimum qualifications in which case at least one officer shall meet the minimum qualifications, if not, then the least senior officer meeting the minimum qualifications shall be assigned, unless there is a volunteer.

35.15 If there are any new assignments (posts) created for any reason, then these assignments (posts) shall be subject to bidding. These biddable assignments will include shifts, days off, and assignment.

35.16 Attached hereto as Schedule "A" is a sample list of the assignments to be bid by each shift, days off, and job assignments in each shift.

35.17 Effective January 1, 2022, for each Tour, the number of vacation, personal and compensatory days to be utilized will be determined based on a 10% allotment of available bids plus 1 additional day rounded to the nearest amount. For purposes of this provision, rounded shall mean an amount .0 to .4 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number and an amount of .5 to .9 will be rounded up to the nearest whole number. An available bid is determined by a review of the shift schedule (i.e. front page – assignment roster) and determining which jobs are open and available to the bidding process and being filled daily; bids that are closed or temporarily not bidded are not counted towards the 10% allotment plus 1 additional day for determining time off. As to allotted days, 1 day will be for personal/vacation, 1 day will be for compensatory day, and the remaining amount of days shall be used for vacation days only.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused these presents to be signed by their proper officers and attested to on the date set forth next to each of their names.

County of Mercer

ATTEST:

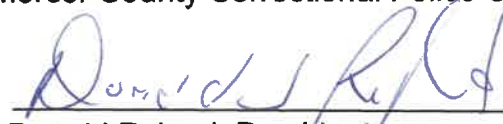

Deputy, Clerk to the Board
Board of County Commissioners

Dated: 9/18/ 2025


Dan Benson, County Executive

Dated: 9.16. 2025

P.B.A. Local 167
Mercer County Correctional Police Officer Association


Donald Ryland, President
PBA 167

Dated: 9/18/ 2025

Dated: 2025

SCHEDULE A

| Steps | 1/1/2023 | 1/1/2024 | 12/31/2024 |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Recruit | \$37,600 | \$37,600 | \$42,500 |
| 1 | \$46,987 | \$46,987 | \$46,987 |
| 2 | \$52,875 | \$52,875 | \$52,875 |
| 3 | \$58,763 | \$58,763 | \$58,763 |
| 4 | \$64,653 | \$64,653 | \$64,653 |
| 5 | \$70,650 | \$70,650 | \$70,650 |
| 6 | \$76,539 | \$76,539 | \$76,539 |
| 7 | \$82,426 | \$82,426 | \$82,426 |
| 8 | \$87,816 | \$87,816 | \$87,816 |
| 9 | \$102,907 | \$105,222 | \$105,222 |