



CITY OF WINCHESTER EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK 2022 EDITION



Prepared for the City of Winchester with assistance from
the Kentucky League of Cities Personnel Policy Services

**CITY OF WINCHESTER
EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

2022 EDITION

City of Winchester Mission Statement

In partnership with our community, the mission of the City of Winchester is to protect and enhance the quality of life by providing a high level of service in an efficient and responsive manner for all citizens.

NOTICE

The City of Winchester Employee Handbook does not create any contractual or other legal rights. The personnel policies contained in this Handbook do not alter the city's At-Will Employment Policy nor do they create an employment contract for any period of time. This Handbook may be added to, terminated, or changed at any time by the City of Winchester.

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Section 1 – Introduction

About the City of Winchester Handbook

The purpose of the City of Winchester Employee Handbook is to establish a uniform system for managing personnel matters for all city employees. This Handbook and the policies it contains provide direction for you in the performance of your employment duties so that you can successfully contribute to the fulfillment of the city's mission.

The policies contained in this Handbook are designed to reinforce the core values of the City of Winchester. We believe that when you act in a manner consistent with the city's core values in your employment activities, both you and the citizens we serve will prosper.

The city's core values serve as the cultural foundation of the organization. They embody the spirit and collective conscience of the city and its employees. Our core values describe how we fulfill our mission by representing the enduring ideals and principals that guide our actions.

We believe:

- Kentucky's cities play an essential role in shaping the future of the commonwealth.
- Local decisions are best made at the local level.
- Our exceptional services help our city function effectively and enhance the quality of life within the city.
- Building and cultivating relationships with other governments, businesses, and individuals furthers the mission of the city.

We embrace:

- Customer service based on attentive listening and measured by timely and appropriate responses.
- Credibility built on a commitment to high ethical standards, accountability, competence, and non-partisanship.
- Teamwork and continuous learning that drives improvement and innovation.
- Caring and mutual respect that foster a supportive working environment.

Regardless of your primary area of work concentration, you are foremost an employee of the City of Winchester. While each city employee has different responsibilities, job duties, and departmental assignments in the organizational structure, employees are expected to work as a team toward the common goal of advancing the interests of the city.

We are pleased that you are part of the city family, and we hope you view your employment as an opportunity to help advance our community and thereby make it an even better place for future generations.

City Government and Organization

- (1) The City of Winchester operates under the city manager form of government. Every city organized under the city manager plan must have an elected officer, who is called the mayor, and four elected commissioners. The mayor and commissioners together comprise the board of commissioners. [KRS 83A.150].

- (2) In the city manager form of government, all of the executive, administrative, and legislative authority of the city is vested in and exercised by the board of the commissioners as a body; however, in the city manager form, significant administrative powers are also vested in the nonelected position of city manager.
- (3) A city manager must be appointed by the board of commissioners for an indefinite term. Once appointed, the manager may only be removed by a majority vote of the board of commissioners after the following requirements and procedures, as set forth in KRS 83A.150(8), have been followed.
- (4) The city manager is the chief executive/administrative officer of the city and exercises the executive powers and functions delegated by statute and ordinance. The manager is directly responsible to the board of commissioners. [KRS 83A.150(9)].
- (5) The following duties and responsibilities of the city manager are outlined in KRS 83A.150(7):
 - a. Enforce the city manager plan, city ordinances, and statutes.
 - b. Promulgate procedures, subject to board approval, to govern the functions of city government.
 - c. Prepare, present, and administer the annual budget.
 - d. Prepare and submit to the board an annual year-end financial report and a report on the administrative activities of the city.
 - e. Advise the board concerning the financial condition and needs of the city.
 - f. Maintain liaison with related units of local government relative to interlocal contracting and joint activities.
 - g. Supervise all departments of the city and the conduct of city officers and employees, including requiring each department to make reports.
 - h. Recommend to the board the appointment, removal, and discipline of subordinate employees and officers; provided, however, that the board must take all final action regarding the appointment and removal of employees, except for certain temporary and interim appointments.
 - i. May fill vacancies in classified service pending board approval and employ temporary personnel, subject to conditions established by the board.
 - j. Perform all other duties imposed by the board.
- (6) The manager's duties and responsibilities may be delegated to subordinate officers by municipal order of the board of commissioners. [KRS 83A.150(9)].

Effect, Amendment, and Application of Handbook Policies

- (1) The City of Winchester Employee Handbook (2022Edition) contains information about the city's employment policies and procedures and an overview of the city's benefits. For specific information about employee benefits, refer to the plan documents, which are controlling. The policies and procedures in this Handbook are guidelines only. The city reserves the right to interpret and

administer the provisions of this Handbook as needed. The provisions of this Handbook will repeal and replace all previously adopted policies and procedures governing employment with the city.

- (2) Except for the policy of at-will employment, which can only be changed in writing by the board of commissioners, this Handbook and any of the policies and procedures contained herein are subject to change at the discretion of the city. The city may amend or terminate any policy or procedure contained in this Handbook at any time, with or without notice. However, the city will endeavor to communicate any changes to all employees in a timely fashion.
- (3) Each employee should read and become familiar with the information contained in this Handbook. Failure to comply with the city's policies or procedures may result in discipline, up to and including termination.
- (4) The provisions in this Handbook are not intended to in any way create any contractual obligations with respect to your employment.
- (5) These policies and procedures are intended to cover most personnel problems, actions, and issues which may arise. Those not specifically covered will be interpreted by the city manager and the board of commissioners; such interpretation will be in concert with the spirit and letter of these policies and procedures. In addition, the city manager and board of commissioners may write administrative memoranda to interpret or clarify existing policies. These memoranda will have the force of policy and will be filed with the personnel policies and procedures.
- (6) The policies contained in this Handbook apply to all nonelected officers and employees of the city regardless of their departmental assignment or primary responsibilities. These policies may also apply to volunteers, elected officials and members of boards or commissions as required by state and federal law or as noted within the policy.

Employee Handbook

The human resources/risk manager will ensure that a current copy of the employee Handbook is prepared and distributed to all new and current employees. All employees are expected to read and sign the Handbook Acknowledgment (HR Form 01) within 30 days of employment or within 30 days of any amendment to the Handbook. The human resources/risk manager will maintain a copy of the Handbook Acknowledgment Form in the employee's personnel file pursuant to the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Record Retention Schedule.

Administration of the City Personnel System

- (1) The city's policies are applied and enforced by the board of commissioners, city manager, and supervisory employees, which include department heads and supervisors. The city expects supervisory staff to foster a working environment where employees take the primary role in their own professional growth and development. Supervisory employees should provide continuous feedback to their employees regarding performance and should immediately address any potential infractions of these policies with employees.
- (2) To ensure fairness and consistency in all personnel matters, the city has designated the human resources/risk manager to be responsible for general oversight of the city's personnel system and for all centralized personnel matters such as the recruitment and selection of employees, revision of job descriptions, wage and salary schedules, administration of benefit programs, and maintenance of personnel records.

- (3) No department supervisory employee or other employee will conduct any interview for potential employment or internship, make any offer of employment or internship, or make any modifications to the compensation or benefits of employees without notification to the human resources/risk manager and compliance with the procedures established by the city. No supervisory employee or other employee will alter, suspend, or fail to enforce or adhere to the policies contained in this Handbook.

Conflicting Policies

In the event of any conflicting policies, rules, or regulations, those that apply shall be based on the following in descending order: Kentucky Revised Statutes; City of Winchester Code of Ordinances; the City of Winchester Employee Handbook; and any departmental policy and procedures manual or written directives.

Severability

If any provision of these policies or any procedure for their subsequent application is held invalid, such invalidation will have no bearing or effect on any other parts or sections.

Section 2 – Hiring and Employment

At-Will Employment

All city employees are at-will employees. This means there is no contract of employment, express or implied, and that either the city or the employee is free to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without cause. The city's At-Will Employment Policy will only be varied by a specific written agreement that is entered into and signed by the mayor after approval by the board of commissioners and an individual employee. Therefore, nothing contained in this Handbook or any other document provided to the employee will be relied upon or interpreted to form a contract binding upon the city regarding any benefit, policy, procedure, or other term or condition of employment.

Equal Opportunity Employer

- (1) The city is an equal opportunity employer. It is the city's policy to afford equal employment opportunity to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy/childbirth-related medical conditions, genetic makeup, national origin, disability, veteran or family status, an individual's status as a smoker or nonsmoker, or any other status or condition protected by applicable local, state, or federal laws, except where a bona fide occupational qualification applies.
- (2) The city's commitment as an equal opportunity employer extends to all its employment and personnel practices including job opportunities, promotions, pay and benefits, discipline, discharge, training, and other social and recreational activities sponsored by the city.
- (3) The harassment, retaliation, coercion, interference, or intimidation of any employee due to that employee's race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy/childbirth-related medical conditions, genetic makeup, age, disability, veteran or family status, or because the employee is a smoker or nonsmoker is strictly forbidden. Any employee who experiences such treatment should immediately report it to their supervisor or other supervisory or management staff in accordance with the Sexual and Nonsexual Harassment Policy within Section 3 of this Handbook.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- (1) The city will offer equal employment opportunities for qualified individuals who may have a physical or mental disability, including medical conditions related to pregnancy, but who can still perform the essential job functions with or without reasonable accommodations. The city will provide reasonable accommodations to individuals qualifying under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) only when that accommodation does not create an "undue hardship" to the city.
- (2) Any employee who feels they may need an accommodation in order to perform their job functions should notify their immediate supervisor, human resources/risk manager, or city manager in writing. Because analysis under the ADA requires an open dialogue between the employee and the employer, the employee and the supervisor are encouraged to discuss the situation openly and involve the human resources/risk manager, city manager, and other necessary staff as appropriate.
- (3) Medical information may be requested by the city to assist in understanding the employee's capabilities and limitations.

Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA)

- (1) The city will comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), including Form I-9 requirements.
- (2) Under IRCA, all employers must complete Employment Eligibility Verification Forms, commonly known as Form I-9, for all current employees and maintain those forms in a separate file for the longer of either:
 - a. Three years from the first day of employment; or
 - b. One year after the employment ended.
- (3) IRCA prohibits employers from:
 - a. Knowingly hiring, recruiting, or referring (for a fee) noncitizens who are not authorized to work in the U.S.
 - b. Requiring specific documents to complete Form I-9.
 - c. Retaliating against employees that file a charge or participate in an investigation.

Application and Advertisement of Vacant Positions

When a vacancy occurs, current city employees may be notified of the vacancy by placing written notice(s) in strategic locations throughout city offices. Notices posted will include position title, summary of duties, position qualifications, and the time limit for applying. Employees who wish to apply for the position must present a completed employment application form to the human resources/risk manager. The board of commissioners may fill the vacancy by either promoting a current employee or employing a person from outside of the existing city government organization. When announcements of vacant position(s) are made outside of the organization, any of the following procedures may apply:

- (1) The city only accepts applications for employment with the city when a position of employment is vacant.
- (2) The city may advertise all vacant position(s) in a newspaper or other form of media. All announcements will include such information as where to apply, deadline for applications, pay range for the position, summary of duties, and position qualifications. All written announcements of vacant position(s) will also contain the following statement, “An Equal Opportunity Employer,” as well as may include, “Any applicant who needs an ADA accommodation in the employment selection process will request the accommodation from the human resources/risk manager.”

Application for Position

- (1) An Employment Application Form supplied by the city and completed by the applicant will include information about the applicant’s training, experience, and additional information as required. Upon request, the applicant will be given a copy of the job description stating the duties of the position.
- (2) No person may be appointed to a position unless information on the official Employment Application Form is verified and they meet the qualifications for the position as set forth in the position description.

- (3) The Employment Application Form must be signed and dated by the applicant.

Promotions, Transfers, and Acting Appointments

- (1) Vacancies may be filled by transfer or promotion from within the city. Employees may apply for the position by submitting a written request through their department head or the human resources/risk manager. An employee may be transferred or promoted from one position to another only if the employee has the qualifications for the higher position. The same procedures as those authorized for ascertaining qualifications for initial appointment to a position will be followed. All pertinent documentation of said transfer or promotion will be entered into the employee's personnel file.
- (2) In the case where vacancies must be temporarily filled, temporary appointments may be made by the city manager for a period not to exceed six months. Employees placed in temporary appointments will receive a temporary increase in pay commensurate with the temporary appointment.
- (3) Temporary appointments will terminate as soon as a qualified candidate can fill the position in question in accordance with personnel hiring practices.
- (4) Police and fire promoted to the rank of sergeant and above shall receive pay at a minimum of the base salary for the rank. In the event that a police officer or firefighter is promoted to a rank with a base salary of five steps or more, the employee will receive a five step increase in salary.
- (5) In the event that a firefighter with a rank of lieutenant or above must leave their command or be absent from a scheduled shift they may submit a request to the fire chief to appoint a subordinate officer as acting in their stead. Prior to authorizing the subordinate officer to take command, the fire chief must receive written approval from the city manager to authorize the appointment. Any subordinate officer appointed to a temporary rank under the terms of this section shall receive a 5% increase in pay for the hours served in the appointed role.

Hiring and Selection

- (1) Appointment to a position within the city will be made only after it has been determined the person being considered meets the qualifications set out in the current job description for which the appointment is made.
- (2) The policy will apply to current employees who request a transfer or promotion to a vacant position, as well as new applicants for employment or reemployment.
- (3) The qualification of an applicant for a position will be ascertained based on one or more of the following:
 - a. Information the applicant supplies on the official Employment Application Form;
 - b. Written, performance, and physical tests, or examination, or any combination which may be required for the position;
 - c. Personal interview;
 - d. Information and evaluations supplied by references given by the applicant;
 - e. Prior to employment with the city, but only after an offer of employment with the city, the prospective employee must submit to and pass a pre-employment drug test; and
 - f. Other appropriate information as determined.

- (4) The human resources/risk manager shall screen applicants for basic qualifications. Qualified applicants will be provided to the department head over the vacant position for consideration. The department head will select a candidate to recommend for hire and submit the recommendation, along with all qualified applicants, to the city manager. The city manager may accept or reject the candidate recommended by the department head but shall submit a recommended candidate to the board of commissioners for final action.
- (5) All employees are appointed by the commission. Pursuant to KRS 83A.080.

Employment of Family Members

Pursuant to the city's Ethics Ordinance, Chapter 6.5-51 of the Winchester code of ordinances:

- (1) No officer, candidate or employee of the city or a city agency shall advocate, recommend, or cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of a family member to an office or position of employment with the city or a city agency.
- (2) No officer or employee of the city or a city agency shall supervise or manage the work of a family member.
- (3) No officer or employee shall participate in any action relating to the employment or discipline of a family member, except that this prohibition shall not prevent an elected or appointed official from voting on or participating in the development of a budget which includes compensation for a family member, provided that the family member is included only as a member of a class of persons or group, and the family member benefits to no greater extent than any other similarly situated member of the class or group.
- (4) As used in this policy, the term "family member" means any relative who is second cousin or closer in relationship by blood lineage or by marriage.

Background and Reference Checks

- (1) It is the policy of the city to perform pre-employment background checks pursuant to KRS Chapter 335B. The purpose of performing these checks is to determine and/or confirm, within appropriate legal and professional limits, the qualifications and suitability of a candidate for the employment position for which the candidate is being considered. Many of our employees' job duties involve working closely with other employees and/or the public, significant city-related driving, access to safety-sensitive and expensive tools and machinery, access to confidential information, or access to financial accounts. Therefore, criminal records may exclude candidates with certain criminal convictions that are determined to be job-related, as discussed below. This policy will help ensure that employment-related decisions utilizing pre-employment background checks are made in accordance with applicable law.

- (2) The city will perform pre-employment background checks on all candidates for employment once they have been offered the employment position by using the Background Check and Release (HR Form 02). Review will be limited to information regarding only convictions that are determined to be job-related and consistent with business necessity, as discussed below. In addition, if an employee changes positions within the city, an additional criminal background check may be required.
- (3) Candidates for employment within the police and fire departments may be subject to different requirements for pre-employment background checks. Please refer to the Police and Fire Department Policies and Procedures for more information.
- (4) The city requires that employees identify any arrests or criminal convictions and complete a self-disclosure form. The city will individually evaluate any arrest or criminal conviction disclosed by an employee prior to making a determination as to that employee's suitability for initial employment or continued employment.
- (5) In addition to KRS Chapter 335B, the city complies with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), federal and state equal employment opportunity laws, and all other applicable legal authority that affect the performing of pre-employment background checks.
- (6) The results of a pre-employment background check are confidential and are only to be shared with employees of the city on a strict "need to know" basis.
- (7) Under no circumstances is having a criminal history or conviction an automatic exclusion to a candidate's eligibility for employment.
- (8) All candidates are required to sign appropriate authorizations and consents prior to performing any pre-employment background checks.
- (9) Background checks are conducted in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, including any state-law limitations regarding criminal history information that may be obtained and/or used by the city for employment purposes.
- (10) This policy does not override city policy that candidates providing false or misleading information on their application, during an interview, or at any time during the hiring process, may be eliminated from any further consideration. Candidates are expected to provide accurate and complete information and not to omit material information needed to make a decision.
- (11) Pre-employment background checks should normally be completed upon a conditional offer of employment to the candidate. Therefore, all job offers should be conditioned upon satisfactory completion of the pre-employment background checks.
- (12) Prior to taking any adverse action, appropriate pre-adverse and adverse action notices will be sent to the candidate together with a copy of the report pursuant to federal and any state FCRA laws.
- (13) All candidates will be individually reviewed by the human resources/risk manager and appropriate department head. Decisions will be made with respect to employment based on the totality of the candidate's qualifications and the relevant results of the pre-employment background check.
- (14) In general, the relevance of a particular pre-employment background check to a candidate's eligibility for employment, or employee's eligibility for continued employment, is based upon the following factors:

- a. The nature and gravity of the offense for which the applicant or employee was convicted;
 - b. The time that has passed since the conviction and/or completion of the sentence; and
 - c. The nature of the job held or sought.
- (15) The city will only consider final adjudications of guilt (i.e., convictions and guilty pleas) for the potentially disqualifying offenses listed below, or other offenses determined to be job-related. Convictions that have been expunged, discharged, or otherwise vacated will not be considered. Various states use different terminology regarding convictions. Therefore, if it is unclear whether a certain offense resulted in a conviction, the city attorney should be consulted.
- (16) Having a criminal history or conviction does not automatically preclude a candidate's eligibility for employment. To assist department heads, human resources/risk manager, and the city manager in reviewing criminal records, below is a list of convictions that may disqualify an applicant or employee from employment with the city:
- a. Crimes Involving Violence, Theft, or Drug Distribution/Trafficking: Certain crimes involving violence, theft, or drug distribution/trafficking have been determined to be job-related to all positions within the city. Disqualification of applicants or dismissal of employees with certain convictions outlined below is consistent with federal and state requirements.
 - 1. Violent Crimes: The city has determined that felony convictions within the past seven years for crimes involving violence may disqualify an applicant or employee because of workplace violence concerns, our desire to provide a safe workplace for employees and customers, and because many of the city employees have significant interaction with customers and/or coworkers on a day-to-day basis.
 - 2. Theft or Property-Related Crimes: The city has determined that felony convictions within the past seven years for crimes involving theft, dishonesty, breach of trust, or destruction of property may disqualify an applicant or employee due to access to equipment and tools, inventory, proprietary information, and/or financial or confidential information.
 - 3. Drug Distribution/Trafficking Crimes: The city has determined that felony convictions within the past seven years for crimes involving drug distribution or trafficking may disqualify an applicant or employee because these convictions also indicate a general disregard for federal, state, or local law and may demonstrate that the applicant or employee will not be able to follow directions from their supervisor or manager.
 - 4. The city does not generally disqualify applicants or dismiss employees for drug possession or use convictions. This does not affect the application of its Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy.
 - b. Computer Crimes: Due to access to city confidential and proprietary information, customer information, financial information, and/or computer systems, the city has determined that felony convictions within the past seven years for computer-related offenses are job-related for management and office positions. Applicants or employees in these job categories who have been convicted of such computer crimes present an unacceptable risk to the city and may therefore be disqualified, absent mitigating circumstances.
 - c. Driving Crimes: To reduce potential liability for the city, the city must review applicant and employee driving records for jobs in which the job duties include significant amounts of

unsupervised, city-related driving. The city will comply with all federal, state, and local requirements regarding motor vehicle record checks including, but not limited to, obtaining consent from the applicant or employee prior to requesting the record and complying with federal and/or state FCRA requirements. Felony convictions within the past seven years for vehicle-related offenses, including, but not limited to DUI and DWI, have been determined to be job-related and present an unacceptable risk to the city. Therefore, applicants and employees in positions that involve business-related driving who have been convicted of such offenses may be disqualified, absent mitigating circumstances.

- d. Individualized Assessment: Before any applicant or employee is disqualified based on their criminal history, the applicant or employee will be given an opportunity to provide individual information regarding the circumstances of that applicant's or employee's criminal history. The human resources/risk manager will request that the applicant or employee submit a written, signed statement regarding their criminal history. The city manager, city attorney, human resources/risk manager, and the department head will consider all information provided by each applicant or employee to determine whether the information provided sufficiently mitigates the circumstances of the disqualifying conviction pursuant to KRS Chapter 335B.
- (17) Credit checks are generally not part of the background check process and are not used to make hiring decisions. In certain positions, such as treasury functions and accounts payable/receivable, a credit check may be performed due to the nature of the responsibilities for such jobs, including access to city accounts and cash and the ability to be bonded. Each applicant's or employee's credit history will be reviewed, in the context of all other available information regarding the applicant or employee, to determine whether the applicant's or employee's credit history poses an unacceptable risk to the city. Such applicants or employees will be provided an opportunity to explain their credit history prior to a final determination.

Medical Examinations

- (1) In reviewing applicants' qualifications for certain positions and ensuring that currently employed workers are fit and capable of performing the essential functions of their positions, the city requires individuals to undergo physical examinations, which can include drug tests.
- (2) The general purpose of these examinations is to determine whether the individuals being tested are physically able to perform the essential functions of the job in question without creating a significant threat to the safety or well-being of themselves, other employees, or members of the public. These examinations and tests are conducted on a nondiscriminatory basis and in conformance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other federal, state, and local laws guaranteeing fair treatment and equal employment opportunity to individuals with disabilities and members of other protected groups.
- (3) Applicants for certain positions are required to undergo a post-offer physical examination that evaluates their fitness and ability to perform the essential functions of the positions for which they are being considered. All conditional offers of employment extended to candidates who are asked to undergo a physical examination are contingent on satisfactory completion of this requirement within the scheduled period.
- (4) In certain situations, the city can require currently employed workers to undergo a physical examination that evaluates their fitness and ability to perform the essential functions of their position.

- (5) Firefighters, EMTs, paramedics, public works employees, and police officers may elect to receive a series of three hepatitis vaccine inoculations. The initial inoculation will be included in applicants' pre-employment physical if they so desire. The pre-employment consent form advises applicants of the availability of this optional screening.

Employee Bonding

All applicants seeking city employment that involves the handling of city funds or access to city financial accounts will be bondable and may be subject to a post-offer credit check. All employees involved in the handling of city funds or financial accounts will be bonded at the expense of the city.

New Employee Orientation

- (1) An orientation will be made available to all new employees as soon as possible after their first day of employment.
- (2) The orientation will consist of the following elements:
 - a. Explanation of the purpose and goals of the city.
 - b. Overview of the city's history, structure, and operations.
 - c. Overview of management policies and procedures.
 - d. Other elements deemed appropriate.
- (3) A copy of the employee Handbook will be made available to all employees at each workstation. A Handbook Acknowledgment (HR Form 01) of the original employee Handbook and any revisions thereof will be required of all employees subject to these policies. The signed statement will be maintained in the employee's personnel file and retained pursuant to the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Record Retention Schedule.
- (4) New hires may be introduced to all city department heads during their first week of orientation as well as the city manager and board of commission members.
- (5) All new hires will be given a benefits package if they qualify. The human resources/risk manager will cover the benefits package with the employee and give them a due date as to when the package must be turned in to qualify for the benefits package. Failure to submit the package on the specified date may render the employee ineligible for some benefits.
- (6) The new employee's schedule and job description will be discussed. The supervisor or human resources/risk manager will use the job description to ensure the employee understands the expectations and is able to meet the physical requirements of the job. The job description will be signed and placed in their personnel file, and a copy will be given to the employee.
- (7) The human resources/risk manager will ensure that all required state and federal forms are filled out and placed in their personnel file prior to the employee starting any physical work. All required information will then be filed as required with the federal, state, and local governments.

Introductory Period for Police and Fire

- (1) Police officers and firefighters will serve an introductory period of 12 months. If an officer is required to complete basic training to receive certification, the introductory period will begin after successful completion of basic training.
- (2) While serving under the initial introductory period, police officers and firefighters may be dismissed at any time without right of appeal, unless otherwise provided by law.
- (3) Performance of police officers and firefighters will be evaluated based on that department's Standard Operating Procedures.
- (4) Completion of the introductory period in no way alters the at-will status of the employee.

Job Descriptions

- (1) The city considers the job description prepared and maintained for every position as one of the most important documents in ensuring effective hiring practices and providing equal employment opportunity to all qualified individuals. The following procedures are designed to ensure the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, and fairness of the job descriptions:
 - a. Periodically the human resources/risk manager with the assistance of the department heads will review the city's job descriptions to ensure that they are accurate, complete, and up-to-date.
 - b. Whenever possible, the department head should seek the input of the employee in reviewing the description's accuracy and completeness.
 - c. The job descriptions should contain information that accurately reflects each position's essential functions, duties, responsibilities, purpose, working conditions, and reporting relationships as well as the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of employees.
- (2) Each time a job description is updated, the supervisor or human resources/risk manager will review the old and new job description to ensure the employee understands the expectations and is able to meet the physical requirements of the job. The new job description will be signed and placed in their personnel file, and a copy will be given to the employee.

Performance Evaluations

- (1) All employees will be evaluated no later than April 30 of each year on an evaluation form approved by the city manager and provided to department heads by the human resources/risk manager, except employees during introductory periods.
- (2) The department head will submit the evaluation to the city manager for review before meeting with the employee. Once the city manager approves the evaluation, the department head will conduct the evaluations and review the evaluation with the employee being evaluated. Any employee who disagrees with the evaluation may complete a written rebuttal within 10 working days after the review, which will be attached to the evaluation form.
- (3) The evaluation will be based on job-related factors, as set out in the job description, and will be used to inform employees of how well they are performing their assigned work and how they can improve performance. In addition, the evaluation may be used in determining the award of

additional vacation days, individual pay adjustments, the order of layoff, as a basis for training, promotion, demotion, transfer, or dismissal, and for other purposes as set forth in these policies and procedures.

- (4) The performance evaluation is intended to facilitate meaningful communication between an employee and their supervisor regarding the employee's work assignments, the supervisor's performance expectations, individual, and departmental goals, and the employee/supervisor relationship. It is also intended to improve the employee's effectiveness and competency by identifying both strengths and possible areas for improvement. It should not be construed as creating a contract or as guaranteeing employment for any specific duration.
- (5) A copy of the evaluation will be placed in the employee's personnel file and will be maintained in accordance with the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Record Retention Schedule.

Personnel Records

- (1) A personnel file will be maintained for each city employee by the human resources/risk manager. All changes in the status of employees will be recorded in these files, which will be retained and maintained in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.
- (2) The personnel file will include:
 - a. Employee's name, permanent address, and phone number;
 - b. Position title;
 - c. Completed application form;
 - d. Hiring date;
 - e. Departmental assignment;
 - f. Salary;
 - g. All changes in status as a city employee; and
 - h. Whatever additional information these ordinances, other governing laws, or the city require.
- (3) Information regarding the medical condition or history of an employee including drug test results will be collected and maintained on separate forms and in separate confidential medical files subject to disclosure only as permitted by law.
- (4) The Form I-9 will also be kept in a separate file in alphabetical order.

Change in Personal Information

- (1) It is the responsibility of each employee to promptly notify the human resources/risk manager of any changes in personnel data. Employees shall submit changes in personnel data through the city's electronic payroll system. Personal mailing addresses, telephone numbers, number and names of dependents, individuals to be contacted in the event of an emergency, educational accomplishment, and other such status reports should be accurate and current at all times.
- (2) For necessary changes to be made without penalty, changes of marital status and dependents must be made within 30 days of the qualifying event.

Access to Personnel Files

- (1) The human resources/risk manager maintains a personnel file on each employee. The personnel file includes such information as the employee's job application, resume, documentation of performance appraisals, salary increases, and other employment records.
- (2) Personnel files are the property of the city and subject to the Open Records Act. Access to an employee personnel file is strictly controlled and given only to authorized individuals who have a legitimate reason to review information in a file, or as authorized under the Open Records Act. Employees will be notified of any request to view their personnel file.
- (3) With reasonable advance notice, employees may review their own personnel file in the presence of the human resources/risk manager, city manager, or their designee.

Job References

- (1) All requests for job references and inquiries regarding an individual's employment with the city will be forwarded to the human resources/risk manager for appropriate response. The human resources/risk manager will consult with the city manager and may permit the employee receiving the request to respond, but the city manager will review any response before it is finalized. This section will not prohibit an employee from being listed as a reference for an individual.
- (2) The city's policy on job references is to provide information concerning an employee's length of service, job title, and if requested, verification of salary. The law may also require disclosure of incidents of workplace violence involving the employee to a potential employer.

Record Retention

The city will maintain all city records pursuant to the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Record Retention Schedule. A copy of the email retention requirements can be found in Appendix B of this Handbook.

Disciplinary Practices/Procedures

- (1) The city seeks to encourage employees to change problem behavior rather than focusing on punitive measures as a solution. In some instances, these efforts may fail or may be an unsuitable response to an offense. In these instances, city supervisors may use the following disciplinary procedures, depending on the severity or frequency of the offense or problem behavior. Supervisors may use any of these disciplinary methods at any time. This list does not require a progressive disciplinary methodology to be used by supervisors:
 - a. Verbal warning or reprimand/coaching or counseling by a department head and/or city manager.
 - b. Written reprimand/counseling by a department head and/or city manager.
 - c. Suspension with or without pay.

- d. Demotion and/or reduction in pay.
 - e. Termination of employment.
- (2) The department head shall notify the human resources/risk manager to initiate use of the disciplinary procedures in (c), (d), or (e) in section (1) of this policy. The human resources/risk manager shall be responsible for informing and involving the city manager and city attorney.
 - (3) Department heads and the city manager using the disciplinary procedures outlined in section (1) of this policy shall:
 - a. Document any disciplinary session or conference conducted for the purposes of correcting behaviors that are in violation of the policies contained in this Handbook or are conducted with the intent to correct reoccurring issues related to employee performance on the Disciplinary Form (HR Form 03); and
 - b. Provide a copy of any written documentation related to the use of disciplinary procedures to the human resources/risk manager for placement in the employee's personnel file.
 - (4) For police officers that have completed the introductory period, the provisions of KRS 95.450 will regulate discipline for any internal, general personnel issue. Additionally, for police officers that have completed the introductory period, the provisions of KRS 15.520 will regulate discipline for any external complaint filed against a police officer or any violation of law enforcement procedures.
 - (5) The provisions of KRS 95.450 will regulate discipline of fire department personnel that have completed the introductory period.

Demotion

- (1) An employee may be demoted upon recommendation of a department head to the city manager with the approval of the board of commissioners.
- (2) The provisions of KRS 15.520 shall regulate demotions of officers in the police department who have completed the introductory period only when involving an external citizen's complaint or any violation of law enforcement procedures.
- (3) The provisions of KRS. 95.450 shall regulate the demotions of employees in the fire departments after the completion of the introductory period. Additionally, the provisions of KRS. 95.450 shall regulate demotions of officers in the police department who have completed the introductory period when KRS 15.520 does not apply.
- (4) All pertinent documentation of said demotion shall be entered into the employee's personnel file.

Suspension

- (1) The department head may:
 - a. Suspend the employee with pay until the city manager and the board of commissioners review the violation, provided the board of commissioners has delegated by municipal order in accordance with KRS 83A.150(9); and/or
 - b. Request in writing on the Disciplinary Form (HR Form 03) to the city manager that the board of commissioners suspend the employee with or without pay. The request shall

include the reason(s) for the suspension, along with details of previous disciplinary action regarding the employee.

- (2) The board of commissioners may suspend an employee with or without pay for any period up to and including four calendar weeks, depending upon the severity of the offense; however, a maximum time limit shall not apply when an employee is suspended with or without pay due to an investigation of an alleged offense.
- (3) The suspended employee shall be notified of the suspension in writing. The notice shall include the reason(s) for and duration of the suspension (if known).
- (4) Employees suspended without pay for a period of one calendar month or more shall forfeit fringe benefits, including accrual of sick and vacation leave, and the city's contribution to any insurance benefits during the suspension.
- (5) If after an investigation, the board of commissioners finds that the suspension was not warranted, the employee shall be reinstated to their position with back pay and benefits.
- (6) The provisions of KRS 15.520 shall regulate suspensions of officers in the police department who have completed the introductory period only when involving an external citizen's complaint or any violation of law enforcement procedures. Additionally, the provisions of KRS. 95.450 shall regulate suspensions of officers in the police department who have completed the introductory period when KRS 15.520 does not apply.
- (7) The provisions of KRS. 95.450 shall regulate the suspensions of employees in the fire departments after the completion of the introductory period.
- (8) All pertinent documentation of said suspension shall be entered into the employee's personnel file.

Voluntary and Involuntary Termination of Employment

- (1) The board of commissioners has the authority to appoint and remove all city employees, except as otherwise provided by statute, ordinance, or contract. Statutes that provide otherwise regarding the termination of employment include:
 - a. For firefighters, KRS. 95.450 states that the employment of any member of the fire department who has completed the introductory period, may not be terminated for any reason other than inefficiency, misconduct, insubordination, or a violation of law or the rules adopted by the city; and only after charges are preferred and a hearing conducted by the city in the manner prescribed by KRS. 95.450.
 - b. For police officers, KRS 15.520 applies to the discipline or termination of police officers that have completed the introductory period only in regard to any external citizen complaint or a violation of law enforcement procedures, and requires a hearing conducted by the city in the manner prescribed by KRS 15.520. For any internal, general personnel issue when KRS 15.520 does not apply, KRS. 95.450 will apply. KRS 95.450 states officers who have completed the introductory period may not be terminated for any reason other than inefficiency, misconduct, insubordination, or a violation of law or the rules adopted by the city; and only after charges are preferred and a hearing conducted by the city in the manner prescribed by KRS. 95.450.

- c. For nonelected officers, KRS 83A.080 requires a written reason to be provided to the nonelected officer upon termination.
- (2) Employees also have the right to terminate their employment at any time and for any reason. The city asks that they provide a written notice at least two weeks prior to their intent to leave in order to assist the city in the smooth transition of their job duties.
- (3) In the event their employment is terminated for any reason, the employee must return all property of the city, including uniforms, keys, credit cards, mobile phones, computer software and hardware, proprietary and confidential materials, reports, and any other city property that may be in their possession. This property must be returned prior to the last day of their employment.
- (4) All pertinent documentation of said termination shall be entered into the employee's personnel file.

Layoffs (Reduction in Force)

- (1) The board of commissioners may lay off an employee or employees because of lack of work or funds. The order of layoff shall be determined by the needs of the city.
- (2) Consideration will be given to both the seniority and merit of persons being considered for layoff.
- (3) Temporary, seasonal, and employees on an introductory period will be laid off before full-time employees within class(es) affected by the layoff.
- (4) The police and fire departments will follow the requirements in KRS 95.440.
- (5) The human resources/risk manager will notify the employee(s) of the layoff in writing as soon as possible prior to the layoff. The notice will explain the reason(s) for and duration of the layoff (if known), and a copy of the notice will be placed in the employee's personnel folder.
- (6) An employee who has given satisfactory service and is laid off may be eligible for reemployment in other positions, if they meet the qualifications for the position and if the position is vacant.

Exit Interview

- (1) All employees are asked to complete an exit interview with the city manager or their designee upon termination of employment. This will enable the city to obtain information regarding why the employee resigned. This will also allow the city an opportunity to cover information for the employee on insurance, retirement, any other benefits, and return of city property, in addition to obtaining a forwarding address (if necessary), and any other required information.
- (2) All necessary information will be provided by the city manager to the department head or board of commissioners.

Section 3 – General Employment Policies and Rules

Open Door Policy – Complaint Procedure

- (1) At the City of Winchester, we encourage all employees/volunteers to meet with their immediate supervisor to discuss any employment issues or concerns that they may have. If the complaint is against a supervisor, or if the employee/volunteer feels more comfortable, they may discuss the issue with their department head, another supervisor, human resources/risk manager, city manager, or if the complaint is against the city manager they may discuss with a member of the board of commissioners.
- (2) The city is committed to maintaining this Open Door Policy, where honest discussion of employee concerns can take place in a safe and supportive environment.
- (3) Misunderstandings or conflicts can arise in any organization. To ensure effective working relations, it is important that such matters be resolved before serious problems develop. Most incidents resolve themselves naturally; however, if a situation persists that the employee believes is detrimental to them or to the city, they should bring their concern to the attention of a supervisor, department head, human resources/risk manager, city manager, or if the complaint is against the city manager, a member of the board of commissioners.

Sexual and Nonsexual Harassment

- (1) Sexual and nonsexual harassment of any kind is absolutely prohibited and will not be tolerated. Sexual and nonsexual harassment negatively affects morale, motivation, and job performance. It is inappropriate, offensive, and illegal.
- (2) Sexual harassment on the job is employment discrimination within the meaning of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and KRS Chapter 344. In general, sexual harassment means any unwelcome or offensive sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, either by a supervisor, fellow employee, or a person other than an employee who has contact with the city employees. Sexual harassment is unacceptable and is prohibited at work and in work-related settings, such as business trips, business-related meetings, conferences, and employee-related social events. Behavior that constitutes sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Deliberate, repeated, or unsolicited verbal comments, gestures, or physical actions of a sexual nature toward another employee.
 - b. Approval, recommendation, or refusal to take any personnel action with respect to an employee or applicant because of:
 1. The employee's or applicant's rejection of sexual advances, demands, favors, or sexual activity; or
 2. The employee's or applicant's report of a sexual advance or demand for sexual activity.
 - c. Explicit or implicit promises of preferential treatment regarding an individual's employment status in return for sexual favors or sexual activity.
 - d. Exercise or attempted exercise of the power or authority of one's position to control, influence, or affect the career, salary, job, or other employment conditions of an employee or applicant in exchange for sexual favors.

- e. Repeated sexual jokes, flirtations, advances, or propositions.
 - f. Graphic verbal commentary about an individual's body, sexual prowess, or sexual deficiencies.
 - g. Leering, whistling, touching, pinching, assaulting, coerced sexual acts or suggestive behavior, insulting, or obscene comments, or gestures.
 - h. The display in the workplace of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or reading material.
- (3) Any conduct that is intimidating or hostile and interferes with an employee's work performance is prohibited and will not be tolerated. This includes harassment because of an individual's race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy/childbirth-related medical conditions, genetic makeup, age, disability, veteran or family status, or because the employee is a smoker or nonsmoker.
- (4) Any employee who believes they have been subjected to sexual or nonsexual harassment should report the incident promptly to one of the following: their immediate supervisor, department head, the human resources/risk manager, the city manager, or any other supervisor with whom the employee feels comfortable discussing the matter. Employees are encouraged to make prompt reports of the incident to ensure timely response and for remedial measures to be implemented, if necessary. However, all reports of sexual and nonsexual harassment shall be reviewed and investigated regardless of when the alleged misconduct occurred.
- a. All reports of sexual or nonsexual harassment shall be reduced to writing by the reporting employee or by the person receiving the report. Employees may use the Complaint Form (HR Form 05) for this purpose. The report shall be signed by the complaining employee or the person receiving the report. All reports will be kept confidential to the extent feasible and appropriate under the circumstances. The human resources/risk manager shall inform the city manager of the receipt of the complaint. The city manager shall inform the board of commissioners of the receipt of the complaint.
 - b. All reports of sexual and nonsexual harassment will be investigated promptly following the receipt of an incident report. The report will be investigated by the city manager and/or one or more members of the management staff designated by the city manager and the city attorney. The results of the investigation will be communicated to the complainant and to the alleged offender. Any employee found to have engaged in misconduct constituting sexual or nonsexual harassment will be disciplined, up to and including dismissal. In addition, the city may take other steps to correct and prevent future incidents from occurring.
 - c. If the investigation results in a finding that any form of harassment has occurred in the city workplace, the city manager will create a written report and/or an update of the action taken by the board of commissioners as a result of the finding. If the investigation results in a finding that harassment did not occur, the city manager shall create a written report of the decision.
 - d. As provided under the Whistleblower Protection for City Employees Policy in Section 4 of this Handbook, an employee making a report under this policy will not be discriminated against or be subject to retaliation in any way for having made the report. If an employee suffers any discrimination or retaliation for making a report, the employee should immediately alert a member of management. Any person found to have discriminated or retaliated against an employee who makes a report shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

- (5) The city recognizes that the question of whether a particular course of conduct constitutes sexual or nonsexual harassment requires a factual determination. The city also recognizes that false accusations of sexual or nonsexual harassment can have serious effects on innocent parties. If an investigation results in a finding that a person who has accused another of sexual or nonsexual harassment has maliciously or recklessly made a false accusation, the accuser will be subject to appropriate sanctions, including discharge.
- (6) Training in harassment and discrimination will be provided by the city.
- (7) Nothing in this policy should be construed as eliminating any employee's rights under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, or under KRS Chapter 344 or as conferring enforceable legal rights beyond those existing under applicable law.

Workplace Violence

- (1) The safety and security of all employees is of primary importance to the city. Threats, abusive behavior, or acts of violence against employees, citizens, or other individuals by anyone on city property or off city property while performing job duties related to the city will not be tolerated. Actions of this nature will lead to referral to appropriate law enforcement agencies for arrest and prosecution. City employees who exhibit this type of behavior will be disciplined or discharged. The city may take any necessary legal action to protect its employees and will make every effort to assist any employee experiencing threats of violence.
- (2) Any person who makes threats, exhibits threatening behavior, or engages in violent acts on city premises shall be removed from the premises as quickly as safety permits and shall remain off city premises pending the outcome of an investigation. Any employee who makes threats, exhibits threatening behavior, or engages in violent acts while in performance of their employment duties shall be immediately suspended, pending the outcome of an investigation of the incident. Following the investigation, the city will initiate an immediate and appropriate response. This response may include, but is not limited to, suspension and/or termination of any business relationship, reassignment of job duties, suspension, or termination of employment, and/or criminal prosecution of the person or persons involved.
- (3) All employees are responsible for notifying city management personnel of any threats that they witness or receive or that they are told another person witnessed or received. Even without a specific threat, all employees should report any behavior they have witnessed, that they regard as potentially threatening or violent, or which could endanger the health or safety of an employee when the behavior has been carried out on a city-controlled site, or is connected to city employment or city business. Employees are responsible for making this report regardless of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threatening behavior and the person or persons being threatened.
- (4) Employees are encouraged to notify either their supervisor or the human resources/risk manager if an emergency protection order (EPO) or domestic violence order (DVO) has been issued for their protection.
- (5) The city will make every effort to assist an employee experiencing threats of violence. Assistance may include:
 - a. Confidential means for coming forward for help.
 - b. Resource and referral information (e.g., Employee Assistance Program).

- c. Leave of absence consideration.
 - d. Special safety considerations at the workplace.
- (6) The city understands the sensitivity of the information requested and will respect the privacy of the reporting employee to the extent allowed by law. The city will endeavor to maintain the anonymity of a reporting party to the extent feasible for cooperation with appropriate law enforcement officials.
- (7) Any employee who acts in good faith by reporting real or implied violent behavior will not be subjected to any form of retaliation or harassment.
- (8) Only sworn law enforcement officers are required to carry concealed deadly weapons in the course of their employment with the City of Winchester. For all other employees:
- a. Any other form of carrying a deadly weapon as defined in paragraph (9)(a) is not prohibited; however, any other form of carrying a deadly weapon as defined in paragraph (9)(b)-(g) is prohibited.
 - b. An employee carrying a deadly weapon in compliance with the City of Winchester Employee Handbook while performing work for or while on-duty for the city does so as a voluntary act and not at the direction or request of the city. Other than sworn law enforcement officers, no job descriptions or job duties in the city require an employee to possess a deadly weapon.
 - c. An employee that chooses to carry a deadly weapon in compliance with the City of Winchester Employee Handbook has the responsibility to know the law as to where they can or cannot legally carry their deadly weapon. Some locations, including schools, prohibit the carrying of deadly weapons by persons other than sworn law enforcement. Failure to abide by lawful restrictions in those locations, even while performing work for or while on duty for the city, may result in personal liability, criminally and/or civilly.
 - d. An employee that uses a deadly weapon may incur personal liability and the city may or may not indemnify the employee for such use.
- (9) Deadly weapon shall be defined as:
- a. Any weapon from which a shot, readily capable of producing death or other serious physical injury, may be discharged.
 - b. Any knife, except an ordinary pocketknife or other knife routinely used in the performance of city duties.
 - c. Billy, nightstick, or club.
 - d. Blackjack or slapjack.
 - e. Nunchaku karate sticks.
 - f. Shuriken or death star.
 - g. Artificial knuckles made from metal, plastic, or other hard material.

Workplace Safety

- (1) The city's first priority is to maintain a safe working environment for its employees and the public. For the employee's protection, job-related injuries, accidents, or illnesses must be immediately reported in accordance with the city safety and accident policy.
- (2) Each department will consider the need for adopting safety practices, policies, or procedures warranted by the hazards department employees encounter. Department heads are encouraged to involve employees in this process.
- (3) A copy of such practices, policies, or procedures will be delivered and explained in detail. Each department employee shall then sign a receipt, which will be placed in the individual employee's personnel file, stating that they have read and understands these rules. Department heads shall also explain to their employees that a violation of these safety rules could lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
- (4) Every employee must be safety-conscious and responsible for helping the city achieve the goal of providing a safe workplace.
- (5) Employees shall immediately report any unsafe or hazardous condition to their supervisor, or any supervisor they feel comfortable reporting to.
- (6) Supervisors shall immediately report any unsafe or hazardous condition that has been reported to them or that the supervisor is aware of to the human resources/risk manager.
- (7) Any employee or supervisor who does not report unsafe or hazardous conditions is subject to disciplinary action.
- (8) Employees are expected to use common sense and good judgment in their work habits and to follow safe work practices. Department heads shall ensure that safe work practices are utilized. Examples of safe work practices are as follows:
 - a. Using the proper safety equipment when performing a work assignment.
 - b. Not operating equipment or machinery while using prescribed medication without a doctor's written approval.
 - c. When working extended hours. (See Hours of Operation Policy within Section 3 of this Handbook.)
 - d. Under no circumstances should an employee operate any type of machinery or equipment while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - e. Operating only equipment or machinery for which training, or orientation has been received.
 - f. Warning coworkers of unsafe conditions or practices.
 - g. Following all safety and operating rules posted on equipment and machinery.
 - h. Refraining from horseplay at all times.
 - i. Wearing safety belts when operating city-owned vehicles or private vehicles when on city business.

- j. Following OSHA rules and guidelines. All employees are responsible for maintaining current knowledge of periodic rule/regulation changes made by the issuing state and federal safety agencies.
- (9) Periodic training will be arranged when appropriate in the judgment of the department head. Employees will be required to participate in all required safety-training programs offered by the city.

Reporting Work-Related Accidents

- (1) Employees are required to immediately report any work-related accidents, illnesses or injuries. The proper reporting of such matters is critical to ensure that an employee receives all benefits to which they are entitled under the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Act.
- (2) For the employee's protection, job-related injuries, accidents or illnesses must be reported the day that they occur, unless extenuating circumstances prevents the employee from reporting within that time frame.
- (3) The employee must call the "Company Nurse" on the Injury Hotline at **855-339-1889**.
- (4) The department head as well as the human resources/risk manager shall also be notified of all accidents involving city employees and/or city equipment as soon as possible, but in no event later than the next workday.
- (5) Accidents involving city-owned vehicles or personal vehicles being operated for city business shall be reported to the police department for investigation.
- (6) The city places great importance in this policy. All employees are obliged to comply. Any employee that is discovered to have been aware of a serious accident and failed to report it will face appropriate disciplinary consequences.

Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace

- (1) The city's mission is to ensure that all public service is delivered safely, efficiently, and effectively by establishing a drug- and alcohol-free work environment, and to ensure that the workplace remains free from the effects of drugs and alcohol to promote the health and safety of employees and the general public. In keeping with this mission, the city declares that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispense, possession, use of controlled substances, or misuse of alcohol is prohibited for all employees.
- (2) All employees are expected to read and sign the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Acknowledgment (HR Form 07) within 30 days of employment or within 30 days of any amendment to the policy.
- (3) This policy is intended to comply with all applicable federal and state regulations governing workplace anti-drug and alcohol programs. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has published 49 CFR Part 40, as amended, that sets standards for the collection and testing of urine and breath specimens. Under Kentucky law, the city has also chosen to follow the requirements of 803 KAR 25:280 to be a Certified Drug-Free Workplace.
- (4) The city and all CDL employees are federally mandated to comply with the registration and reporting requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Clearinghouse under 49 CFR Part 382. This includes the city's obligation to perform pre-employment queries for

all CDL applicants, perform annual queries for all CDL employees, and report certain violations or activity as required under 49 CFR Part 382.

- a. CDL employees shall register with the FMCSA Clearinghouse website and shall provide the necessary consent for the city to perform clearinghouse queries, including electronic authorization for all full queries. If an employee fails to provide consent as required under this section, then the employee is unable to perform safety-sensitive functions under federal law and the employee will be removed from duty. The refusal to provide consent shall also be considered a violation under this policy and the employee may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.
 - b. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 382.705, the following shall be reported to the Clearinghouse, with any required documentation as outlined in the regulation, by the close of the third business day following the date on which the information was obtained:
 1. An alcohol confirmation test result with an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater.
 2. A negative return-to-duty test result.
 3. A refusal to take an alcohol test pursuant to 49 CFR 40.261.
 4. A refusal to take a drug test as determined in accordance with 49 CFR 40.191(a)(1) through (4), (a)(6), (a)(8), or (d)(1) as well as (6)(cc) *test refusal* (1)-(7) of this policy. Note: Admissions to the collector of adulterating or substituting the specimen are also reportable.
 5. A report that the driver has successfully completed all follow-up tests as prescribed in the SAP report in accordance with 49 C.F.R. 40.307 through 40.311.
 6. The city's report of actual knowledge, as defined under 49 CFR 382.107 and in paragraph (6) of this section, of the following:
 - (a) On-duty alcohol use pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 382.205;
 - (b) Pre-duty alcohol use pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 382.207;
 - (c) Alcohol use following an accident pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 382.209; and
 - (d) Controlled substance use pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 382.213.
- (5) This policy is intended to apply whenever anyone is representing or conducting business for the city. Accordingly, this policy applies during all working hours, while on call or paid standby and while performing work on behalf of the city while on or off city property. The policy applies to all city employees with special provisions designated to those employees identified as having responsibilities requiring a heightened safety-awareness level (HSAL). Those "safety-sensitive" positions identified as requiring a heightened safety-awareness level include but may not be limited to:
- a. Police officers
 - b. Emergency dispatchers and dispatch supervisors
 - c. Firefighters
 - d. Paramedics/Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)
 - e. Heavy equipment operators
 - f. Lifeguards

- g. Employees driving CDL-regulated vehicles
- h. Mechanics who work on these regulated vehicles
- i. Solid waste/sanitation drivers
- j. Wastewater and sewage treatment plant operators
- k. Operators of non-CDL vehicles who transport senior citizens, people with disabilities, and children
- l. Employees who insert chemicals into city water, as well as those that test water
- m. Employees who supervise children and child-related activities

(6) Definitions of terms used throughout this policy:

- a. *Accident* means an occurrence associated with the operation of a vehicle or equipment, if as a result:
 - 1. A person dies.
 - 2. An individual suffers a bodily injury and immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident.
 - 3. An employee receives a citation within eight hours of the occurrence under state or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
 - (a) Bodily injury to any person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
 - (b) One or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage as a result of the accident, requiring the motor vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other motor vehicle.
 - 4. The employer could reasonably believe that employee drug or alcohol use could have contributed to an incident.
- b. *Actual knowledge* is defined by 49 CFR 382.107. As of 2020, actual knowledge means knowledge by an employer that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on the employer's direct observation of the employee, information provided by the driver's previous employer(s), a traffic citation for driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances or an employee's admission of alcohol or controlled substance use, except as provided in §382.121. Direct observation as used in this definition means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing under §382.307. As used in this section, "traffic citation" means a ticket, complaint, or other document charging driving a CMV while under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.
- c. *Adulterated specimen* is a specimen that contains a substance that is not expected to be present in human urine, or contains a substance expected to be present but is at a concentration so high that it is not consistent with human urine.
- d. *Alcohol* means the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol, or other low molecular weight alcohols contained in any beverage, mixture, mouthwash, candy, food, preparation, or medication.

- e. *Alcohol concentration* is expressed in terms of grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath as measured by an evidential breath-testing device or in blood alcohol content (BAC) when required for post-accident testing.
- f. *Canceled test* is a drug test that has been declared invalid by a medical review officer. A canceled test is neither positive nor negative.
- g. *Consortium* means an entity which may involve varied pools of employers and their employees, established to provide cost-effective services to employees to help the employers comply with the drug-free workplace program requirements.
- h. *Designated Employer Representative (DER)* is an employee authorized by the employer to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties and to make required decisions in testing. The DER also receives test results and other communications for the employer, consistent with the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382. Additionally, the DER and/or their designee ensures compliance with the DOT Clearinghouse requirements for employees with CDLs. For purposes of this policy, the city manager or designee is the DER.
- i. *Department of Transportation (DOT)* is the department of the federal government which includes the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Federal Highway Administration (FHA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Research and Special Programs, and the Office of the Secretary of Transportation.
- j. *Dilute specimen* is a specimen with creatinine and specific gravity values that are lower than expected for human urine.
- k. *Disabling damage* means damage which precludes departure of any vehicle from the scene of the occurrence in its usual manner in daylight after simple repairs. Disabling damage includes damage to vehicles that could have been operated but would have been further damaged if so operated. This does not include damage which can be remedied temporarily at the scene of the occurrence without special tools or parts, tire disablement without other damage even if no spare tire is available, or damage to headlights, taillights, turn signals, horn, mirrors, or windshield wipers that makes them inoperative.
- l. *Employee* is defined in KRS 342.640 as every person in the service of the city, under any contract of hire, express or implied, and every official or officer of those entities, whether elected or appointed, while performing their official duties; every person who is a member of a volunteer ambulance service, fire, or police department; and every person who is a regularly enrolled volunteer member or trainee of an emergency management agency as established under KRS Chapters 39A to 39E.
- m. *Employee Assistance Program (EAP)* means an established program providing:
 - 1. Professional assessment of employee personal concerns.
 - 2. Confidential and timely services to identify employee alcohol or drug abuse.
 - 3. Referral of employees for appropriate diagnosis, treatment, and assistance with regard to employee alcohol or substance abuse.
 - 4. Follow-up services for employees who participate in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program and are recommended for monitoring after returning to work.

- n. *Evidentiary Breath-Testing Device (EBT)* is a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for the evidential testing of breath at the 0.02 and the 0.04 alcohol concentrations. Approved devices are listed on the NHTSA-conforming products list.
- o. *Federally regulated employees (FRE)* are those designated in DOT regulations as safety-sensitive employees and include those regulated by the FAA (Aviation), FMCSA (Commercial Motor Carriers), PHMSA (gas pipeline), and FTA (Transit). These employees include anyone with a commercial driver's license (CDL) or mechanics who work on CDL vehicles.
- p. *Heightened Safety-Awareness Level (HSAL) (safety-sensitive) positions* are those positions involving special, dangerous and skilled activities and those that would involve exceptional duty to community citizens in the area of public safety.
- q. *Medical Review Officer (MRO)* means a licensed physician (medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy) responsible for receiving laboratory results generated by the drug testing program who has knowledge of substance abuse disorders and has appropriate medical training to interpret and evaluate an individual's confirmed positive test result, together with their medical history, and any other relevant biomedical information.
- r. *Negative dilute* is a drug test result which is negative for the five drug/drug metabolites but has a specific gravity value lower than expected for human urine.
- s. *Negative test result* for a drug test means a verified presence of the identified drug or its metabolite below the minimum levels specified in 49 CFR Part 40, as amended. An alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 BAC is a negative test result.
- t. *Non-negative test result* is a test result found to be adulterated, substituted, invalid, or positive for drug/drug metabolites.
- u. *Performing a safety-sensitive function* means an employee is considered to be performing a safety-sensitive function and includes any period in which they are actually performing, ready to perform, or immediately available to perform such functions.
- v. *Positive test result* for a drug test means a verified presence of the identified drug or its metabolite at or above the minimum levels specified in 49 CFR Part 40, as amended. In addition, the claimed use of CBD product shall not be considered a medical excuse for a positive marijuana test. A positive alcohol test result means a confirmed alcohol concentration of 0.04 BAC or greater.
- w. *Prohibited drug* means cannabinoids/THC, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, or phencyclidine at levels above the minimum thresholds specified in 49 CFR Part 40, as amended. In addition, the city tests for benzodiazepines, propoxyphene, methaqualone, methadone, barbiturates, synthetic narcotics, illicit substances, and volatile substances as defined by KRS 217.900, KRS 218A.010, 803 KAR 25:280 and 902 KAR 55, as amended.
- x. *Rehabilitation program* means a service provider that provides confidential, timely, and expert identification, assessment, treatment, and resolution of employee drug or alcohol abuse and can include inpatient or outpatient programs, as well as the EAP.

- y. *Safety-sensitive functions* include:
1. The operation of a vehicle by an employee when the operation of such a vehicle requires the driver to hold a commercial driver's license (CDL).
 2. Maintaining a CDL vehicle or equipment used in repair of CDL vehicles.
 3. Essential functions of employees that are considered to have heightened safety-awareness level (HSAL) positions.
- z. *Substance* means drugs or alcohol.
- aa. *Substance Abuse Professional (SAP)* means a licensed physician (medical doctor or doctor of osteopathy), licensed or certified psychologist, social worker, employee assistance professional, or addiction counselor (certified by the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors Certification Commission or by the International Certification Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and other Drug Abuse) with knowledge of and clinical experience in the diagnosis and treatment of drug- and alcohol-related disorders.
- bb. *Substituted specimen* means a specimen with creatinine and specific gravity value that is so diminished that it is not consistent with normal human urine.
- cc. *Test refusal* is when an employee does any of the following:
1. Fails to appear for any drug or alcohol test (except a pre-employment test) within a reasonable time, as determined by the employer, consistent with any applicable DOT agency regulations, after being directed to do so by the employer.
 2. Fails to remain at the testing site prior to the commencement of the test and until the testing process is complete provided that an employee who leaves the testing site before the testing process commences for a pre-employment test is not deemed to have refused to test.
 3. Fails to provide a urine, saliva/breath, or blood specimen for any drug or alcohol test, required by regulations or this policy.
 4. For an observed collection under DOT regulations, fails to follow the observer's instructions to raise the employee's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the employee has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process.
 5. Fails or declines to take an additional drug or alcohol test the employer or collector has directed the employee to take.
 6. Fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, and/or fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector).
 7. Possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process.
 8. Admits to the collector or MRO that the employee or applicant adulterated or substituted the specimen.
 9. Leaves the scene of an accident without just cause prior to submitting to a test.

10. Consumes alcohol within eight hours following involvement in an accident without first having submitted to post-accident drug/alcohol tests.
 11. Tampers, adulterates, or substitutes a specimen.
 12. In the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test, fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the employee's specimen.
 13. Fails to provide enough urine or breath when directed, and it has been determined, through a required medical evaluation, that there was no adequate medical explanation for the failure.
 14. Fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process, or as directed by the DER. In the case of a pre-employment drug test, the employee is deemed to have refused to test on this basis only if the pre-employment test is conducted following a contingent offer of employment. If there was no contingent offer of employment, the MRO will cancel the test.
 15. Fails or refuses to sign the certification of the alcohol testing form.
 16. Provides false information in connection with a drug or alcohol test.
- dd. *Verified negative test* means a drug test result reviewed by a medical review officer and determined to have no evidence of prohibited drug use above the minimum cutoff levels established by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- ee. *Verified positive test* means a drug test result reviewed by a medical review officer and determined to have evidence of prohibited drug use above the minimum cutoff levels specified in 49 CFR Part 40 as revised.
- ff. *Validity testing* is the evaluation of the specimen to determine if it is consistent with normal human urine. The purpose of validity testing is to determine whether certain adulterants or foreign substances were added to the urine, if the urine was diluted, or if the specimen was substituted.
- (7) Education and training required for this policy.
- a. Every employee will receive a copy of this policy and will have ready access to the corresponding federal and state regulations including 803 KAR Part 25 and 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382, as amended. In addition, all covered employees will undergo a minimum of 60 minutes of training on the signs and symptoms of drug use including the effects and consequences of drug use on personal health, safety, and the work environment. The training also includes manifestations and behavioral cues that may indicate prohibited drug use.
 - b. Thereafter, all employees shall receive at least 30 minutes of refresher training, which shall include the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse in the workplace; the employer's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace; the effects of alcohol and drug use on an individual's health, work and personal life; the disease of alcohol or drug addiction; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or drug problem; alcohol and drug testing; the role of coworkers and supervisors in addressing alcohol or drug abuse; available drug counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; referrals to an Employee Assistance Program; and penalties for violation of the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy.

- c. All supervisors shall receive, in addition to the training specified in paragraph (b) of this subsection, at least 30 minutes each year of alcohol and drug abuse education and awareness training which shall include, at a minimum, information on: recognizing the signs of employee alcohol or drug abuse; how to document signs of employee alcohol or drug abuse; how to refer employees to an Employee Assistance Program or other alcohol or drug abuse treatment programs; legal and practical aspects of reasonable suspicion testing for the presence of drugs and alcohol; and other issues regarding drug abuse that the trainer or the city deem necessary to include.
 - d. The employer shall annually verify that the frequency and duration of each employee and supervisor training session meets the requirements of this section and that all employees have participated in the required alcohol and drug abuse education and awareness training program.
- (8) Prohibited substances addressed by this policy include the following:
- a. Illegally Used Controlled Substance or Drugs Under the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988: any drug or any substance identified in Schedule I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act (21 U.S.C. 812), as further defined by 21 CFR Parts 1300.11 through 1300.15, and as defined by 803 KAR 25:280 is prohibited at all times in the workplace unless a legal prescription has been written for the substance. This includes, but is not limited to: marijuana, amphetamines, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), and cocaine, as well as any drug not approved for medical use by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Illegal use includes use of any illegal drug, misuse of legally prescribed drugs, and use of illegally obtained prescription drugs, such as oxycodone, oxymorphone, hydrocodone, and hydromorphone.
 - b. Federal drug testing regulations (49 CFR Part 40) require that all covered employees be tested for marijuana metabolites/THC (this includes any CBD product containing THC at or above the required threshold), cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, and phencyclidine. Illegal use of these five drugs is prohibited at all times, and thus, covered employees may be tested for these drugs anytime that they are on duty.
 - c. The Kentucky Certified Drug-Free Workplace testing regulations (803 KAR 25:280) require that all covered employees be tested for amphetamines, cannabinoids (THC, which includes any CBD product containing THC at or above the required threshold), cocaine, opiates, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, propoxyphene, methaqualone, methadone, barbiturates, and synthetic narcotics.
 - d. The appropriate use of legally prescribed drugs and nonprescription medications is not prohibited. However, any HSAL employee taking any legal substance which carries a warning label indicating that mental functioning, motor skills, or judgment may be adversely affected must report this information to a supervisor, and the employee is required to provide a written release from their doctor or pharmacist indicating that the employee can perform their safety-sensitive functions.
 - e. The use of beverages containing alcohol (including any mouthwash, medication, food, and candy) or any other substances such that alcohol is present in the body while performing safety-sensitive job functions is prohibited.

(9) Types of prohibited conduct include:

- a. All employees are prohibited from reporting for duty or remaining on duty any time there is a quantifiable presence of a prohibited drug in the body above the minimum thresholds defined in 49 CFR Part 40 or any other state or federal law, as amended.
- b. No employee shall consume alcohol while at work or while on call. If an on-call employee has consumed alcohol, they must acknowledge the use of alcohol at the time that they are called to report for duty. The employee will subsequently be relieved of their on-call responsibilities and be subject to discipline.
- c. The city shall not permit any employee to perform any work-related activity, especially safety-sensitive functions, if it has actual knowledge that the employee is using alcohol.
- d. No employee shall report to work or remain on duty while having an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater, regardless of when the alcohol was consumed.
- e. No employee shall consume alcohol for eight hours following involvement in an accident or until they submit to the post-accident drug/alcohol test, whichever occurs first.
- f. No employee shall consume alcohol within four hours prior to the performance of any job functions.
- g. The city, under its own authority, also prohibits the consumption of alcohol at all times the employee is on duty or anytime the employee is in uniform.
- h. Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and Kentucky Certified Drug-Free Workplace regulations, all employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of prohibited substances in the workplace, while in uniform or on city business.

(10) Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1998, all employees are required to notify the city management of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days after such conviction. Failure to comply with this provision shall result in termination.

(11) Testing requirements for this policy include:

- a. Analytical urine drug testing and breath testing for alcohol will be conducted as required by 49 CFR Part 40 and 803 KAR 25:280 and any other statutes as amended. All employees will be subject to blood draw for drug and breath alcohol testing for post-accident as a condition of ongoing employment with the city. All employees shall be subject to testing prior to employment, for reasonable suspicion, following an accident, and random as defined in sections (12), (13), (14), and (15) of this policy. All employees who have tested positive for drugs or alcohol on a random, reasonable suspicion, or post-accident test will be tested prior to returning to duty after completion of the substance abuse professional's recommended treatment program and subsequent release to duty as set out in sections (16) and (17). Follow-up testing will also be conducted following return to duty for a period of one to five years, with at least six tests performed during the first year. The duration and frequency of the follow-up testing above the minimum requirements will be at the discretion of the SAP.
- b. A drug or alcohol test can be performed any time an employee is on duty.

- c. Any employee who refuses to comply with a request for testing shall be removed from duty and subject to consequences and discipline as defined in section (19) of this policy. Any employee who is suspected of providing false information in connection with a drug test, or who is suspected of falsifying test results through tampering, contamination, adulteration, or substitution will be required to undergo an observed collection. Verification of the above-listed actions will be considered a test refusal and will result in the employee's removal from duty and being disciplined as defined in section (19) of this policy. Refer to section (6)(cc) for behavior that constitutes a refusal to test.
- (12) Testing for drugs and alcohol shall be conducted in a manner to assure a high degree of accuracy and reliability and using techniques, equipment, and laboratory facilities which have been approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). All testing will be conducted consistent with the procedures set forth in 49 CFR Part 40, as well as 803 KAR 25:280, and any other statutes as amended. The procedures will be performed in a private, confidential manner and every effort will be made to protect the employee, the integrity of the drug testing procedure, and the validity of the test result.
- (13) Pre-employment testing shall be done as follows:
- a. All applicants shall undergo urine drug testing and breath alcohol testing within 48 hours after a conditional offer of employment is made.
 - 1. An applicant shall not be hired into a position unless the applicant takes a drug test with verified negative results, and an alcohol test with a BAC below .02.
 - 2. An employee shall not be placed, transferred, or promoted into a position until the employee takes a drug test with verified negative results and an alcohol test with a BAC below .02.
 - 3. If an applicant fails a pre-employment drug or alcohol test, tampers with, or attempts to tamper with a urine specimen in any manner, the conditional offer of employment shall be rescinded. Failure of a pre-employment drug and/or alcohol test may disqualify an applicant for future employment with the city.
 - 4. When an employee being placed, transferred, or promoted submits a drug test with a verified positive result, or an alcohol test with a BAC above 0.02, the employee shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with section (19) herein.
 - 5. If a pre-employment/pre-transfer test is canceled, the city will require the applicant to take and pass another pre-employment drug test.
 - 6. Applicants for DOT positions are required to report previous DOT covered employer drug and alcohol test results. Failure to do so will result in the employment offer being rescinded.
- (14) Reasonable suspicion testing shall be conducted as follows:
- a. All employees and volunteers will be subject to a reasonable suspicion drug and/or alcohol test when there are reasons to believe that drug or alcohol use is impacting job performance and safety. Reasonable suspicion shall mean that there is objective evidence, based upon specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations of the employee's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odor that are consistent with possible drug use and/or alcohol misuse. Reasonable suspicion referrals must be made by one supervisor who is trained to detect the signs and symptoms of drug and alcohol use, and who reasonably concludes that an employee may be adversely affected or impaired in their work performance due to possible

prohibited substance abuse or alcohol misuse. A reasonable suspicion drug test can be performed any time the employee or volunteer is on duty.

- b. The designated employer representative (DER) or their designee shall be notified of any indication of reasonable suspicion. Both the observing supervisor and the DER or their representative (if available) will review the policies and procedures herein, and if necessary, make arrangements with a testing facility of the city's choosing to conduct reasonable suspicion drug and/or alcohol testing as soon as possible. If the DER or their representative is not available, the observing supervisor shall obtain the assistance of another city supervisor or other credible and reliable source. They shall complete the Reasonable Suspicion Observation Form and forward it to the DER. If after completing the form it is determined that there is, in fact, reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, the observing supervisor or their designee will notify the employee and accompany them to the testing site. Supervisors should avoid placing themselves and/or others into a situation which might endanger the physical safety of those present. The Reasonable Suspicion Observation Form shall be attached to the forms reporting the test results.
 - c. When a reasonable suspicion test is ordered, the employee must immediately submit to testing. The observing supervisor and/or designee shall remain at the testing site with the employee being tested until testing is completed. Any employee who is tested for reasonable suspicion shall be placed on administrative leave with pay until the results of the test are known. After submitting to the drug/alcohol test, the employee may not return to work until the results of the test are known and only then if the results are negative. Only the DER may order a reasonable suspicion test.
 - d. An employee who refuses an instruction to submit to a drug/alcohol test shall not be permitted to finish their shift and shall immediately be placed on administrative leave pending disciplinary action as specified in sections (18) and (19) of this policy.
- (15) Post-accident testing will be conducted as follows:
- a. Employees are subject to blood drug and alcohol testing when needed to evaluate the root cause of a workplace accident that harmed or could have harmed employees, or where the employee's performance likely contributed to the accident, and the employer has reasonable suspicion to believe that drugs or alcohol may have contributed, or as required under state or federal law. Testing is not limited to only the injured employee(s).
 - b. Circumstances that constitute probable belief that an employee's performance likely contributed to the accident will be presumed to arise in any instance involving a work-related accident or injury involving:
 - 1. A human fatality.
 - 2. Bodily injury with immediate medical treatment away from the scene where a citation is issued to the driver or the driver is found responsible for the accident.
 - 3. Any disabling damage to a vehicle where a citation is issued to the driver or the driver is found responsible for the accident. Disabling damage is defined as damage that precludes departure of any vehicle from the scene of the occurrence in its usual manner after simple repairs. Disabling damage also includes damage to vehicles that could have been operated but would have been further damaged if so operated.

4. Safety-sensitive employee or position, as defined in paragraphs (4) and (5)(o) of this policy, who is involved in safety-sensitive activities as defined in paragraphs (5)(u) and (y) of this policy, during the occurrence of the accident, and who cannot be discounted as a contributing factor to the accident.
 5. Any city employee when there is a need to evaluate the root cause of a workplace accident that could have harmed employees and there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the use of drugs or alcohol by the employee could have contributed to the accident. (See Reasonable Suspicion Observation Form.)
- c. Due to varying types of accident causes, not all accidents will require post-accident testing. Exceptions for requiring post-accident drug and alcohol testing will include, but may not be limited to the following types of accidents or injuries:
1. Injuries whose onset is cumulative or gradual such as carpal tunnel syndrome, progressive hearing loss, mental disorders, dermatitis, respiratory diseases, skin disorders, etc.
 2. Injuries where the employee can be completely discounted as the contributing factor (e.g., injuries caused by a third party or some other uncontrollable force or event, such as weather, insects, etc.).
 3. Injuries where the employee can be completely discounted as the major contributing factor or those injuries occurring during physical fitness or a training event, in which the employee did everything within reason to avoid the injury or accident, (i.e., was performing training as instructed).
- d. Post-accident investigations must take place within two hours following the accident.
- e. As soon as practicable following an accident, the supervisor investigating will notify the employee operating the vehicle or equipment and all other employees whose performance could have contributed to the accident of the need for the blood test. All employees whose conduct could have contributed to the accident will be subject to testing, not only the employee who reported an injury. The designated employee representative (DER) along with the supervisor will make the determination using the best information available at the time of the decision. (See Post-Accident Documentation Summary and Checklist.) *Under no circumstances will the employee be allowed to drive themselves to the testing facility.*
- f. Pursuant to KRS 342.610(4), all post-accident testing will be done by blood draw.
- g. The appropriate supervisor shall ensure that an employee required to be tested under this section is tested as soon as practicable but no longer than eight hours following the accident for alcohol and within 32 hours for drugs.
1. If a blood alcohol test is not performed within two hours of the accident, the supervisor will document the reason(s) for the delay.
 2. If the alcohol test is not conducted within eight hours, attempts to conduct the alcohol test must cease and the reasons for the failure to test documented.
 3. If the drug test is not conducted within 32 hours, attempts to conduct the drug test must cease and the reasons for the failure to test documented.
- h. Any employee involved in an accident must refrain from alcohol use for eight hours following the accident, or until they undergo a post-accident blood alcohol test.

- i. An employee who is subject to post-accident testing who fails to remain readily available for such testing, including notifying a supervisor of their location if they leave the scene of the accident prior to submission to such test, may be deemed to have refused to submit to testing.
 - j. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the delay of necessary medical attention for the injured following an accident or to prohibit an employee from leaving the scene of an accident for the period necessary to obtain assistance in responding to the accident, or to obtain necessary emergency medical care.
 - k. In the rare event that the city is unable to perform a drug and alcohol test (e.g., employee is unconscious, employee is detained by law enforcement agency), the city may use drug and alcohol post-accident test results administered by local law enforcement officials in lieu of the test. The local law enforcement officials must have independent authority for the test and the employer must obtain the results in conformance with local law.
 - l. The city reserves the right to test all employees whose conduct may have contributed to the accident.
 - m. An employee involved in an accident while on an out-of-town assignment shall notify their supervisor as soon as possible but no later than two hours after the accident occurred. The supervisor shall notify the DER to discuss possible drug/alcohol testing requirements.
- (16) Random testing will be conducted as follows:
- a. All employees in HSAL, FRE, and DOT positions will be subjected to random, unannounced testing. The selection of employees shall be made by a scientifically valid method of randomly generating an employee identifier from the appropriate pool of safety-sensitive employees.
 - b. The dates for administering unannounced testing of randomly selected employees shall be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.
 - c. Employees in HSAL positions, other than those classified as FRE, will have random alcohol testing done at a rate of at least 10% annually and drug testing at a rate of at least 20% annually.
 - d. The number of FRE employees randomly selected for drug/alcohol testing during the calendar year shall not be less than the percentage rates established by federal regulations for those safety-sensitive employees subject to random testing by federal regulations.
 - e. All employees in FRE positions shall be selected from a pool that is separate from the random selection pool for other nonfederally regulated HSAL positions.
 - f. Each covered employee shall be in a pool from which the random selection is made. Each covered employee in the pool shall have an equal chance of selection each time the selections are made. Employees will remain in the pool and subject to selection regardless of whether the employee has been previously tested. There is no discretion on the part of management in the selection and notification of the individuals who are to be tested.
 - g. Random tests can be conducted at any time during an employee's shift.
 - h. Employees are required to proceed immediately to the collection site upon notification of their random selection.

- (17) Return-to-duty testing will be done as follows:
- a. Employees who previously tested positive on a drug or alcohol test or refused a test, must test negative for drugs, alcohol (below 0.02 BAC), or both and be evaluated and released by the substance abuse professional (SAP) or Employee Assistance Program (EAP) before returning to work.
 - b. For an initial positive drug test a return-to-duty drug test is required and an alcohol test is allowed. For an initial positive alcohol test, a return-to-duty alcohol test is required, and a drug test is allowed.
 - c. Following the initial assessment, the SAP/EAP will recommend a course of rehabilitation unique to the individual. The SAP/EAP will recommend the return-to-duty test only when the employee has successfully completed the treatment requirement and is known to be drug- and alcohol-free and there are no undue concerns for public safety.
- (18) Employees will be required to undergo frequent, unannounced drug and alcohol follow-up testing upon return to duty. The follow-up testing will be performed for a period of one to five years after the successful completion of treatment, with a minimum of six tests to be performed the first year. The frequency and duration of the follow-up tests (beyond the minimums) will be determined by the involved SAP/EAP reflecting their assessment of the employee's unique situation and recovery progress. Follow-up testing should be frequent enough to deter and/or detect a relapse. Follow-up testing is separate and in addition to the random, post-accident, reasonable suspicion, and return-to-duty testing.
- (19) Refusal to submit to a drug/alcohol test, as listed in section (6)(cc), shall be considered a positive test result, a direct act of insubordination, and shall result in termination.
- (20) Consequences of a positive alcohol or drug test include:
- a. As soon as practicable after receiving notice of a verified positive drug test result, a confirmed alcohol test result, or a test refusal, the DER will contact the employee's supervisor to have the employee removed from the workplace.
 - b. The employee shall be referred to an SAP/EAP for an assessment. The SAP/EAP will evaluate each employee to determine what assistance, if any, the employee needs in resolving problems associated with prohibited drug use or alcohol misuse.
 - c. A positive drug and/or alcohol test will also result in disciplinary action as specified herein.
 - d. For employees with a CDL, positive test results and other violations will be reported to the DOT Clearinghouse in accordance with 49 C.F.R parts 40 and 382.
 - e. For the first instance of a verified positive test from a sample submitted as the result of a random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, post-accident, or follow-up drug/alcohol test (0.04 BAC), disciplinary action against the employee shall include:
 1. Mandatory referral to an SAP/EAP for assessment, formulation of a treatment plan, and execution of a return-to-work agreement. Failure to execute or remain compliant with the return-to-work agreement shall result in termination from employment.
 2. Compliance with the return-to-work agreement means that the employee has submitted to a drug/alcohol test immediately prior to returning to work; the result of that test is negative; in the judgment of the SAP/EAP the employee is cooperating with their SAP/EAP-recommended treatment program; and the employee has

agreed to periodic unannounced follow-up testing as defined in section (17) of this policy.

3. Refusal to submit to a periodic unannounced follow-up drug/alcohol test shall be considered a direct act of insubordination and shall result in termination.
 4. A periodic unannounced follow-up drug/alcohol test which results in a verified positive shall result in termination from employment.
- f. The second instance of a verified positive drug or alcohol (0.04 BAC) test result including a sample submitted under the random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, post-accident, or follow-up drug/alcohol test provisions herein shall result in termination from employment.
 - g. A confirmed alcohol test result of 0.02 to 0.039 BAC shall result in the removal of the employee from duty for eight hours or the remainder of the workday, whichever is longer. The employee will not be allowed to return to duty for their next shift until they submit to an alcohol test with a result of less than 0.02 BAC. If the employee has an alcohol test result of 0.02 to 0.039 two or more times within a six-month period, the employee will be removed from duty and referred to the SAP/EAP for assessment and treatment consistent with this policy.
 - h. The cost of any treatment or rehabilitation services will be paid directly by the employee or their insurance provider. The employee will be permitted to take accrued sick leave or administrative leave to participate in the SAP/EAP-prescribed treatment program. If the employee has insufficient accrued leave, the employee shall be placed on leave without pay until the SAP/EAP has determined that the employee has successfully completed the required treatment program and releases them to return to duty. Any leave taken, either paid or unpaid, shall be considered leave taken under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).
- (21) When there are no specific, contemporaneous, articulable objective facts that indicate current drug or alcohol use, but the employee (who is not already a participant in a treatment program) admits the abuse of alcohol or other substances to a supervisor in their chain of command, the employee shall be referred to the SAP for an assessment. The city shall place the employee on administrative leave in accordance with the provisions set forth under section (19) of this policy. Testing in this circumstance would be performed under the direct authority of the DER. Since the employee self-referred to management, testing under this circumstance would not be considered a violation of this policy or a positive test result under federal authority. However, self-referral does not exempt the employee from testing under federal authority as specified in sections (13) through (15) or the associated consequences as specified in section (19) of this policy.
- (22) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) information.
- a. Alcoholism and controlled substance addiction are recognized as diseases responsive to proper treatment. The city's health insurance plan through Anthem contains a level of care available for substance abuse treatment through an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided for employees as part of their health care coverage. For information on the EAP, contact your supervisor, the human resources/risk manager, or go to anthemeap.com and enter your company code, which is KLC. The Employee Assistance Program can be reached by calling 800-865-1044.

- b. All employees of the city are strongly encouraged to voluntarily contact the EAP if they believe they or an immediate family member might have a problem with drug or alcohol abuse. An employee who feels that they have developed an addiction or dependence on alcohol or drugs may be entitled to other benefits in addition to the EAP herein described. The decision to seek such benefits or not is the sole responsibility of the employee. All information concerning the use of the medical insurance plan for this purpose will be treated as confidential medical information. Employees who seek treatment or counseling for substance abuse problems may be eligible for leave pursuant to the city's leave policies.
 - c. If an employee has been identified by a SAP as needing assistance in resolving problems associated with alcohol or controlled substances, the employee will be subject to follow-up testing as prescribed elsewhere in this policy. The SAP shall be either a licensed physician, certified psychologist, social worker, employee assistance professional, or addiction counselor.
 - d. Employees who voluntarily report a substance abuse problem prior to being required to take a controlled substance or alcohol test as defined in this policy will not be subject to disciplinary action if they voluntarily and conscientiously seek substance abuse assistance and agree to a treatment plan. However, such an employee must understand that if the problem is not corrected and satisfactory job performance is not maintained, they will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Failure to seek such assistance or to abide by the terms of the treatment plan shall be grounds for termination. Upon voluntarily reporting a substance abuse problem, the employee will be required to sign a Return-to-Work Agreement that will further define conditions of continued employment.
 - e. The city's EAP provides services to employees regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex, age, or any other state or federal-protected class.
- (23) The city is dedicated to assuring fair and equitable application of this substance abuse policy. Therefore, supervisors/managers are required to use and apply all aspects of this policy in an unbiased and impartial manner. Any supervisor/manager who knowingly disregards the requirements of this policy, or who is found to deliberately misuse the policy in regard to subordinates, shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- (24) Confidentiality of drug testing procedures and records are as follows:
- a. Drug/alcohol testing records shall be maintained by the human resources/risk manager and except as provided below or by law, the results of any drug/alcohol test shall not be disclosed without express written consent of the tested employee.
 - b. The employee, upon written request, is entitled to obtain copies of any records pertaining to their use of prohibited drugs or misuse of alcohol including any drug or alcohol testing records. Employees have the right to gain access to any pertinent records such as equipment calibration records and records of laboratory certifications. Employees may not have access to SAP referrals and follow-up testing plans.
 - c. Records of a verified positive drug/alcohol test result shall be released to the department head and human resources/risk manager on a need-to-know basis.
 - d. Records will be released to a subsequent employer only upon receipt of a written request from the employee.

- e. Records of an employee's drug/alcohol tests shall be released to the adjudicator in a grievance, lawsuit, or other proceeding initiated by or on behalf of the tested individual arising from the results of the drug/alcohol test. The records will be released to the decision maker in the proceeding. The information will only be released with binding stipulation from the decision maker to make it available only to parties in the proceeding.
 - f. Records will be released to the National Transportation Safety Board during an accident investigation.
 - g. Records will be released to the DOT or any DOT agency with regulatory authority over the employer or any of its employees.
 - h. Records will be released if requested by a federal, state, or local safety agency with regulatory authority over the city or the employee.
 - i. If a party seeks a court order to release a specimen or part of a specimen contrary to any provision of CFR Part 40 as amended, necessary legal steps to contest the issuance of the order will be taken.
- (25) Any questions regarding this policy or any other aspect of the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy should be directed to the DER

Fraternization

- (1) While the city encourages amicable relationships between employees, it recognizes that involvement in a romantic relationship may compromise or create a perception that compromises an employee's ability to perform their job. Any involvement of a romantic nature between employees within the city requires notification to department head or supervisor.
- (2) Any concerns an employee has in a dating relationship with a coworker may be brought to the attention of the human resources/risk manager, city manager, or any supervisor in which the employee feels comfortable. The supervisor and employee should follow the guidance in the Sexual and Nonsexual Harassment Policy and/or the Workplace Violence Policy within Section 3 of this Handbook. In addition, employees may use the city-provided Employee Assistance Program for any relationship issues.

Media Communications

- (1) The city manager and board of commissioners serves as the chief media spokespersons for the city. All media requests shall be directed to the city manager, who is responsible for determining the city staff person most appropriate to make a response. Under certain circumstances, staff members may be directed to respond to a media request when matters touch upon their special areas of expertise. Any employee directly contacted or approached by the media for comments on issues related to the city shall contact the city manager prior to making a response.
- (2) To ensure quality and appropriate formatting, all city communications shall originate from the city manager. One to two weeks' notice to generate releases is standard. The city manager will work with city staff and members on releases pertaining to "breaking news" as needed.

- (3) To ensure consistent quality and branding, all city publications shall originate or be approved by the city manager. Ideally, at least a one-week notice should be given for the creation of a small publication or template. For large publications, a predesign review of the project will occur between the requesting employee and the city manager.
- (4) Any unauthorized media communications in violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Hours of Operation and Work Schedules

- (1) Normal office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Office hours may be modified due to evening meetings and other similar functions, or when weather or other circumstances require.
- (2) The work schedule of the individual employee will be established by the employee's department head or immediate supervisor in a manner that is consistent with the needs of the city and as approved by the city manager. The work schedule may be modified on a temporary basis when necessitated by workload or other work-related factors. A supervisor that establishes a permanent work schedule for an employee that deviates significantly from the normal office hours or department hours shall provide notification and details regarding the modified work schedule to the human resources/risk manager who will then notify the city manager.
- (3) According to the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) guidelines, where extended work shifts are "unavoidable," employers should "make efforts, whenever feasible," to give affected workers time for rest and recovery, including extra breaks for extended shifts of more than eight hours. The city expects employees to work their regular shifts; however, in severe emergencies, such as snow events or major weather events, employees sometimes must work in excess of their shifts. Because of safety concerns, no operator should work more than a 16-hour shift in any 24-hour period. Operators will take a 15-minute break every two hours with a half-hour meal break after four hours. Department heads should use good judgment in allowing employees to be off after an extended work shift due to emergency situations. If the department head has a question on how to handle an extended work shift due to emergency situations, they should contact the city manager.

Tardiness

All employees are expected to arrive at their designated workspace prior to the beginning time of their work shift. An employee that arrives after the appointed time is considered tardy. Employees tardy up to two times or less within a 30-day period will be counseled by their department head. Employees tardy more than two times within a 30-day period will be subject to the disciplinary policy.

Meals and Rest Periods

- (1) Unless other arrangements are made with the employee's immediate supervisor, all employees, other than those mentioned in paragraph (2), are expected to take an unpaid lunch period of 30 minutes each workday, which shall occur no sooner than three hours after the employee begins their work shift and no later than five hours after the employee begins their work shift. However, an employee and their immediate supervisor may agree to make a reasonable alternative schedule for a meal period on a temporary basis and any such change should be noted in writing.

- (2) Sworn police officers, firefighters, and dispatchers shall remain on duty subject to call during meal breaks and receive a paid meal break. All other employees generally are not on call during meal breaks unless directed otherwise by a supervisor.
- (3) Employees are encouraged to schedule personal breaks as workflow allows. The total time taken for personal breaks should not exceed 15 minutes during each four hours worked. No reduction in compensation shall be made for time spent on personal breaks taken in conformance with this policy for either exempt or nonexempt employees.
- (4) For up to one year after a child's birth, any employee who is breastfeeding her child will be provided two reasonable break times (approximately 20 minutes) to express breast milk for her baby. This time will be paid but is not in addition to the breaks provided in paragraph (3). If an employee needs more than 20 minutes, that time will be allowed, but it will not be paid unless the employee requests to use paid time off other than sick leave. The city will provide a room which is separate from the bathrooms, is shielded from view by the public and coworkers, and is cleaned and sanitized regularly. Employees storing milk in the refrigerator assume all responsibility for the safety of the milk and the risk of harm for any reason, including improper storage, refrigeration, and tampering. Nursing mothers wishing to use this room must request/reserve the room by contacting the human resources/risk manager or designee.

Inclement Weather

- (1) Emergency closings will be authorized by the city manager. When changes in hours of operations are necessary due to emergency situations such as inclement weather or loss of utilities, the city manager or other appointed person will notify department heads. Employees will be notified by their department heads.
- (2) If the city system remains closed for an entire day because of an emergency situation, all employees scheduled to work that day will be paid for the number of hours they were scheduled to work. If an emergency closing occurs during hours the city is open, employees will be paid for any remaining hours scheduled. However, said hours will not be included in overtime calculations. Further, if an employee is off on vacation or sick leave, they will not receive credit for the hours that the city was closed.
- (3) If the city opens late due to an emergency situation, scheduled staff who report to work will receive credit for regular scheduled hours for that day. However, said hours will not be included in overtime calculations.
- (4) When the city is open but extreme weather conditions make it impossible for an employee to arrive at the regular time, reasonable allowances for lateness will be made. If the employee cannot report for work within a reasonable time, they must charge the day to vacation or leave without pay equal to their regular work schedule for that day. The supervisor should be notified as soon as possible.
- (5) Certain essential services are required to be maintained in any closing. The employees involved in these essential services are excused from work only with the specific authorization of their supervisors, regardless of radio or other announcements. Supervisors should clarify beforehand who essential employees are during emergencies, what their obligations are, and what procedures will be used to let them know whether they will be needed to work. Failure to report to work during emergencies by employees required for essential services may be cause for disciplinary action.
- (6) The city clerk will notify the public and will post closing signs in the event the city opens late or closes early.

Standards of Performance and Conduct

- (1) Each employee is a representative of the city, both internally with coworkers and externally with citizens, contractors, business associates, affiliates, and others. As a representative of the city, each employee is expected to act professionally, honestly, ethically, courteously, and with integrity in all business transactions and interpersonal interactions while at work or in any activity performed on behalf of the city.
- (2) The city expects all employees to conduct themselves in a professional, mature, and lawful manner. Employees must comply with established rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and directives. Failure to do so will ultimately result in disciplinary action. To avoid misunderstandings about the types of conduct that are considered unacceptable, a non-exhaustive list of specific infractions is provided below purely for informational purposes as a general guide for employees:
 - a. Unexcused tardiness.
 - b. Unexcused and excessive absenteeism.
 - c. Failure to perform an assigned task, meet a deadline, or otherwise follow an instruction or directive.
 - d. Insubordination or willful refusal to follow instructions, rules, regulations, policies, or to accept assignments.
 - e. Misuse of leave time.
 - f. Intentional or unintentional violations of the policies and procedures in this Handbook.
 - g. Inability to perform duties or requirements of the job because of the loss of necessary licenses or other requirements.
 - h. Discourteous behavior toward the public or other employees.
 - i. Theft or embezzlement of city property or assets.
 - j. Use, possession, sale or transfer of illegal drugs, or being under the influence of illegal drugs in any manner that may impair the employee's ability to perform assigned duties or that may adversely affect the city's business or reputation.
 - k. Personal behavior, whether on or off duty, which discredits the city and is likely to damage the public reputation of the city.
 - l. Falsification of records.
 - m. Invasion of another employee's privacy.
 - n. Assault or fighting.
 - o. Conviction of a serious criminal offense which jeopardizes or is injurious to the city's property and security, its public reputation, the interests of other employees, or which is incompatible with the due and faithful discharge of duties and responsibilities.
 - p. Sexual or nonsexual harassment.
 - q. Horseplay or pranks which threaten the safety and security of the workplace or are offensive to other employees.

Dress Code and Hygiene

- (1) As representatives of the city during work hours, it is important for employees to present a professional impression to citizens, vendors, coworkers and others. Clothing should be neat, clean, in good taste, and should not constitute a safety hazard. Employees are expected to maintain the highest standards of personal cleanliness and appearance during work hours and when representing the city outside of normal work hours.
- (2) The minimum standard of dress for city office employees is “business casual,” although there are occasions or situations, such as meetings, that require “business professional” attire. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that employees’ attire comply with this policy. From time to time these standards may be relaxed by management to allow employees to wear more casual clothing. Examples of such times include clean up days, severely inclement weather, or when more casual clothing may be appropriate for the work to be performed. Below is a non-exhaustive list of approved and prohibited attire to provide guidance on acceptable work attire as follows:
 - a. Approved:
 - Suits
 - Dress shirts
 - Collared shirts
 - Blouses (shoulder straps must be a minimum of two fingers in width)
 - Khakis
 - Pants
 - Jeans worn on Fridays (free of holes or tears)
 - Dresses (hemline no higher than four inches above knee)
 - Skirts (hemline no higher than four inches above knee)
 - Leggings if beneath a dress, skirt, or shirt with a hemline no higher than four inches above the knee
 - Undergarments shall be worn and not exposed
 - b. Prohibited:
 - Athletic wear
 - Bermuda shorts
 - Bedroom shoes/house slippers
 - Statement/logo clothing explicitly or implicitly advertising products, persons, characters, or political stances

- (3) Professional appearance also means that the city expects all employees to maintain good hygiene and grooming while working. Facial hair is permitted if it is neat and well-trimmed. Rings through the nose, eyebrow, tongue, or body parts (other than the earlobe) visible to the public may not be worn while working. Visible tattoos may not be offensive in nature. "Offensive" shall generally mean anything of a sexual nature or anything that impugns another's race, creed, religion, color, or sexual preference.
- (4) An employee may be granted an exception to this policy by their department head or the human resources/risk manager for certain medical conditions.
- (5) An employee wearing inappropriate attire will be required to leave work to change into appropriate attire. An employee will not be compensated for the time they are away from work to change into appropriate attire, and must use vacation or other paid time off except for sick leave for the time spent away from work.
- (6) To promote safety for our employees when traveling conditions are hazardous, the City of Winchester has instituted an "Inclement Weather Dress Code." This dress code will be in effect on days when Clark County Public Schools have delayed or canceled classes due to inclement weather for that day. Employees may wear casual clothing such as jeans, sweaters, and flannel shirts, so long as the clothing is in good taste and is free from holes and cuts. Footwear that is appropriate for these conditions that are flat and have high-traction soles should be worn. Examples include hiking boots, snow boots, trail runners, or running shoes. No high heels or leather dress shoes shall be worn. If a meeting was previously scheduled that requires different attire, shoes with heels or slick leather soles are to be carried into the office and changed into once inside.
- (7) An employee with questions regarding this policy should direct their inquiries to the human resources/risk manager.
- (8) Fire department members will also follow the requirements within the Winchester Fire Department Rules and Regulations. Police department members will also follow the requirements within the Winchester Police Department Rules and Regulations.

Outside Employment for Employees

- (1) Outside employment is defined as any paid employment performed by an employee in addition to employment with the city.
- (2) Any employee desiring to perform outside employment shall first obtain written approval on the Outside Employment Request for Employees Other Than Police Officers (HR Form 06), from the department head, subject to the approval of the city manager. Approval may be granted, provided that such employment does not:
 - a. Interfere with the performance of the employee's duties.
 - b. Involve a conflict of interest or conflict with the employee's duties.
 - c. Involve the performance of duties which the employee should perform as a part of employment with the city.
 - d. Occur during the employee's regular or assigned working hours unless the employee is on vacation leave, compensatory (accumulated time) leave, or leave without pay. Employees on any form of sick leave, which includes FMLA or workers' compensation leave, may not work outside employment pursuant to section (4) below.

- (3) The employee shall make arrangements with the outside employer to be relieved of duties in the event the employee is called for emergency service by the city.
- (4) An employee who is approved for sick leave, including FMLA and workers' compensation leave, or who is approved for limited duty, is prohibited from engaging in secondary employment. Employees who engage other employment or in self-employment while on authorized leave of absence or light duty will be terminated unless written authorization has been granted prior to commencement of the leave of absence. The above limitations specifically do not apply to an employee's use of vacation leave, compensatory (accumulated leave) time or absences resulting from a temporary reduction in force.

Uniforms

- (1) The annual budget process shall determine the uniform policy of the city.
- (2) All employees who are authorized to wear uniforms provided by the city shall wear the uniforms during all working hours. Uniforms provided by the city shall be worn only to and from work, and while at work.
- (3) If the city provides "everyday apparel" in lieu of uniforms (e.g., blue jeans, civilian clothing for sworn police personnel, etc.), the actual allowance or cost of apparel shall be considered a taxable benefit and credited as additional income for tax purposes for each pay period. The value of clothing provided by an employer to an employee must be included as taxable income of the employee unless the clothing is unsuitable for daily wear.
- (4) Employees eligible for safety (steel-toe) shoes shall wear the shoes at all hours while at work. Safety (steel-toe) shoes shall not be considered a taxable benefit.
- (5) Fire department members will also follow the requirements within the Winchester Fire Department Rules and Regulations. Police department members will also follow the requirements within the Winchester Police Department Rules and Regulations.

Use of Office and Mobile Telephones

The office telephone system is provided and paid for by the city to facilitate the conduct of its business. Extensive use of the city telephone system or mobile phones for the personal business of employees interferes with the efficient and effective conduct of the city's business. While the city understands that employees must occasionally make and accept personal calls, texts, or other messages during work hours, personal communication should be kept to a minimum, both in terms of the number of personal calls/messages per day and the duration of individual calls/messages. Excessive use of the office telephone system or mobile phones or personal mobile phones for personal calls, texting, or other personal messaging during work hours may result in disciplinary action.

Mobile Telephones and Communications Devices

The city makes available mobile telephones to employees to facilitate the conduct of city business. Decisions regarding which employees are eligible to be issued these devices are made based on the employee's job functions. Employees who have been issued and have accepted mobile telephones from the city are subject to the following requirements:

- (1) City mobile phones are issued for employees to use to conduct city business. However, it is anticipated that an employee issued a city telephone or other mobile communication device will have incidental personal use of the service.
- (2) Standard model mobile telephones are purchased by the city and replaced in accordance with the city mobile telephone contract. If a device is lost, stolen, or is physically damaged beyond repair, the employee shall be responsible for paying a replacement cost. Employees are responsible for the purchase of additional equipment or other accessories that are not included with the original purchase of the phone and are responsible for the full replacement cost of such items.
- (3) Upon prior approval from the city manager, an employee may purchase their own telephone, which is not standard equipment issued by the city. The city shall evaluate the compatibility of the device with the security protocol of the city's servers.
- (4) Employees shall not submit, nor shall any supervisor approve any mobile telephone expenses for reimbursement on an employee expense report.
- (5) Employees who incur additional charges for the purchase of ring tones, other "extras" or overages, shall be responsible for those charges and will be invoiced for the amount.
- (6) All city policies including and not limited to safety, harassment, ethical conduct, confidentiality, protected health information, and conflict of interest apply fully to electronic device usage.
- (7) All devices must be protected by a password. The user agrees to never disclose their password to anyone. The password should be a minimum of four characters. The device will automatically be locked after a period of inactivity.
- (8) Lost or stolen phones or other communication devices should immediately be reported to the human resources/risk manager.
- (9) Since mobile telephones and locally stored data may be subject to Open Records Laws, there is no expectation of privacy. Each user is responsible and accountable for the content and use of these tools. Should a personal device be used for business purposes, the employee must comply with Open Records Laws, including archival of data. See Appendix B, Email and Communications Retention Schedule for more information on records requirements.
- (10) An employee issued a city telephone may keep their number when they retire from the city or terminate employment with the city. All city information stored on the phone should be removed by the last day of employment. The city reserves the right to delete the information on the communication device.

Vehicle Use

- (1) The operation of vehicles is necessary in conducting much of the city's business. This policy establishes requirements governing the operation of city-owned, leased, or rented vehicles and the operation of personal vehicles while conducting business on behalf of the city. Department heads are responsible for implementation and enforcement of this policy for all vehicles and drivers assigned to their department.
- (2) Employees operating the city-owned, leased, or rented vehicles, which includes special-use vehicles such as construction and excavation equipment designed to operate primarily off-road but driven on public roads to a job site, and employees who are performing employment functions on behalf of the city in a privately owned vehicle must meet and adhere to the following requirements:

- a. The employee shall hold a valid driver's license.
- b. Before driving a city-owned vehicle, operators must have a valid drivers' license for at least three years.
- c. The employee shall not operate a city vehicle or use a privately owned vehicle in conducting business on behalf of the city while the employee's license is under revocation or suspension.
- d. A valid driver's license must always be in the employee's possession while operating a city-owned vehicle. In the case of commercially rated vehicles, the proper commercial driver's license for the vehicle's weight and class must be valid and in the driver's possession.
- e. Any employee who may operate a vehicle while performing employment functions on behalf of the city shall be subject to an annual Division of Motor Vehicle Records Check and must sign the Background Check and Release (HR Form 02).
 - 1. An accumulation of eight or more points in the previous 12-month period or an accumulation of 10 or more points in the previous 18-month period shall be cause for disciplinary action up to and including suspension of city driving privileges.
 - 2. The human resources/risk manager shall advise the employee's department head and the city manager when a driving record meets this threshold.
- f. Only city employees are authorized to operate city vehicles.
 - 1. Persons volunteering services to the city are considered employees of the city for purposes of this policy and may operate city vehicles when their duties require travel and is under the approval or direction of the department head and is necessary in the course of performing official city business.
 - 2. Employees of other public entities may operate city vehicles under the specific approval of the department head as long as such operation is essential in conducting city business.
- g. Only persons being transported in connection with official city business shall be passengers in any city vehicle.
- h. Intentional abuse, moving violations, reckless operation, or negligent actions while operating any city vehicle may result in the suspension of the employee's driving privileges and is grounds for further disciplinary action.
- i. When cargo, materials, or tools are being transported, the driver is responsible for assuring that all items are properly secured to prevent them from shifting or falling from the vehicle or trailer.
- j. No person shall be allowed to ride on running boards, fenders, hoods, tailgates, beds, or other locations on a vehicle not designed or approved by the vehicle manufacturer for passenger seating.
- k. Alcoholic beverages shall not be transported or placed in any city vehicle.
- l. Preoperation inspection for passenger sedans, light-duty pick-up trucks, and all other vehicles that do not require a commercial driver's license (CDL).

1. At least once per day, the operator of these vehicles is responsible for ensuring that all vehicle safety equipment including headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and horn are functioning properly.
 2. The operator is also responsible for ensuring that fluid levels including brake, transmission, engine oil, and coolant are properly maintained.
- m. Preoperation inspection for all vehicles that require a commercial driver's license (CDL).
1. At least once per day, the operator of these vehicles is responsible for ensuring that all vehicle safety equipment including headlights, turn signals, brake lights, and horn are functioning properly. The operator is also responsible for ensuring that fluid levels including brake, transmission, engine oil, and coolant are properly maintained.
 2. In addition to the requirements above, the operator of these vehicles is responsible for ensuring compliance with all preoperation checks as required by the Department of Transportation CDL rules. In addition, the operator shall complete a Vehicle Condition Report at the beginning of the first shift of each day. At the end of the week the form shall be forwarded to the Central Garage for archiving. A new form shall be initiated at the beginning of each week.
 3. Any defects which will affect safe operation of the vehicle will be promptly reported to the driver's supervisor or Central Garage. No employee shall operate a city-owned vehicle in an unsafe condition. Any vehicle damage, which is beyond normal wear and tear, must be documented and reported to the employee's supervisor and Central Garage.
- n. A qualified operator must be positioned at the vehicle's controls any time it is running unless otherwise approved by the manufacturer.
- o. No vehicle shall be left unattended without first stopping the motor, locking the ignition, removing the key, setting the parking brake, and locking the doors, or otherwise securing the vehicle to prevent theft, vandalism, and unintentional movement.
- p. Vehicles responding to emergency situations or those parked on job sites shall be parked with due regard to safety and security considerations.
- q. City vehicles not taken home shall be secured in city parking lots during non-duty hours. The keys shall be removed, and the vehicle locked. When it is necessary to leave a vehicle at a job site overnight, the operator shall ensure the vehicle is parked and secured in an area which provides reasonable security.
- r. When using a trailer, dolly, or other equipment, the following shall apply:
1. The driver shall ensure that the trailer hitch is securely latched, adequate for the load being towed, properly installed on the towing vehicle, and that safety chains are properly attached.
 2. The driver shall ensure that the trailer or other towed equipment is supplied with proper lighting including brake lights, turn signals, and running lights.

3. Any vehicle having a load which extends more than four feet beyond the rear shall have the end of the load marked with a red flag which shall be at least 12 inches square.
- s. Backing guidelines for a large vehicle and construction equipment are as follows:
1. Whenever possible, the driver will position the vehicle so as to avoid the necessity of backing.
 2. Park the vehicle so that the first move is forward when leaving. This means backing the vehicle into a parking space or pulling through a parking space.
 3. These methods do not apply to diagonal parking spaces.
 4. Before entering the vehicle, the driver shall perform a walkaround to check clearances prior to entering the vehicle.
 5. The driver shall not back the vehicle unless such movement can be made with reasonable safety and without interfering with other traffic.
 6. Never back a vehicle when windows or mirrors are covered with snow, ice, frost or other substance that prevents the driver from a visually clear path.
 7. Back slowly, even during emergency situations.
 8. Be familiar with the vehicle's blind spots to reduce the area that may not be visible in the side mirrors.
 9. When available, use a spotter to back all vehicles. Before and during backing movements, the driver and spotter should check blind zones for objects not visible in rear-view mirrors, watch both sides for adequate clearance, and limit speed to allow a full stop.
 10. If a spotter is not available, cones shall be placed in the front and the rear of the vehicle after parking and picked up prior to leaving to ensure a full walkaround is completed.
 11. This policy applies to all vehicles, including those fitted with backup cameras. These cameras can be an effective tool for preventing backing accidents, but such equipment should be used in addition to the techniques outlined in this policy.
- t. The employee shall obey all city, county, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- u. The employee shall not operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or while being under the influence of illegal or controlled substances.
- v. The employee and all occupants shall wear safety belts at all times.
1. The operator of construction, excavation, and other off-road equipment shall use the occupant restraint system any time the vehicle is in operation.
 2. Employees are prohibited from removing, deactivating, modifying, or otherwise defeating any occupant restraint system installed by the manufacturer unless approved or instructed by the manufacturer.

- w. The employee shall have on their possession a valid driver's license at all times they are operating a city vehicle or is using a privately owned vehicle in the performance of city business.
 - x. No employee shall operate a vehicle while normal vision is obstructed.
- (3) All employees operating a vehicle on city business shall undergo annual defensive driver training.
- a. The Kentucky League of Cities offers two defensive driving courses for employees' convenience. Each of these courses has four modules. Each module can easily be viewed in under 30 minutes.
 - b. Use one course per year for training purposes.
 - c. The defensive driving courses can be found on the KLC insurance portal under the Risk and Safety tab.
- (4) The city may not provide coverage for liability or physical damage to an employee's privately owned vehicle. Employees who use personally owned vehicles for city business should confirm that their personal auto insurance policy provides coverage for this use.
- a. Employees who use their personal vehicle or receive a monthly vehicle allowance while conducting city business shall maintain at least the state minimum of liability coverage.
 - b. Annual verification of minimum coverage will be requested.
- (5) Any employee who receives a citation or towing charge while operating a city vehicle shall notify the department head in writing within 48 hours of receipt of the citation or towing charge. The department head shall notify the city manager and human resources/risk manager as soon as practical.
- (6) An employee who operates a city motor vehicle is required to immediately notify the department head of any motor vehicle violation conviction entered against the employee that involves driving while under the influence, or which has resulted, or may result, in the suspension or revocation of the employee's motor vehicle license. The department head shall notify the city manager and human resources/risk manager as soon as possible after receiving notice from the employee.
- (7) If the operation of a city vehicle is a condition of employment, and an employee is unable to operate a motor vehicle due to the suspension or revocation of the employee's license, the employee must immediately inform the department head of the suspension or revocation. The department head shall notify the city manager and human resources/risk manager as soon as possible after receiving notice from the employee.
- a. Any DUI conviction or refusal to submit to a lawful roadside sobriety test shall result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension of city driving privileges.
 - b. An employee whose driver's license has been suspended for any reason shall not be allowed to operate any over-the-road city vehicles.
 - c. Employees who have obtained temporary driving permits or hardship licenses shall not be permitted to operate over-the-road city-owned or privately owned vehicles in the performance of official city duties.
 - d. Temporary or permanent suspension of city driving privileges shall be considered loss of a job prerequisite for employees whose position requires operation of an over-the-road vehicle.

- e. Additionally, the employee must, at their own expense, arrange for and provide transportation so the employee is able to continue to fulfill the employee's job requirements.
- f. An employee who has been determined to be "at fault" in two or more accidents within a 24-month period while driving a city-owned or privately owned vehicle in the performance of official city business shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including suspension of city driving privileges.

Assigned City Vehicles

- (1) When economically feasible and in the best interest of the city, employees may be assigned a city vehicle which they will keep and maintain for business and personal use during the time of assignment. A full-time employee with a position that requires business driving, who holds a valid driver's license, and has a good driving record as determined by the city manager with approval by the board of commissioners, may be eligible for the assignment of a city vehicle under any of the following conditions:
 - a. The employee's position requires the employee to be on call and available to the city.
 - b. Managerial employees whose personal use of a city owned vehicle is consistent with the requirements of the position.
 - c. Duty vehicles designed or equipped for high priority response where response time will be enhanced by allowing the vehicle to remain in custody of individual employee. Employees assigned to duty vehicles which are taken home must be available to respond upon request on a 24-hour basis any time the employee has custody of the vehicle.
 - d. To prepare for a post-disaster response in order to plan an effective and efficient recovery.
 - e. The employee's position must be specified by the city manager with approval by the board of commissioners as a position to which assignment of a city vehicle is considered part of the employee's compensation package.
- (2) An employee who is assigned a city vehicle on a permanent basis is subject to the following:
 - a. Commuter Rule: Unless specifically exempted by federal regulations, take-home city vehicles shall be a taxable benefit. Employees who drive city-owned vehicles to and from work shall be credited with additional gross income for tax purposes in the amount of \$1.50 per day for each day the vehicle is driven to work and \$1.50 per day for each day the vehicle is driven from work. For example, an employee who drives a city-owned vehicle to and from work 10 times during the biweekly pay period shall be credited with an additional income of \$30 for tax purposes for the pay period. Personal use other than commuting is prohibited and grounds for discipline up to and including termination. Employees who drive qualified nonpersonal use vehicles (e.g., marked police vehicles) are exempt from the taxable benefit under the federal regulations; however, personal use for travel outside of the officer's or firefighter's jurisdiction is prohibited and grounds for disciplinary action.
 - b. Gas Expense: An employee shall use the gas card provided in the vehicle or to the employee and shall be subject to city purchase limits and the fuel report for mileage tracking.
 - c. Maintenance, Inspection, and Repairs: The employee is responsible for ensuring that routine maintenance on the vehicle, as specified in the owner's manual, and as the city may specify in writing, is performed at the intervals specified in such documents. Scheduled maintenance should include at a minimum: an oil change, check fluid levels, check tire conditions, and

check all lights and warning devices. All maintenance should be documented and each vehicle in the fleet should have a separate file to store all maintenance records. Service other than routine maintenance must be performed at the service center as directed by the city.

- d. The city will arrange for license plates, registration certificates, and insurance cards. The city also pays the vehicle's local property taxes. The employee should not receive a tax bill.
 - e. An assigned vehicle shall be turned in no later than the last day of employment. A terminated employee shall not continue use of the car under any circumstances.
- (3) In operating an assigned-city vehicle:
- a. The employee shall not permit or give permission for any other person to drive the city vehicle other than as outlined in the Vehicle Use Policy in Section 5 of this Handbook.
 - b. The employee shall follow the Vehicle Use Policy as set forth in Section 5 of this Handbook.
 - c. The employee shall report vehicle accidents in accordance with Section 5 of this Handbook.
 - d. City vehicles taken home overnight shall be locked and secured in the responsible employee's driveway or other designated parking space which is in close proximity to the employee's residence.
- (4) Vehicles in the city's car fleet will be replaced at the city's discretion. In addition, the city may, at its discretion, revoke a vehicle assignment at any time or otherwise change the position or work requirements of the employee.

Distracted Driving

- (1) Employees shall not use cellular telephones or any other mobile electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle to read or respond to emails and text messages or to access the internet. Employees are prohibited from wearing a headset or earphones over or in both ears unless an exception under paragraph (3) applies. This policy is in effect while operating a city-owned vehicle or operating a privately owned vehicle in the course of conducting city business.
- (2) Furthermore, employees, unless an exception under paragraph (3) applies, should consider:
 - a. Turning off wireless phones before starting the car;
 - b. Pulling over to a safe place and put the vehicle in "park" if a call must be made or received while on the road;
 - c. Modifying voicemail greeting to indicate the employee is unavailable to answer calls or return messages while driving;
 - d. Informing clients, associates, and others of this policy, and provide an explanation on why calls may not be returned immediately; and
 - e. Pulling over to a safe place and put the vehicle in "park" to make adjustments to a Global Positioning System or other navigational device.
- (3) Pursuant to KRS 189.292, the Distracted Driving Policy shall not apply to an emergency or public safety vehicle, when the use of a personal communication device is an essential function of the vehicle operator's official duties.

Vehicle Accident Reporting Requirements

- (1) An employee involved in a vehicle accident with a vehicle owned, leased, or rented by the city or involved in a vehicle accident in a privately owned automobile while on city business shall follow these rules:
 - a. Summon medical care for injured individuals.
 - b. Notify appropriate law enforcement authorities.
 - c. Notify the employee's department head.
 - d. Do not admit responsibility, fault, or offer settlements.
 - e. Cooperate with law enforcement authorities and emergency medical personnel.
 - f. Obtain the names and addresses of any witnesses and involved parties.
 - g. Submit to a drug and alcohol test as described in the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in Section 3 of this Handbook.
- (2) The employee's department head shall be responsible for initiating any departmental investigation, ensuring the completion of all required city reports and recommending any follow-up preventative actions. In addition, the department head shall notify the city manager and human resources/risk manager of any injuries sustained by a city employee in accordance with the Reporting Work-Related Accidents Policy in Section 3 of this Handbook. The human resources/risk manager shall immediately notify the city's insurance carrier.

Information Technology Acceptable Use Policy

- (1) The city's electronic resources are provided for the transaction of official business of the city. This policy is intended to establish rules applicable to all city personnel to ensure the city's electronic resources are appropriately utilized and protected.
- (2) All data that is stored on media owned by the city is the property of the city. To properly maintain and manage this data, the management may exercise at any time its right to inspect, record, and/or remove any or all information contained in computer databases, files, and email records, and to take appropriate action should unauthorized or improper usage be discovered.
- (3) All employees and officers who use computer equipment and software in the performance of their duties shall take all reasonable and necessary precautions to prevent damage to the equipment and software. To ensure the integrity of the city's computer system and software, all employees and officers are prohibited from connecting any hardware or loading any software onto the system, or any individual component of the system, unless the hardware or software has been specifically approved in advance by the city manager.
- (4) Access to the data stored on the city's computer systems shall be limited to city employees and officers who require such access for the performance of their assigned duties. Employees or officers may not attempt to use passwords to gain access to coworkers' email or computer files without appropriate authorization.
- (5) No employee or officer shall make copies of data or software programs owned by the city for their own personal use, or for any purpose not required by the employee's assigned duties. In the event that a software licensing agreement authorizes the reproduction of software and an employee desires

to obtain a copy of the software for installation on a single home computer to assist the employee in the performance of assigned duties outside of regular office hours, the employee shall seek specific approval from the city manager before copying the software.

- (6) All city business email communications shall be conducted through the city email accounts. No city business conducted by an officer or employee of the city shall occur through a personal email account. Any city business conducted outside of the city email account will be subject to public records and it is the responsibility of the employee or officer to retain those messages in accordance with the Open Records Act, the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives Schedule, and the Email and Communications Retention Schedule, as set out in Appendix B. Questions regarding any recordkeeping requirements should be directed to the city clerk.
- (7) Employees or officers should have no expectation of privacy associated with information they transmit through or store in electronic mail programs owned by the city, even those on a cell phone. All messages and data processed electronically over the city-owned computers and communications systems are the property of the city and may be subject to the Open Records Act.
- (8) To maintain the integrity and security of the city computer resources, employees or officers are strictly prohibited from downloading any software, unless prior approval is granted by the employee's supervisor after consultation with the city manager. Excessive use of the internet for personal reasons during work hours may be grounds for disciplinary action.
- (9) Internet usage is intended for job-related activities; however, incidental and occasional brief personal use is permitted within reasonable limits.
- (10) All internet data that is composed, transmitted, or received via the city's computer communications systems is considered to be part of the official records of the city, and as such, is subject to disclosure to law enforcement or open records requests. Consequently, employees should always ensure that the business information contained in internet email messages and other transmissions is accurate, appropriate, ethical, and lawful.
- (11) The equipment, services, and technology provided to access the internet remain at all times the property of the city. As such, the city reserves the right to monitor internet traffic, retrieve and read any data composed, sent, or received through online connections, and stored in the city's computer systems.
- (12) The electronic mail and other information systems including facsimile machines of the city are not to be used in a way that may be disruptive, offensive to others, or harmful to morale.
- (13) There is to be no display or transmission of sexually explicit images, messages, or cartoons, or any transmission or use of email communications that contain ethnic slurs, racial epithets, or anything that may be construed as harassment or disparagement of others based on their race, national origin, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, religious, or political beliefs.

City Social Media

- (1) The city may utilize social media and social network sites to further communicate with citizens.
- (2) The intended purpose behind establishing the city's social media sites is to disseminate information from the city and to encourage discussion of city issues, operations, and services by providing members of the public the opportunity to participate through various platforms.

- (3) For purposes of this policy, “social media” is understood to be content created by individuals using the internet. Examples of social media include Facebook, blogs, Instagram, RSS, YouTube, Second Life, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Flickr.
- (4) For purposes of this policy, “comments” include information, articles, pictures, videos, or any other form of communicative content posted on the city’s social media site.
- (5) The establishment and use by any city department of city social media sites are subject to approval by the city manager or their designee.
- (6) City social media sites should clearly state they are maintained by the city and that they follow the city’s Social Media Policy. All social media sites shall clearly indicate that any content posted or submitted for posting is subject to public disclosure.
- (7) The site should adhere to all applicable state, federal, and local laws and regulations, and policies including city information technology and records management policies.
- (8) The designated coordinator of the social media site will monitor content on the social media site to ensure adherence to both the city’s Social Media Policy and the interest and goals of the city. The city reserves the right to restrict or remove any content that is deemed in violation of this Social Media Policy or any applicable law. Any content removed based on these guidelines must be retained by the designated coordinator as determined by the Email and Communications Retention Policy in Appendix B, including the time, date, and identity of the poster, when available.
- (9) The city’s website is <https://www.winchesterky.com/> and will remain the city’s primary and predominant internet presence. All city social media sites shall have the government’s contact information prominently displayed. Whenever possible, the city’s social media sites should link back to the city’s official website for forms, documents, online services, and other information necessary to conduct business with the city.
- (10) All social networking coordinators shall be trained regarding the terms of the Social Media Policy, including their responsibilities to review content submitted for posting to ensure compliance with the policy. When possible, the city’s IT security policies shall apply to all social networking sites and articles.
- (11) Employees representing the city via the city’s social media sites must conduct themselves as a representative of the city at all times and in accordance with all city policies.
- (12) The city will post the following on any social media page in a conspicuous location.

Comments placed on the social media site are subject to the following guidelines:

- a. As a public entity the city must abide by certain standards to serve all its constituents in a civil and unbiased manner.
- b. The city’s social media sites prohibit the posting of content and/or comments containing any of the following:
 1. Comments not topically related to the particular site or blog article being commented upon;
 2. Profane language or content;
 3. Content that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public

- assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or any other protected class status;
- 4. Sexual content or links to sexual content;
- 5. Solicitations of commerce;
- 6. Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity;
- 7. Information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public; or
- 8. Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party.
- c. The city reserves the right to deny access to the city's social media sites for any individual who violates the city's Social Media Policy, at any time and without prior notice.
- d. Departments within the city shall monitor their social media sites for comments requesting responses from the city and for comments in violation of this policy.
- e. When a city employee responds to a comment in their capacity as a city employee, the employee's name and title shall be made available, and the employee shall not share personal information about themselves or other city employees.
- f. All comments posted to any city social media site are bound by the Social Media's Statement of Rights and Responsibilities, and the city reserves the right to report any violation to the social media site with the intent of the social media site taking appropriate and reasonable responsive action.

Employee Guidelines for Participating in Social Media

- (1) The city understands that social networking and internet services have become a common form of communication in the workplace and among citizens. Employees that choose to participate in social media as a city employee should adhere to the following guidelines:
 - a. City policies, rules, regulations, and standards of conduct apply to employees that engage in social networking activities while conducting city business. Use of your city email address and communicating in your official capacity will constitute conducting city business.
 - b. City employees shall notify their department head and the city manager if they intend to create a social media account or service to conduct city business.
 - c. Departments have the option of allowing employees to participate in existing social media sites as part of their job duties. Department heads may allow or disallow employee participation in any social media activities in their departments.
 - d. Protect your privacy and the privacy of citizens by following all privacy protection laws (e.g., HIPAA), and protect sensitive and confidential city information.
 - e. Follow all copyright laws, public records laws, retention laws, fair use and financial disclosure laws, and any other laws that might apply to the city or your department.
 - f. Do not cite vendors, suppliers, clients, citizens, coworkers, or other stakeholders without their approval.

- g. Make it clear that you are speaking for yourself and not on behalf of the city. If you publish content on any website outside of the city and it has something to do with the work you do or subjects associated with the city, use a disclaimer such as: “The postings on this site are my own and don’t necessarily represent the City of Winchester’s positions or opinions.”
 - h. Do not use ethnic slurs, profanity, personal insults, or engage in any conduct that would not be acceptable in the city’s workplace. Avoid comments or topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory.
 - i. If you identify yourself as a city employee, ensure your profile and related content is consistent with how you wish to present yourself to colleagues, citizens, and stakeholders.
 - j. Frame any comments or opposing views in a positive manner. Add value to the city through your interaction by providing worthwhile information and perspective.
- (2) Guidelines for participating in social media by police officers and firefighters are contained within the Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual and the Fire Department Policy and Procedure Manual.

Employee Privacy Expectations

- (1) Notwithstanding issues addressed specifically in other provisions of this Handbook, employees can expect a reasonable degree of privacy in the contents of their work areas, including desks, cabinets, closets, and similar locations. However, when an employee is absent or otherwise unavailable, the city may seek out, for a legitimate business purpose, material believed to be contained in those work areas.
- (2) Supervisors may examine work area contents or listen to employee communications of their subordinate employees for the purpose of ascertaining or evaluating the quality and/or quantity of an employee’s work.
- (3) Employees cannot expect any degree of privacy in any documents, records, files, or city-owned devices, including but not limited to computers, cell phones, PDAs, and tablets. Documents, records, files, and city-owned devices can be reviewed and searched at any time, for any reason, including preparation of a response to an open records request.
- (4) The contents of work areas may be subject to search where there is a reasonable cause to believe there is a violation of these policies or evidence of a violation of any local, state, or federal law. Searches of work areas for this reason may only be conducted with the consent and involvement of the city manager.

Customer Relations

- (1) The city requires city employees to provide excellent customer service to the public and to their coworkers. The same quality service is provided to all customers regardless of age, race, nationality, socioeconomic and educational background, physical condition, etc. The city’s success and long-range plans are built on this commitment to provide excellent customer service by:
 - a. Revising policies to value and support customer service efforts;
 - b. Creating staff customer service training;
 - c. Establishing plans for promoting customer communication; and

- d. Developing ways of measuring customer satisfaction.
- (2) All other city policies should be interpreted in relation to the customer service principles outlined in Appendix C of this Handbook.

Open Records Policy

- (1) KRS 61.870 to KRS 61.884, the Open Records Act, establishes a right of access to public records. The General Assembly recognized that the free and open examination of public records is in the public interest. All public records, whether they are stored in a computer or on paper, must be open for inspection unless the records are exempted by one or more of the exemptions found in the Act. You may inspect any nonexempt public record regardless of your identity.
- (2) Contact the city clerk for more information on the city's process for requesting an open record.

Section 4 – Employee Code of Ethics

Pursuant to the City's Ethics Ordinance, No. 15-96, found in Appendix C of this Handbook.

Definitions

(1) Definitions applicable to this section:

- a. "Business" means any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, professional service corporation, or any legal entity through which business is conducted for profit.
- b. "Board of Ethics" or "Board" means the City of Winchester Board of Ethics which is created and vested by this ordinance with the responsibility of enforcing the requirements of the city's code of ethics.
- c. "City" refers to the City of Winchester, Kentucky.
- d. "City agency" means any board, commission, authority, non-stock corporation, or other entity created, either individually or jointly, by this city.
- e. "Employee" means any person, whether full-time or part-time, and whether paid or unpaid, who is employed by or provides service to the city. The term "employee" shall not include any contractor or subcontractor or any of their employees.
- f. "Family member" means any relative who is second cousin or closer in relationship by blood lineage or marriage.
- g. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, a child who is not emancipated and who resides in the officer's or employee's household, or a person claimed by the officer or employee, or the officer's or employee's spouse, as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.
- h. "Officer" means any person, whether full-time or part-time, and whether paid or unpaid, who is one of the following:
 - 1. The mayor.
 - 2. A board of commission member.
 - 3. The city manager.
 - 4. The human resources/risk manager.
 - 5. The city treasurer.
 - 6. The purchasing officer.
 - 7. The police chief.
 - 8. The fire chief.
 - 9. Any person who occupies a nonelected office created under KRS 83A.080.
 - 10. A member of the governing body of any city agency who has been appointed to the government body of the agency by the city.

Conflicts of Interest in General

- (1) Every officer and employee of the city and agencies thereof shall comply with the following standards of conduct:
 - a. No officer or employee, or any immediate family member of any officer or employee, shall have an interest in a business or engage in any business, transaction, or activity which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of the officer's or employee's public duties.
 - b. No officer or employee shall intentionally use or attempt to use their official position with the city to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others.
 - c. No officer or employee shall intentionally take or refrain from taking any discretionary action, or agree to take or refrain from taking any discretionary action, or induce or attempt to induce any other officer or employee to take or refrain from taking any discretionary action, on any matter before the city to obtain a financial benefit for any of the following:
 1. The officer or employee;
 2. A family member;
 3. An outside employer;
 4. Any business in which the officer, employee, or any family member has financial interest; or
 5. Any business with which the officer, employee, or any family member is negotiating or seeking prospective employment, or other business or professional relationship.
- (2) No officer or employee shall be deemed in violation of any provision in this section if, by reason of the officer's or employee's participation, vote, decision, action or inaction, no financial benefit accrues to the officer or employee, a family member, an outside employer, or a business as defined in subsection (c)(4) and (c)(5) of this section, as a member of any business, occupation, profession, or other group, to any greater extent than any gain could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of the business, occupation, profession, or other group.
- (3) Every officer or employee who has a prohibited financial interest which the officer or employee believes or has reason to believe may be affected by their participation, vote, decision, or other action taken within the scope of their public duties shall disclose the precise nature to the governing body of the city or the agency thereof served by the officer or employee. The officer or employee shall refrain from taking any action with respect to the matter that is the subject of the disclosure.

Conflicts of Interests in Contracts

- (1) Pursuant to KRS 61.252, no officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall directly or through others undertake, execute, hold, or enjoy, in whole or in part, any contract made, entered into, awarded, or granted by the city or a city agency, except as follows:
 - a. The prohibition in subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to contracts entered into before an elected officer filed as a candidate for city office, before an appointed officer was appointed to a city or city agency office, or before an employee was hired by the city or a city agency. However, if any contract entered into by a city or city agency officer or employee before they became a candidate, was appointed to office, or was hired as an

employee, is renewable after they become a candidate, assumes the appointed office, or is hired as an employee, then the prohibition in subsection (1) of this section shall apply to the renewal of the contract.

- b. The prohibition in subsection (1) of this section shall not apply if the contract is awarded after public notice and competitive bidding, unless the officer or employee is authorized to participate in establishing the contract specifications, awarding the contract, or managing the contract performance after the contract is awarded. If the officer or employee has any of the authorities as set forth in the preceding sentence, then the officer or employee shall have no interest in the contract, unless the requirements set forth in subpart (c) below are satisfied.
 - c. The prohibition in subsection (1) of this section shall not apply in any case where the following requirements are satisfied:
 - 1. The specific nature of the contract transaction and the nature of the officer's or employee's interest in the contract are publicly disclosed at a meeting of the governing body of the city or city agency.
 - 2. The disclosure is made a part of the official record of the governing body of the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
 - 3. A finding is made by the governing body of the city or city agency that the contract with the officer or the employee is in the best interests of the public and the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
 - 4. The finding is made a part of the official record of the governing body of the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
- (2) Any violation of this section shall constitute a Class A misdemeanor, and upon conviction, the court may void any contract entered into in violation of this section.
 - (3) Additionally, violation of this section shall be grounds for removal from office or employment with the city in accordance with any applicable provisions of state law and ordinances, rules, or regulations of the city.

Misuse of Confidential Information

No employee of the city or any city agency shall intentionally use or disclose information acquired in the course of their official duties, if the primary purpose of the use or disclosure is to further their personal financial interest or that of another person or business. Information shall be deemed confidential if it is not subject to disclosure pursuant to the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.872 to 61.884, or the exceptions within the Open Meetings Act, KRS 61.810, at the time of its use or disclosure.

Receipt of Gifts

- (1) No officer, candidate for public city office, or employee of the city or any city agency shall directly, or indirectly through any other person or business, solicit or accept any gift other than resulting from a blind drawing in which many persons not connected with the city participate from any individual or business that transacts business with the city or seeks business with the city, whether the gift be in the form of money, service, loan, travel entertainment, hospitality, promise, or in any other form of value except as permitted in (3), below.

- (2) No officer, candidate for public city office, or employee of the city or any city agency shall be prohibited from giving or receiving an award publicly presented in recognition of public service.
- (3) No officer, candidate for public city office, or employee of the city or city agency be prohibited from receiving reasonable hosting, entertainment, meals, or refreshments provided that both:
 - a. The reasonable hosting, entertainment, meals, or refreshments are furnished in conjunction with public events, public appearances, or public ceremonies; and,
 - b. The public events, public appearances, or public ceremonies are directly related to official city government business.
- (4) Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, casual hospitality of modest value from an individual who is a friend or relative and with whom that relationship predated the city service of the officer, candidate, or employee is not prohibited.

Use of City Property, Equipment, Time, and Personnel

- (1) No officer or employee of the city shall use any city time, funds, personnel equipment, or other personal or real property for the private use inuring to the benefit of any person, unless:
 - a. The use is specifically authorized by stated city policy.
 - b. The use is available to the general public, and then only to the extent and upon the terms that such use is available to the general public.

Political Activity

- (1) The city is a nonpartisan organization that operates in a political environment. Every employee must make the maximum effort to minimize any appearance of political favoritism while sustaining a harmonious working relationship with federal, state, and local leaders and citizens.
- (2) No employee shall be permitted to solicit funds or otherwise engage in any political campaign activity during working hours or while in a city uniform.
- (3) No employee shall use any supplies or equipment of the city for political purposes.

Reporting Code of Ethics Violations and Penalties

- (1) An employee who becomes aware of a violation of any policy in the Code of Ethics should report the violation promptly to any one of the following:
 - a. The Board of Ethics;
 - b. Their immediate supervisor or department head;
 - c. The city human resources/risk manager;
 - d. The city manager;

- e. Any member of the board of commissioners; or
 - f. Any supervisor with whom the employee feels comfortable discussing the matter.
- (2) All reports of a violation of the Code of Ethics shall be reduced to writing by the reporting employee or by the person receiving the report. The report shall be signed by the complaining employee. All reports of violations will be kept confidential to the extent feasible and appropriate under the circumstances.
- a. All reports shall be reviewed and investigated. The violation will be investigated by the Board of Ethics. The results of the investigation will be communicated to the complainant, the alleged policy violator, and the city manager/board of commissioners. Any employee found to have engaged in misconduct constituting a violation of this policy will be appropriately disciplined, up to and including dismissal.
 - b. As provided under the Whistleblower Protection for City Employees Policy in Section 4 of this Handbook, an employee making a report under this policy will not be discriminated against or be subject to retaliation in any way for having made the report. Any person found to have discriminated or retaliated against an employee who makes a complaint shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.
 - c. The city recognizes that the question of whether a particular course of conduct constitutes a violation of the city's Code of Ethics may require a factual determination. The city also recognizes that false accusations have serious effects on innocent parties. If an investigation results in a finding that the complaining party made a false accusation with malice or with a reckless disregard for the truth, the complaining party will be subject to appropriate sanctions, including dismissal.
- (3) An employee may speak directly to any member of the Board of Ethics about a violation of the Code of Ethics if the employee has reported a violation to members of management without result.
- (4) Any report regarding an elected city officer shall be submitted to the city Board of Ethics, who shall determine the course of the investigation and the proper manner to address the complaint.

Whistleblower Protection for City Employees

- (1) The city strictly prohibits retaliation or discrimination against any employee who reports a violation of the policies contained in this Handbook, or a violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law, or regulation to city supervisory staff, the Board of Ethics, law enforcement authorities, or other appropriate officials.
- a. No city employee shall use or threaten to use their supervisory authority or influence to discourage, restrain, suppress, dissuade, deter, prevent, interfere with, or coerce an employee from reporting any violation of the policies contained in this Handbook to their supervisor or any other member of the city's supervisory staff.
 - b. No city employee shall retaliate or discriminate against an employee because they support, aid, or otherwise substantiate another employee who reports a violation of the policies contained in this Handbook to the Board of Ethics.
 - c. No city employee shall retaliate or discriminate against another employee because they report a violation of the policies contained in this Handbook to the Board of Ethics after informing members of the city supervisory staff without satisfactory resolution.

- d. The city strictly prohibits retaliation or discrimination against any employee who reports a violation of any applicable federal, state, or local law, or regulation to city supervisory staff, the Board of Ethics, law enforcement authorities, or other appropriate officials.
 - e. The provisions of this policy in no way alter the at-will employment status of city employees. This policy does not create any contractual or other rights for employees, and the city may alter, amend, or remove any policy contained in this Handbook at any time.
- (2) Any employee who receives an official request from an outside agency for information related to the city shall promptly inform their immediate supervisor of the request. Any employee who receives a request from media for information related to the city shall forward the request to the city manager and shall otherwise follow the Media Communications Policy in Section 3 of this Handbook.
- (3) Any city employee who makes a false report of a violation or discloses information related to a report of a violation of city policies or the law with reckless disregard for the truth shall be subject to disciplinary action, including the possibility of immediate dismissal.

Section 5 – Employee Financial Practices, Reporting, and Reimbursement

Purpose of the Policies Contained in this Section

The purpose of the policies contained in this section of the Handbook is to outline for employees all allowable business-related expenses and provide instruction for the handling of purchases and employee reimbursement. Employees should also be guided by the other policies contained in this Handbook in making any financial transaction on behalf of the city or in incurring any business-related expenses for the city, including the Code of Ethics and work conduct policies.

Employee Expense Reports and Reimbursement

- (1) Employees are urged to go through the procurement process for purchases made on behalf of the city. In an emergency situation to ensure smooth operations of the city, business expenses may be paid from the employee's private funds and reimbursed upon the submission of the documentation required under this policy.
- (2) An employee requesting reimbursement for business-related expenses made on behalf of the city shall complete the Expense Report (HR Form 08). The employee shall submit expenses and supporting documentation in the following manner:
 - a. Expenses submitted for reimbursement are due to the purchasing department within one week from the date in which the expense was incurred.
 - b. Requests for reimbursement in expense reports shall be accompanied by an itemized receipt and all supporting documentation. The employee shall provide an explanation why the purchase was a necessary emergency, the business purpose, date, location, amount, and the persons being covered by the purchase on the receipt or in supporting documentation. Failure to provide a receipt and other applicable supporting documentation will result in denial of the reimbursement. Credit card statements will not be accepted as evidence of a receipt.
 - c. All expense reports must be approved and signed by the employee's department head. The city manager or their designee shall review all expense reports prior to reimbursement for the purpose of determining compliance with city policies. The mayor's and commissioners' expense reports shall be submitted to the city manager and approved by the board of commissioners, in accordance with the city budget.
- (3) An employee who submits a fraudulent receipt or falsifies their expense report will lose reimbursement privileges, will be terminated, or other appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
- (4) The city may withhold reimbursement while it investigates or verifies expense report reimbursement requests.

Use of City Credit Cards

- (1) The city has authorized revolving city credit cards to be issued to certain officers and employees recommended by the city manager and approved by the board of commissioners. City credit cards are for use in making operational business purchases, purchases related to meetings, and other legitimate business expenses as set forth in this policy.
 - a. Operational expenses are those expenses necessary for the running of the city. Examples include, but are not limited to, office supplies and equipment, other office-related expenses, computer supplies, and any other non-travel related expenses.

- b. These examples are not intended to limit credit card use for other legitimate business expenses.
- (2) Employees must request approval for purchase from their immediate supervisor, department head, city manager, or purchasing agent to sign out a city credit card for operational or meeting-related expenses and will be subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Only legitimate business and operational-related purchases may be charged on a city credit card and the processes in the city purchasing manual must be followed.
 - b. The city credit cards shall not be used for personal expenses of any kind. In the event that an expense is determined to be personal in nature, the expense must immediately be reimbursed. The city manager, upon review, may require reimbursement of a personal expense outside of this time frame.
 - c. Itemized receipts of each transaction made using a city credit card must be submitted to the purchasing officer promptly for approval. The receipts shall provide details on the business purpose, date, location, amount, persons covered by the purchase, and shall bear evidence of supervisor approval on their face. Credit card statements will not be accepted as evidence of a receipt.
- (3) The city will review the policy regarding credit card usage and credit card limits on an as-needed basis, but no less than every three years.

Employee Travel Expense Reimbursement

- (1) All city officers and employees shall receive prior approval at least 30 days prior to training or travel from the city manager and their department head, based on the city budget. Prior to any travel, an employee shall receive prior written approval through the submission of a Travel, Meeting, and Conference Request (HR Form 09). The Travel, Meeting, and Conference Request Form shall be reviewed and approved by the employee's department head and the city manager. Any travel that has not been approved in the city operating or travel budget shall be approved by amendment of the budget by the board of commissioners.
- (2) Registration for conferences and meetings shall be performed by the employee. Before registration is complete, the employee shall provide the purchasing officer with an approved copy of the Travel, Meeting, and Conference Request Form. Employees should make an effort to provide this information at least 30 days prior to any class or as far in advance as possible so that the lowest possible registration fees may be obtained.
- (3) Reservations for overnight lodging shall be made by the employee unless otherwise approved by the city manager. Before reservations are made, the employee shall obtain an approved copy of the Travel, Meeting, and Conference Request Form to the city manager.
 - a. Reservations will be made in such a manner to secure the best available rate for safe, clean, and secure accommodations as close to the meeting location as possible. Every attempt should be made for stay in the hotel hosting the conference or meeting and to pay the conference room rate.
 - b. In-room movies, room service, mini-bar, use of hotel gym, spa or massage services, sauna facilities, or other additions to room bills are not reimbursable. Only usual and customary expenses are eligible for reimbursement.

- c. A copy of the hotel folio or receipt showing proof of payment shall be submitted by the employee for expense reimbursement.
 - d. When a room is shared with another employee the total cost of the room will be reimbursed with 50% of reimbursement allotted to each employee.
- (4) Car rental reservations shall be made by the employee unless otherwise approved by the city manager. The following guidelines shall apply when rental reservations are made:
- a. Standard, full-size, mid-size, compact, or economy models shall be rented unless more than two persons are traveling together. Upgrades for other models are permissible if transporting materials, more than three individuals are traveling together, or other situations where cargo space is a factor. Unauthorized upgrades shall not be reimbursed.
 - b. The refueling option should be taken if extensive driving is planned. If the refueling option is declined, the car must be returned with a full tank of gas.
 - c. Rental vehicles should be returned to the original rental location in order to avoid costly drop-off charges unless there are extraordinary circumstances or returning the rental vehicle to a different location would provide an overall cost savings to the city in comparison to other travel alternatives.
 - d. Additional collision insurance offered by the rental company shall be purchased with the vehicle rental.
 - e. The vehicle accident reporting requirements outlined in Section 3 of this Handbook shall be followed in the case of an accident involving a vehicle rented by the city.
- (5) Employees must use a city-owned vehicle if available for business travel on behalf of the city. Employees shall adhere to the following process related to mileage reimbursement:
- a. If an employee traveling by vehicle on behalf of the city chooses to use a city pool vehicle, the employee shall request use of the city vehicle through the city manager. Vehicles shall be reserved on a “first-come, first-served” basis.
 - 1. Employees using a city vehicle shall complete a mileage log detailing amount of travel and the purpose of the travel.
 - 2. Employees traveling more than 50 miles in a city pool vehicle shall return the vehicle with a full tank of gas after use.
 - 3. Employees using a city vehicle shall submit gas receipts for refueling a city vehicle in order to receive reimbursement.
 - b. When a city vehicle is not available, an employee traveling on behalf of the city must obtain prior approval from the city manager to use their personal vehicle. An employee authorized to use their personal vehicle shall be reimbursed for mileage at the mileage rate allowed by the Commonwealth of Kentucky for business expense deductions under the following guidelines:
 - 1. An employee shall not be reimbursed for transportation or commuting between the employee’s home and their permanent workplace.
 - 2. Mileage shall not be reimbursed for attendance of a city function or event held outside of the workplace unless the employee has been assigned to work at the event.

3. When an employee does not report to their permanent workplace or makes business trips before or after reporting to their permanent workplace, the allowable mileage is:
 - (a) The lesser of the mileage from the employee's residence to the first stop or from the office to the first stop;
 - (b) All mileage between points visited on city business during the day; and
 - (c) The lesser of the mileage from the last stop to the employee's residence or from the last stop to the city office.
 4. To receive mileage reimbursement, the employee shall state on their expense report the total number of miles traveled on city business. The employee shall include the starting points and ending destination for each trip along with a description of the purpose of the travel. Any travel of a personal nature while on city business shall be deducted from the total miles traveled.
 5. Parking violations and traffic or other moving motor violations are not reimbursable expenses.
 6. If the employee is involved in an auto accident while on city business driving their own privately owned vehicle, they shall follow the accident reporting requirements outlined in Section 3 of this Handbook.
- (6) Except for reimbursable expenses related to official city business as provided in Section 5 of this Handbook, employees will only be provided reimbursement of meals for overnight travel required outside of Clark County, Kentucky in accordance with the following guidelines:
- a. The per diem amount is \$40 per day and includes the cost of all meals and 15% gratuity. No additional amounts will be reimbursed.
 - b. An employee will receive per diem reimbursement for only certain meals on both the first and the last day of overnight travel, depending on the employee's departure and return times.
 - c. The city will not reimburse a meal per diem allowance for any meal that is included in a registration fee for a conference or training, when the employee's meal is covered under a group meal receipt submitted under paragraph (e) of this section, or when a receipt has been submitted for reimbursement as an expense related to official city business as provided in Section 5 of this Handbook. Functions where finger foods or hors d'oeuvres are served in conjunction with the conference or training, and continental breakfasts provided by hotels or conference sponsors do not constitute meals, and the employee is entitled to claim the per diem for that meal.
 - d. If the employee has attended a conference or training in conjunction with the travel, the employee is required to submit a detailed program agenda for per diem meal reimbursement.
 - e. Employees may submit and receive reimbursement for a group meal receipt for more than one employee if the dining establishment is unable or unwilling to provide individual checks, provided that the total cost of the meal does not exceed the total allowable per diems for all of the participating employees. An employee submitting a group meal receipt will follow the procedures required in Section 5 for reimbursement on an expense report or in the Use of a City Credit Card Policy in Section 5 when using a city credit card for documentation of the expense and will additionally state on the receipt that the receipt is for

a group meal and the name of each participating employee. Employees covered by a group meal receipt will not be eligible for per diem reimbursement for that meal.

- (7) The city will reimburse employees for the following expenses relating to parking:
- a. An employee may request reimbursement for parking fees for leaving a vehicle at an airport in conjunction with out-of-state travel on behalf of the city. For airport parking, the employee will only be reimbursed for the rates of long-term parking. If the employee uses short-term parking or valet services, the employee will only be reimbursed for the cost of long-term parking fees applicable at the airport of departure. As an alternative to airport parking, an employee may elect to be reimbursed for the mileage related to being dropped off or picked up at the airport. The employee may be reimbursed the lesser of the mileage between the airport and the employee's residence or the mileage between the airport and the employee's permanent office or workplace. In no event will the amount of mileage reimbursement exceed the amount the employee would have spent on long-term parking.
 - b. An employee will be reimbursed for parking at hotels or overnight lodging accommodations for business-related meetings or in conjunction with business travel for the city. Employees will only be reimbursed for standard hotel parking rates unless the option is not available. Employees electing valet parking will only be reimbursed up to an amount equal to the standard parking rates applicable at the particular hotel.
 - c. All other business-related parking fees are reimbursable upon the submission of a valid receipt in accordance with the Employee Expense Reports and Reimbursement Policy in Section 5 of this Handbook.
- (8) Employees should evaluate their individual circumstances and select the safest and most economical alternative when traveling to and from all destinations. When a city car is unavailable, employees may be reimbursed for taxis, ride-sharing services, shuttles, public transportation, and rapid transit used for business-related transportation. Employees may be reimbursed for the payment of tips for taxi drivers up to a maximum of 15% of the total fare. The employee will submit a receipt in accordance with the Employee Expense Reports and Reimbursement Policy in Section 5 of this Handbook.
- (9) When a city employee is required to travel for a business purpose, long distance telephone calls that are infrequent and short in duration are acceptable. When possible, the employee should use a mobile telephone, or a telephone credit card provided by the city rather than incurring long distance telephone charges or charging long distance calls to a hotel room bill.
- (10) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this policy, tips or gratuities related to employee travel will not be a reimbursable expense.
- (11) The city will not reimburse or pay for the travel of an employee's family member or other guest. When a family member or other guest joins an employee on business-related travel, the employee or the guest is responsible for paying all travel costs, including airfare and meals.
- (12) Except for the travel-related expenses outlined in this policy, all other travel-related expenses are deemed non-reimbursable unless approved in writing by the city manager and approved by the board of commissioners in the city budget. An employee will submit their travel-related expenses for reimbursement on an employee Expense Report (HR Form 08) within two weeks of the date of return from travel as provided in Section 5 of this Handbook.

- (13) In the case of extreme financial hardship, the city manager may authorize the purchasing officer to pay for overnight travel reservations with the city credit card. The request will be made by the employee in writing with enough time to approve the request.

Reimbursable Expenses Related to Official City Business

- (1) City officers or employees receiving prior approval from the city manager will be reimbursed for reasonable business expenses incurred while conducting official city business. Examples of official city business include, but are not limited to, situations where individuals present are representing the city or if the individual's attendance has been requested by the city. The individual seeking reimbursement shall be responsible for using good judgment to ensure the expenses incurred are budgetarily sound and are compatible with the goodwill of the city.
- (2) The city manager shall have the authority to approve meal expenses for discretionary employee meal functions as appropriate to recognize extraordinary work effort and as set out in the city budget.
- (3) Receipts detailing the business purpose, date, location, amount, and persons present must be submitted with the expense report as provided under the employee Expense Reports and Reimbursement Policy in Section 5 of this Handbook, or if a city credit card is used, as provided under the Use of City Credit Cards Policy in Section 5 of this Handbook. This information shall be written on the front or back of the receipt and on the expense report.
- (4) In the event the receipt is for reimbursement of a meal, an itemized receipt shall be submitted, and the tip shall not exceed 15% of the cost.

Alcohol Reimbursement Policy

No reimbursement will be made for alcoholic beverages.

Purchasing and Procurement

- (1) When an employee's position requires spending city funds or incurring any reimbursable personal expenses, that individual must use good judgment on the city's behalf to ensure that good value is received for each expenditure. City funds and all assets are for city purposes only and are not for personal benefit.
- (2) Employees authorized to make purchases on behalf of the city must follow the procedures outlined in the City Purchasing Manual, available by request through the purchasing agent, or as approved by the department head and within the limits of the city budget as approved by the board of commissioners.

Disposal of City Property

- (1) Before selling or otherwise disposing of any real or personal property, the city shall make a written determination setting forth and fully describing:

- a. The real or personal property;
 - b. Its intended use at the time of acquisition;
 - c. The reasons why it is in the public interest to dispose of it; and
 - d. The method of disposition to be used.
- (2) Real or personal property may be:
- a. Transferred, with or without compensation, to another governmental agency;
 - b. Transferred, with or without compensation, for economic development purposes, which shall include but not be limited to real property transfers for the elimination of blight;
 - c. Sold at public auction following publication of the auction in accordance with KRS 424.130(1)(b);
 - d. Sold by electronic auction following publication of the auction, including the uniform resource link (URL) for the site of the electronic auction, in accordance with KRS 424.130(1)(b);
 - e. Sold by sealed bids in accordance with the procedure for sealed bids under KRS 45A.365(3) and (4);
 - f. Traded towards the purchase of the same or similar type of property if the trade-in value received equals or exceeds the actual fair market value of the property as determined using an independent appraisal as defined in subsection (1) of this section;
 - g. Sold for its appraised fair market value or a greater amount if the property is valued at \$5,000 or less in an independent appraisal. Property sold under this paragraph may not be sold to a city officer, employee, or family member of a city officer or employee as defined in the city's ethics ordinance adopted under KRS 65.003;
 - h. Sold for scrap or disposed of as garbage in a manner consistent with the public interest if the property has no value, or is of nominal value as determined by an independent appraisal; or
 - i. Sold by the Finance and Administration Cabinet under an agreement with the city.
- (3) If a city receives no bids for the real or personal property, either at public or electronic auction or by sealed bid, the property may be disposed of, consistent with the public interest, in any manner deemed appropriate by the city. In those instances, a written description of the property, the method of disposal, and the amount of compensation, if any, shall be made.
- (4) Any compensation resulting from the disposal of this real or personal property shall be transferred to the general fund of the city.

Contract Review and Execution

- (1) All written contracts or contract renewals shall be reviewed by the city attorney or their designee before execution.
- (2) Approval from the board of commissioners in accordance with the city budget and specifications as set by the board of commissioners is required prior to requesting the city attorney to draft a contract on behalf of the city.

- (3) The purchasing officer shall provide a copy of the contract or the information necessary for drafting of the contract to the city attorney or their designee as soon as possible to expedite the review or drafting process.
- (4) All contracts made on behalf of the city shall be signed by the mayor.
- (5) A copy of all executed contracts must be provided to the city attorney and the purchasing officer for tracking and filing purposes unless other arrangements have been made.

Check Handling by City Employees

Any check or other form of payment received by a city employee shall be immediately presented to the finance department or their designee for deposit.

Invoices

- (1) All invoices received through the mail by the purchasing agent will be routed to the finance department for approval in accordance with the city budget.
- (2) The amount of budgeted expenditures which may be approved by each level of management is as follows:
 - a. Department heads with the board of commissioner's approval may approve budgeted expenditures up to \$5,000;
 - b. The board of commissioners may approve budgeted expenditures without bidding according to KRS 45A; and
 - c. The board of commissioners approves all budgeted expenditures exceeding the threshold set in KRS 45A that have been properly bid.
- (3) No employee may give final approval for expenditures directly relating to themselves. All such expenses, regardless of the dollar amount, must be approved by the employee's department head or by the city manager.
- (4) Accounts payable checks will be cut weekly. The purchasing officer or their designee shall review all check run reports prior to the release of checks. All checks shall require two signatures.
- (5) Invoices received for payment will be paid in accordance with the terms stated on the invoice or by the negotiated agreement/contract.

Section 6 – Classification and Compensation

Employment Types and Classification

- (1) As used in this Handbook, the terms below shall have the following meanings:
 - a. “Full-time employee” is an employee who is normally scheduled and expected to work a minimum of 40 hours each workweek on a regularly scheduled basis except for police and fire department employees. Police officers are scheduled and expected to work a minimum of 40 hours each workweek. Professional firefighters are scheduled to work 24/48 shifts and 108 hours over a 14-day period.
 - b. “Part-time employee” is an employee who is normally scheduled and expected to work less than 30 hours each workweek, and for retirement purposes, averages less than 90 hours of work in a calendar month, on a regularly scheduled basis during the calendar or fiscal year.
 - c. “Temporary employee” is an employee who is hired and works for a definite period of time. Generally, a temporary employee will be employed for a period of one year or less.
 - d. “Seasonal employee” is an employee hired in a position that is temporary in duration, and whose position coincides with a particular season or seasons of the year and which may recur regularly from year to year. The period of time shall not exceed nine months.
 - e. “Intern” is an individual who works in an internship position approved by the board of commissioners and as outlined in the budget, for one period not to exceed 26 weeks. The position may be paid or unpaid, as designated by the budget and/or pay and classification plan. To be eligible for city internship positions, the individual must have completed their sophomore year at an accredited college or university prior to the start of the internship.
 - f. “Administrative staff” means professional and administrative personnel whose primary job function is administration, management, and operational support but does not include sworn police officers, telecommunicators, certified firefighters and EMS, or public works employees other than the public works administrative assistant.
- (2) Employees occupying full-time positions will be entitled to benefits provided by the city. All other categories of employment shall not be entitled to benefits except those required by state or federal law unless recommended by the city manager and approved by the board of commissioners.
- (3) The city designates all employment positions as either “exempt” or “nonexempt” based on applicable federal and state laws and regulations. The classifications are for purposes of determining whether overtime compensation is due to the employee for hours worked in excess of 40 in a single workweek. Classifications of positions are reviewed by the city manager in consultation with the city attorney at the time of position creation or modification and on an annual basis to ensure legal compliance. As used in this Handbook, the terms below shall be accorded the following meanings unless specifically stated otherwise:
 - a. “Nonexempt employee” is an employee in a position whose duties and responsibilities require overtime compensation for any time worked in excess of 40 hours in any workweek pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act and Kentucky wage and hour laws. The additional overtime compensation for nonexempt employees is calculated under the city’s Overtime Compensation Policy established in Section 6 of this Handbook.

- b. “Exempt employee” is a salaried employee in a position whose duties and responsibilities render the employee exempt from the overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act and Kentucky wage and hour laws. An exempt employee is not eligible for additional compensation for working in excess of 40 hours in a workweek under the city’s Overtime Compensation Policy established in Section 6 of this Handbook.

Fiscal Year

The city’s fiscal year is the period from July 1 to June 30.

Official Workweek

- (1) The official workweek for each department shall begin at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday and end at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday except for fire department employees who work a two-week period which begins at 7:00 am on Sunday and ends at 6:59 a.m. 14 days later in accordance with 29 U.S.C. Section 207(k). This initial period began March 29, 2009.
- (2) The official workweek may be changed at any time, but not to avoid overtime requirements.

Overtime

- (1) “Overtime” means any time actually worked by a nonexempt employee in excess of 40 hours in any single workweek. In addition, if a nonexempt employee works seven days in any one workweek and works over 40 hours in those seven days, all hours worked on the seventh day are at time-and-a-half. Overtime for professional firefighters will be calculated based upon the 24/48-hour shift authorized under 29 U.S.C. Section 207(k). The first work period beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2009, and ending at 6:59 a.m. on Sunday, April 12, 2009. Professional firefighters shall receive overtime compensation at one-and-one-half times the regular rate of pay for any hours worked over 108 hours in a 14-day work period. For purposes of this section, workweek is defined in this Handbook.
- (2) Holiday hours, vacation, sick leave, and other hours not actually worked are included in the calculations for overtime purposes, except when calculating overtime when grant funds are used to pay overtime.
- (3) The city is required under the Fair Labor Standards Act and Kentucky wage and hour laws to pay overtime wages to a nonexempt employee if the employee works more than 40 hours in a single workweek. Overtime wages shall be calculated at a rate of one-and-one-half times the employee’s regular hourly rate of pay.
- (4) A nonexempt employee must be authorized orally or in writing by the employee’s immediate supervisor prior to the employee’s performance of any work that would result in overtime. The employee shall verify that their time record accurately reflects any overtime worked as required in Section 6 of this Handbook. Any employee who works overtime without prior authorization or fails to properly report overtime work shall be subject to disciplinary action.

- (5) The city and the employee's immediate supervisor or department head may require any nonexempt employee to take time off during any work period that will result in overtime in order to minimize overtime costs.
- (6) Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime compensation.

Accumulated Time and Payouts for Nonexempt Employees

- (1) Pursuant to KRS 337.285, the city may give nonexempt city employees the option of receiving compensatory time off ("comp time") instead of overtime pay for overtime hours worked. Only nonexempt city administrative staff shall be eligible to receive compensatory time in lieu of paid overtime.
- (2) All comp time off must be given at the rate of one-and-one-half hours for each hour of overtime worked (hours worked over 40 hours within the workweek as defined by the city in Section 6 of this Handbook).
- (3) The maximum number of compensatory hours that may be accrued is 80 hours. Any hours over these maximums will be paid to the employee in overtime compensation at the regular rate earned by the employee at the time the employee receives the payment.
- (4) To request the accrual of comp time, employees must provide a written request and must be approved by the department head and/or immediate supervisor in advance of any accrual on the Agreement to Accept Compensatory Time Off in Lieu of Overtime Pay For Nonexempt Employees (HR Form 10).
- (5) Requests for time off using accrued comp time must be done on a prior approval basis, by the submission of a leave request electronically as required by Section 8 of this Handbook. The request must have the approval of the employee's department head and will be scheduled to meet the needs of the employees, the city, and the public.
- (6) Employees are eligible to request payouts of accumulated unused comp time up to 80 hours in January and June of each year. Requests must be submitted through electronic payroll and received by January 15 and June 15 of the month for which the payout is requested.
- (7) Upon termination of employment, all unused accrued comptime will be paid at a rate of compensation not less than the average rate received by the employee during the last three years or the final regular rate received by the employee, whichever is higher.

Accumulated Time and Payout for Exempt Employees

- (1) Although not required, the city has chosen to provide exempt administrative staff comp time for hours worked above 40 hours in a workweek.
- (2) All comp time off is given at the rate of hour for hour for each hour worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

- (3) The maximum number of compensatory hours that may be accrued is 80 hours for exempt city employees. Once maximums have been reached no additional comp time can be accumulated.
- (4) Requests for time off using accrued comp time must be done on a prior approval basis, by the submission of a request through electronic payroll. The request must have the approval of the employee's department head or city manager and will be scheduled to meet the needs of the employees, the city, and the public.
- (5) Employees are eligible to request payouts of accumulated unused comp time up to 80 hours in January and June of each year. Requests must be submitted through electronic payroll and received by January 15 and June 15 of the month for which the payout is requested.
- (6) Accumulated unused comp time up to 80 hours will be paid to exempt employees upon separation from the city at the final rate of pay.

Work Performed by Nonexempt Employees Outside of Normal Working Hours

- (1) A nonexempt employee shall not perform any work outside of their normal work hours unless the work has been approved in advance by their supervisor. In addition to the time the employee is required to be on the work premises or at an assigned work location, "work" also means any effort, whether physical or mental, exerted by the employee for the benefit of the city including, but not limited to, travel time to and from an off-site work location and any time spent by the employee using the phone, email, text messaging, or other electronic communications for the purposes of the city, regardless of the time of day or the location where such effort is expended.
- (2) Under both federal and state law, a nonexempt employee shall be compensated for any and all work that they perform for the city. Any work performed, including work performed outside of normal working hours, by a nonexempt employee in a single workweek that results in overtime, or the accrual of compensatory time shall be governed by the Compensatory Time Policy and the Overtime Policy within this Handbook. All nonexempt employees shall keep track of any time spent working outside of their normal working hours and report that time in accordance with this Handbook.
- (3) A nonexempt employee that has the service of an electronic device paid for by the city, must adhere to the Mobile Telephones and Communication Devices Policy within this Handbook with the explicit expectation for it to be used outside of normal working hours on an ongoing basis and shall communicate each workweek with their supervisor if the inclusion of such time will result or appears it could result in overtime, so that appropriate action may be taken to avoid overtime, if possible.
- (4) No employee shall be required, encouraged, or expected to work "off the clock," which is defined as not tracking or reporting time worked. If any employee has been required to work "off the clock," they shall immediately report it to the human resources/risk manager. Any supervisor that has required or is attempting to require "off the clock" work shall be subject to disciplinary action.

On-Call Employees

- (1) As a condition of employment, employees shall agree to report within a reasonable period if requested during a period of emergency. If an employee is called to report to work either after normal working hours or before normal working hours, the employee shall be paid at the regular rate of pay for actual time worked.
- (2) Employees who are on call must adhere to all city policies, including vehicle use and the drug and alcohol policy.

Base Salary and Salary Adjustment

The base salary for each employee is determined in accordance with the pay and classification ordinance created by the board of commissioners. The city manager and board of commissioners shall be responsible for administering, evaluating, and establishing compensation for all employees. The city employee compensation program shall be operated under the following conditions:

- (1) In its endeavor to ensure fair pay for all its employees, the city periodically adjusts base salaries and the salary ranges under its pay and classification ordinance based upon professional market studies and pay analysis. The city may make annual market or cost of living adjustments to the compensation of employees depending upon the availability of funds in the city budget.
- (2) In addition to the pay analysis, other factors for establishing employee pay under the compensation program include, among other things, the skill and effort necessary for efficient and effective job performance; the quality and quantity of actual job performance; the degree of responsibility such performance demands; the conditions under which the job is performed; the employee's experience; length of employment; the employee's educational and professional achievements, including licensure and certifications; and commensurate pay for similar jobs in the marketplace.
- (3) Any adjustment to pay, including temporary adjustments, must be preapproved by the city manager and included in the budget as approved by the board of commissioners.

Payroll Deductions

- (1) The city will make all legally required deductions from an employee's gross pay in accordance with applicable legal requirements, including:
 - a. Federal and state income taxes;
 - b. Social Security (FICA) taxes; and
 - c. Deductions required by wage garnishment or child support orders.
- (2) The city may also deduct from an employee's pay their portion of insurance premiums and voluntary contributions.
- (3) Employees may request voluntary deductions be made from their gross pay, such as contributions to optional retirement plans. The employee shall obtain the appropriate form to request voluntary deductions from the human resources/risk manager or payroll clerk.

- (4) When the city must rely on information provided by the employee in order to make any legally required deduction, it is the sole responsibility of the employee to provide accurate and timely information to the city.
- (5) In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, the city prohibits improper deductions from the pay of exempt employees and will reimburse employees for any improper deduction. When an exempt employee has exhausted all paid leave, the city may deduct for absences of one or more full days for leave related to sickness, disability, unpaid disciplinary suspensions, or for other personal reasons. In addition, the city may make either full- or partial-day deductions from the pay of an exempt employee during the first or the last week of employment when only part of the week is worked by the employee, or for any unpaid leave taken in accordance with a legitimate absence under FMLA. Any exempt employee who believes that an improper pay deduction has been made shall immediately file a written complaint with the human resources/risk manager or payroll clerk setting forth the dates, amounts, reasons, and any other information for the pay deduction. The human resources/risk manager or payroll clerk along with the city manager shall take immediate action to investigate the issue and if found to be an improper deduction, shall cause the employee to be compensated for the improper deduction within two pay periods from the date the written complaint was filed.
- (6) No other deductions will be made.
- (7) All deductions from an employee's pay will be listed on their pay stub. If they have questions about any deductions from their pay or if they believe improper deductions have been made from their pay, they must immediately report their concerns to the human resources/risk manager.

Direct Deposit

The city has a biweekly pay period for all employees. The net earnings for each pay period will be deposited directly in the employee's account at the financial institution of the employee's choice. The human resources/risk manager can furnish details on the requirements of direct deposit.

Time Records

- (1) Time records will be kept on all nonexempt employees to facilitate the city's compliance with overtime pay requirements. Nonexempt employees shall submit time records electronically through the electronic payroll system. The time record will reflect a single pay period consisting of two workweeks. Time must be logged as the total number of hours actually worked each day, excluding meal periods. Any vacation, sick, compensatory leave time, or other paid leave time used by the employee must be recorded on the time record. Time records must be completed and submitted to the designated person within the department at the end of the last workday of the pay period (Friday or Saturday depending on the work schedule). Supervisors shall review and approve or disapprove time records in a timely manner.
- (2) Except for the immediate supervisor of the employee, all employees are forbidden from entering any information on another employee's time record. An employee shall not falsify information on their own time record. Employees found to have violated this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge. Any errors discovered in an employee's time record shall be reported immediately to the employee's immediate supervisor, who will determine the manner and method of correcting legitimate errors.

Unemployment Compensation Insurance

Employees may be eligible for unemployment benefits upon termination of service with the city. Unemployment rights, benefits, and eligibility are governed by state law and can be explained by the state unemployment office. Unemployment compensation insurance premiums are paid for entirely by the city.

Section 7 – Health, Retirement, and Other Benefits

Health Insurance

- (1) All full-time employees and other employees qualifying under the Affordable Care Act are eligible for group health insurance for themselves and their dependents. Dependents are defined in the Certificate of Coverage. The effective date of coverage will be the first day of the month following employment.
- (2) The city may provide all or a portion of the coverage for employees and their dependents up to a maximum amount, as determined by the city and reflected in the annual budget. Specific information regarding health insurance plans available to employees should be obtained from the human resources/risk manager.
- (3) The city complies with federal regulations under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA) and any additional amendments designed to provide employees and eligible dependents with the opportunity to continue health insurance coverage at group rates where the coverage would otherwise cease, such as upon termination of employment, death of the employee, divorce, or a child ceases to be a qualified beneficiary. The premium for this continuation coverage shall be the sole responsibility of the employee or dependent, unless otherwise provided for by law. Coverage is not automatic and employees and/or their eligible dependents must make an affirmative election before coverage will begin. More detailed information regarding the continuation of health insurance coverage under COBRA may be obtained by going to the U.S. Department of Labor website at <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/health-plans/cobra>.

Dental Insurance

All full-time employees are eligible for dental insurance for themselves beginning on the first day of the month following employment. The city may provide all or a portion of the cost of dental insurance for each full-time employee. The employee may elect optional dependent coverage if the employee pays the additional cost for dependent or family coverage. Specific information about the city's dental insurance plan is available from the human resources/risk manager.

Vision Insurance

All full-time employees are eligible for vision insurance added to their health insurance for themselves and their dependents beginning on the first day of employment. The city may provide the cost of vision insurance for each full-time employee. The employee may elect optional dependent coverage if the employee pays the additional cost for dependent or family coverage. Specific information about the city's vision insurance plan is available from the human resources/risk manager.

Life Insurance

- (1) All full-time employees may be provided life insurance coverage for the duration of employment. Life insurance may be effective on the first day of employment.
- (2) Life insurance coverage shall be in the amount approved by the board of commissioners as reflected in the annual budget. Specific information about the city's life insurance plans are available from the human resources/risk manager.

Other Optional Benefits

- (1) All full-time employees may participate in other optional benefit plans. Participation in these benefit plans is voluntary, and the cost of the premium shall be paid by the employee.
- (2) Specific information about all optional benefit plans is available from the human resources/risk manager.

Employee Assistance Program

- (1) The city will provide confidential and voluntary assistance through its Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to all employees and their family members who may be faced with dynamic challenges of financial concerns, legal issues, alcohol or drug problems, relationship problems, illness of a family member, emotional worries, child care problems, etc. For the welfare of the employees as well as effective business operations, the city encourages its employees to take advantage of this valuable benefit of employment with the city.
- (2) Employees and their family members can refer themselves to the EAP. The program may be reached 24 hours a day on weekdays and weekends.
- (3) EAP counselors are available to meet with employees or family members to assess a problem and develop a plan for resolution. The counselors may suggest a referral to an outside resource, such as a therapist, agency, physician, treatment facility, or other professional that would be appropriate to assist in resolving the problem or situation. Where an employee may be in need of information, a referral or suggestion may be given over the telephone. There is no charge for employees or their families to use the EAP.
- (4) The EAP counselors will make every effort to coordinate referral for ongoing treatment with the employee's health insurance coverage and their ability to pay. Any time needed for illness-related appointments made by the EAP requires use of sick, vacation, or personal time on the same basis that it is granted for other health issues.
- (5) When an employee's job performance or attendance is unsatisfactory or there appears to be signs of other problems during the workday, the supervisor should counsel the employee in consultation with the human resources/risk manager or their designee with an end toward resolving the situation. If the employee appears to be unwilling or unable to correct the situation, the employee may be referred to the EAP to assist in the resolution of the problem. Depending on the situation, the employee may accept or refuse participation in the EAP. However, there may be situations where continued employment with the city may be contingent upon the employee calling the EAP for assistance.
- (6) Participation in the EAP does not jeopardize job security or promotional opportunities. However, it does not excuse the employee from following the city policies and procedures or meeting required standards for satisfactory job performance except where specific accommodations are required by law.
- (7) All contact between an employee and the EAP is held strictly confidential. In cases where an employee's continued employment is contingent upon calling the EAP, the EAP counselor will only verify whether the employee has contacted the EAP, if ongoing treatment is necessary, and that the employee is following through on the treatment.

Workers' Compensation

- (1) The city pays the entire amount of the workers' compensation insurance premium that provides benefits to employees who experience injury or illness in connection with employment. Eligibility begins on the first day of employment. Workers' compensation benefit entitlements are governed by KRS Chapter 342. If employees have questions concerning their rights or benefit amounts, they should contact the human resources/risk manager.
- (2) Unless extenuating circumstances make it impossible or impractical, an employee who is injured or becomes ill in connection with employment, regardless of the severity of the injury, shall immediately notify their immediate supervisor and/or the human resources/risk manager, who will see to necessary medical attention and assist in the completion of any required reports. In any case of serious injury, employees are required to receive prompt medical attention by a physician authorized under the city's designated workers' compensation plan. Employees and supervisors shall contact the human resources/risk manager to report all work-related accidents and injuries.
- (3) Except in the case of serious illness or injury, an employee must also call the "Company Nurse" on the Injury Hotline at **855-339-1889**. More information on this program can be found in Section 3 of this Handbook, Reporting Work-Related Accidents Policy.
- (4) The city will continue pay for seven days until worker's compensation insurance coverage begins on the eighth day.
- (5) On the 15th day of disability the carrier will go back and pick up the first seven days. The employee shall reimburse the city for the first seven days at the end of his disability from sick time or work time.
- (6) Vacation leave benefits will continue to accrue while on workers' compensation leave for a period of three months, but an employee will not be eligible to use the leave unless they return to work.
- (7) Holiday leave benefits for public safety personnel will continue to accrue while on workers' compensation leave for a period of three months, but an employee will not be eligible to use the leave unless they return to work.
- (8) For periods of three or more days see the Family and Medical Leave Policy within Section 8 of this Handbook.
- (9) If the city has reasonable suspicion that the employee's use of drug or alcohol may have been a factor in an injury while the employee is working for the city, the employee will be subject to the post-accident drug testing policy found within the city's Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy in Section 3 of this Handbook.

Return-to-Work Program

- (1) It is the policy of the city, when possible, to modify work assignments for a limited period to assist employees who are temporarily restricted from performing their regularly assigned duties due to an on-the-job injury. Note: This policy should not be construed as recognition that an employee has a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and its Amendments.
- (2) This policy applies to all city employees.
- (3) Definitions:

- a. Return-to-Work (RTW) (modified-duty) assignment is a temporary assignment of an employee who is unable to return to their regularly assigned duties following an on-the-job injury or illness. The return-to-work assignment temporarily addresses the restrictions placed on an individual by an evaluating physician.
 - b. Employment-related injury is an injury or occupational disease, which arises out of the course and scope of employment and is a compensable injury or illness, as defined under the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Act.
 - c. Physician in this policy means a Doctor of Medicine, osteopathic medicine, optometry, dentistry, podiatry, or chiropractic who is licensed and authorized to practice as defined in the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Act.
- (4) It is the responsibility of the injured employee to inform the evaluating physician of the employer's early Return-to-Work Program; adhere to the assigned restrictions/limitations for the specified period of time; maintain a positive attitude toward working within physical restrictions/limitations; and continue to seek and follow appropriate medical care throughout the recovery period.
 - (5) It is the responsibility of the employer to review and evaluate work alternatives for a temporary specified period of time as established by the evaluating physician; to evaluate job description and modify requirements within the position to accommodate the employee to the assigned restrictions; to monitor the injured employee to ensure work performed is within the assigned restrictions; and to continue to review and adjust job assignments as medical condition improves and restrictions change until the final goal of either release to full duty or maximum medical improvement is achieved.
 - (6) It is the responsibility of the evaluating physician to assign specific temporary restrictions for a specified period of time; to review and adjust assigned restrictions at each evaluation; and to maintain beneficial and appropriate medical care and treatment with the goal of moving injured worker to full-duty release or maximum medical improvement.
 - (7) It is the responsibility of the claims adjuster to obtain specific temporary restrictions/limitations for a specified period of time from the evaluating physician after each evaluation; communicate verbal and written restrictions to the designated employer contact; and work effectively with the injured employee, employer, and physician to reach the goal of returning employee to gainful employment.
 - (8) To be eligible for participation in the Return-to-Work Program, an employee must provide a written statement from the designated treating physician that they are:
 - a. Temporarily unable to perform their essential duties, following an employment-related injury or illness; and
 - b. Capable of carrying out work of a lighter or modified nature from their regular duties and is expected to return to their regular duties within 90 calendar days.
 - (9) Once notified of an on-the-job injury or illness, and the injury has been reported to the employer's workers' compensation carrier, the employer will inform the employee in writing of the Return-to-Work Program.
 - (10) The employee must be seen and evaluated by a physician to determine if the employee is able to return to work, and if so, with or without restrictions.
 - (11) At the time of the evaluation, the employee must inform the physician of the Return-to-Work Program and provide them with a copy of the employee's regular job description that identifies the essential functions of the job and its requirements.

- (12) When the employee is able to return to work with restrictions, the employee's physician must complete a report, indicating the specific restrictions and the duration of those restrictions. Clarification regarding temporary restrictions may be requested of the treating physician.
- (13) Taking into consideration the information provided by the physician, the employee's department head, in consultation with the human resources/risk manager and the city manager, will determine if a temporary modified-duty assignment can be offered. It should be understood that there may be instances in which the city will not be able to offer a modified-duty assignment.
- (14) If the employee's regular department is unable to meet the employee's need for the modified duty, the employee's department is responsible for payment of the employee's salary and benefits while performing a modified-duty position in a different department which has been able to meet the employee's need for modified duty.
- (15) The employer should use one of the two following compensation arrangements:
 - a. There will be no adjustment in the employee's normal compensation. The salary and benefits of the employee will remain the responsibility of the original employing department, including during any period of temporary placement external to the department.
 - b. In most cases, there will not be an adjustment in the compensation of the employee that is placed in a modified-duty position. However, the employee placed in a modified-duty position will be paid a salary that is equivalent to the salary of other employees holding the same position. If that salary is less than their normal salary, then they will be paid at least what the maximum weekly benefit would be for their regular salary as defined by the Kentucky Workers' Compensation Act.
- (16) Once the employee has been approved to participate in the Return-to-Work Program, the department must provide a return-to-work letter. This letter will include:
 - a. The position offered;
 - b. The location and duties of the position offered;
 - c. The wages and schedule of the position offered;
 - d. The duration of the temporary work assignment; and
 - e. A statement acknowledging that the employer is knowledgeable about and will abide by the limitations under which the treating physician has authorized the return to work.
- (17) An employee may choose to accept or refuse the return-to-work offer. Rejection of the job could result in suspension of income benefits under workers' compensation insurance.
- (18) Employees do not waive any rights to workers' compensation benefits by participating in the Return-to-Work Program. Employees participating in the Return-to-Work Program will continue to be covered by the Workers' Compensation Act for reasonable and necessary medical expenses and disability benefits related to the injury or illness.
- (19) The maximum length of a return-to-work with modified-duty offer will be 90 calendar days. The duration of approved time will be based upon the information provided by the employee's designated treating physician.
- (20) An employee who is unable to return to their regularly assigned duties at the end of the modified-duty assignment and remains with temporary restrictions which will prevent them from returning to their preinjury positions, will begin to receive temporary total disability benefits through the

workers' compensation program. If the restrictions are permanent and will not allow the employee to return to their preinjury position, then they can request a leave of absence or the employer can address termination.

- (21) Employees may be required to attend an independent medical exam (IME) to clarify the continued restrictions or until they reach maximum medical improvement (MMI) and permanent restrictions are assigned and determined by the treating physician.
- (22) Provided the employee has exhausted any entitlement under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the department has the option to approve or deny the leave of absence request. If leave without pay is denied, pursuant to the city's Unpaid Leave Policy, employment with the city will be terminated.
- (23) If the employee believes that the condition is permanent, progressive, or chronic, they may pursue the Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodation Policy, in Section 1 of this Handbook, to determine if they are a qualified individual with a disability.

Kentucky Public Employee's Deferred Compensation

- (1) The city participates in the Kentucky Public Employee's Deferred Compensation plan. Employees have the ability to choose from qualified plans and can defer a portion of their salary until future years. The city does not match contributions to this plan on behalf of the employee. Participation in the plan is optional and participants in the plan are allowed to choose the investments for their deferrals from various fund types offered under the plan.
- (2) For more information about Kentucky Deferred Comp plans, contact the human resources/risk manager, payroll clerk, or the Kentucky Deferred Comp website at <https://www.kentuckyplans.com/iApp/tcm/kentuckyplans/about/index.jsp>.

Retirement Plan and Social Security

- (1) Employees who work in a regular full-time position must be enrolled in the Kentucky Retirement Systems. City employees are covered under the County Employees Retirement System (CERS) portion of the plan. Regular part-time employees must also be covered if they average 100 or more hours of work per month over a calendar or fiscal year, including employees who work a total of more than 100 hours per month in two or more positions with employers under the same retirement system.
- (2) The retirement plan is a qualified public defined benefit plan and was established under Section 401a of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). A defined benefit plan pays benefits based upon a formula, rather than on an account balance. The formula used to compute CERS benefits provides participating members with a guaranteed lifetime payment at retirement based on beginning participation date, the number of years of service, their average salary, and a multiplying factor.

- (3) Employees and the city contribute to the plan. The percentage of contribution may change annually and is based on hazardous and nonhazardous positions. The contribution amount is set by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. For more information about the Kentucky Retirement Systems, contact the human resources/risk manager or the retirement systems via their website, <https://kyret.ky.gov> or by phone at 800-928-4646.
- (4) Pursuant to KRS 61.592(1)(a), “Hazardous Position” for participating KERS employees, as well as CERS employees who began participating before September 1, 2008, means:

Any position whose principal duties involve active law enforcement, including the positions of probation and parole officer, Commonwealth detective, active fire suppression or prevention, or other positions with duties that require frequent exposure to a high degree of danger or peril and also require a high degree of physical conditioning; **and** positions in the Department of Corrections in state correctional institutions and the Kentucky Correctional Psychiatric Center with duties that regularly and routinely require face-to-face contact with inmates.
- (5) Pursuant to KRS 61.592(1)(b) a “Hazardous Position” for a participating employee who began participating in CERS, as well as KERS, on or after September 1, 2008, means:

Police officers and firefighters as defined in KRS 61.315(1); paramedics; correctional officers with duties that routinely and regularly require face-to-face contact with inmates; and emergency medical technicians if the employee’s duties require frequent exposure to a high degree of danger or peril, a high degree of physical conditioning, and the employee’s duties are not primarily clerical or administrative.
- (6) The city participates in the federal social security program and will contribute a percentage of salary, to the extent required by law, to the Social Security Administration for each employee.

Longevity Awards

In order to recognize the achievements and loyalty of its employees, it is the policy of the city to give length of service awards to its employees. Length of service awards will be given to full-time employees as follows:

- a. Employees with four to nine years of service shall receive a longevity award in an amount equal to 1% of their salary.
- b. Employees with 10 years of service or more shall receive a longevity award in an amount equal to 2% of their salary.

Employee Education Reimbursement

- (1) Subject to the constraints of the annual budget and department need, the city will endeavor to make individualized opportunities available to its employees for further development of specific skills and expertise deemed of mutual benefit to the employee and the city. The continuing education assistance provided under this policy is intended to support the pursuit of a formal degree and to supplement employee development provided through seminars, workshops, conferences, and similar activities that are paid for by the city under the professional memberships, training, licensing, and certification policy within this section.

- (2) All full-time employees who have completed at least one year of continuous employment with the city are eligible to receive continuing education assistance reimbursements up to a maximum tuition cost of one class per semester not to exceed \$1,500 per fiscal year for approved educational activities.
- (3) All education and training courses for which reimbursement is requested must relate directly to the employee's current job functions and responsibilities, or to job functions and responsibilities within the city that the employee, in the view of management, will likely have the opportunity to undertake in the foreseeable future.
- (4) Continuing education assistance funding shall be available only on a reimbursement basis, and only to the extent authorized in the city's annual budget. Reimbursement will be made in accordance with the following schedule if the employee successfully completes the approved educational activity:
 - a. A 100% reimbursement will be granted for preapproved educational courses where the employee receives a letter grade of "C" or above.
- (5) A one-year employment agreement is required. The city manager can require a longer agreement. The signed agreement shall be submitted with the request for approval.
- (6) All requests for funding shall be submitted, in writing, to the employee's department head. The request must include specific details of the proposed activity, cost, duration, and an assessment of the potential benefit to the employee and the city. All requests for funding shall be made no later than 30 days before the beginning of the requested activity.
- (7) Department heads shall be responsible for reviewing the request, discussing it with the employee, and forwarding the request, along with the department head's recommendation, to the city manager for final approval by the board of commissioners if not included in the city budget. Final decisions regarding continuing education assistance funding shall be made based on the relevance of the activity to the employee's job functions and responsibilities, the employee's workload, equity among staff members, seniority, budget constraints, and other factors that are deemed appropriate under the circumstances. Department heads should consider these factors in making recommendations to the city manager regarding the request.
- (8) Within 60 days of the completion of an educational or training activity for which reimbursement is sought, the employee shall submit a written report to the employee's department head concerning the outcome of the activity. The report must include the transcript or other official documentation of grades achieved (if the activity is graded) and any other evidence of successful completion of the activity. The department head shall forward the report to the city manager for final approval with any pertinent comments and recommendations regarding reimbursement.
- (9) Approval in one fiscal year does not guarantee that an employee will be approved again in any subsequent year nor shall approval for or successful completion of an educational activity under this policy be interpreted or relied upon by the employee as any type of promise or guarantee regarding compensation or advancement.
- (10) Employees who complete approved certifications, training, and education may be entitled to an education pay incentive upon completion. Approved certifications, training, and education that qualify for additional pay incentive will vary from position to position and can be found in the Education Pay Incentive Eligibility by Position (HR Form 12).
- (11) To receive an education pay incentive, employees must submit an Education Pay Incentive Application (HR Form 11). Verified pay incentive requests may only be authorized after approval by the board of commissioners.

- (12) Employees who receive an education pay incentive must recertify their eligibility on an annual basis. Failure to recertify or utilize the education reimbursement will result in the loss of education pay incentive and the employee will be ineligible to receive the education incentive pay until full completion of continuing education requirements.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

- (1) If an employee has federal Direct Loans, including Direct Consolidation Loans, they may be eligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness, also known as PSLF.
- (2) If an employee makes 120 qualifying monthly payments under a qualifying repayment plan while serving in the military or employed at a government or nonprofit entity, the employee may be eligible to get the balance of their loans forgiven.
- (3) For additional information, see the following link <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service> or the human resources/risk manager.

Professional Memberships, Training, Licensing, and Certification

- (1) Certain positions of employment with the city require the possession of professional memberships, licensure, and certification. In general, the city will cover all costs of memberships, training, examinations, or renewal of licenses and certifications that directly relate to the employee's current position with the city.
- (2) Employees shall notify their department head of any memberships, training, certifications, and licenses that may be covered under this policy by April 1, so that appropriate steps can be taken to include these costs in the annual departmental budget. An employee shall not expect the city to pay or reimburse the employee for the cost of any membership, training, examination, license, or certification unless it has been approved in advance by the department head and the city manager and included in the city budget.
- (3) An employee's department head shall determine the relevancy of the membership, training, examination, license, or certification as it relates to the employee's current job functions or job functions that the employee is expected to undertake in the foreseeable future and submit requests for approval to the city manager.
- (4) Professional firefighters shall submit requests for paramedic training to the city manager through the fire chief. Paramedic training requests will be considered based upon city need and position availability as indicated in the city pay and classification plan.

Section 8 – Paid and Unpaid Leaves

Holidays

- (1) All full-time city employees shall receive paid leave for the following holidays:
 - a. New Year's Day
 - b. Martin Luther King Day
 - c. President's Day
 - d. Good Friday
 - e. Memorial Day
 - f. Independence Day
 - g. Labor Day
 - h. Thanksgiving Day
 - i. Day after Thanksgiving
 - j. Christmas Eve
 - k. Christmas Day
- (2) Unless otherwise designated by the board of commissioners, paid holidays will be observed on the date of their actual occurrence. If the holiday falls on a Saturday, the holiday will be observed on the preceding Friday. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the following Monday. When Christmas falls on Thursday, December 25, then the following Friday, December 26, will be observed as a holiday instead of Wednesday, December 24.
- (3) For nonpublic safety employees with a standard Monday through Friday workweek, holidays will be observed as above, including code enforcement and clerical personnel in the police and fire departments. Any employee who is required to work on the actual holiday will be paid for all hours worked in addition to eight hours of holiday pay.
- (4) Sworn police officers, communications officers, fire chief, fire training officer, EMS officer, and fire marshal will be granted 48 hours holiday time annually (16 hours each first, second, and third quarter). Professional firefighters on a 24/48 schedule will be granted 144 hours of holiday hours annually (48 hours each first, second, and third quarter). Holiday time will not carry over into the next calendar year.

Vacation Leave

- (1) All full-time employees shall receive paid vacation leave. Part-time, temporary, and seasonal employees shall not be eligible for paid vacation leave. Vacation leave shall be granted to an employee each monthly on the following basis:

Years of Service	Nonpublic Safety Employee Leave	Sworn Police Department Employee Leave	Certified Firefighter Employee Leave
1-9 years of service	2 weeks (80 hours)	3 weeks (120 hours)	3 weeks (168 hours)
10-15 years of service	3 weeks (120 hours)	4 weeks (160 hours)	4 weeks (224 hours)
15 plus years of service	3 weeks (120 hours) plus 1 day (8 hours) per year over 15 years	4 weeks (160 hours) plus 1 day (8 hours) per year over 15 years	4 weeks (224 hours) plus 11 hours per year over 15 years

- (2) Vacation leave begins to accrue on the first day of the month following the employee's start date and will continue to accrue on the first day of each month of employment thereafter.
- (3) An employee shall receive advance approval from their immediate supervisor and department head prior to the use of any vacation leave time by the submission of a request through electronic payroll. Requests for use of vacation leave time should be made as soon as possible to ensure minimum disruption to the department's and the organization's work schedule and workflow.
- (4) An employee may carry over all accrued and unused vacation leave time to the next calendar year.
- (5) Upon termination of employment, an employee shall be paid for any vested but unused vacation leave time not to exceed the maximum amount accrued in one year plus a 40-hour carry over for nonpublic safety employees or a 48-hour carry over for public safety employees. The employee shall be compensated at the regular hourly rate earned by the employee at the time of the separation. The applicable hourly rate for both exempt and nonexempt employees shall be calculated as provided in Section 6 of this Handbook.

Sick Leave

- (1) All full-time employees shall receive paid sick leave each calendar year in the amount of 8 hours per month, or 96 hours per year. Police department employees working a 40-hour week shall receive paid sick leave each calendar year in the amount of 8 hours per month or 96 hours per year. Professional firefighters working a 24/48-hour shift shall receive paid sick leave each calendar year in the amount of 12 hours per month or 144 hours per year. Part-time employees, temporary employees, and interns shall not be eligible for paid sick leave.
- (2) Sick leave time begins to accrue on the first day of the month following the employee's start date and will continue to accrue on the first day of each month of employment thereafter.
- (3) An employee may use sick leave for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. To avoid jeopardizing the health of other employees; or
 - b. Illness, disability, medical condition, or a medical or dental appointment of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family necessitating the employee's presence. "Immediate family" shall mean the employee's spouse, child, mother, father, or other permanent members of the employee's household.

- (4) An employee using sick leave time shall notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible of the need to use sick leave. For periods of leave longer than one full day, the employee shall notify their supervisor of each separate day that leave will be used unless prior arrangements have been made. For periods of three or more days see the Family and Medical Leave Policy within this section.
- (5) Whenever an employee uses sick leave time, the employee shall submit a request through electronic payroll. When possible, the employee shall submit the Absentee Request Form in advance of the leave. Otherwise, the employee shall submit the Absentee Request Form immediately upon return to work.
- (6) Notwithstanding the requirements for FMLA leave, a medical certification or physician's statement will generally not be required to return to work after the use of sick leave. However, an employee's department head may require medical certification or a physician's statement when there is a reasonable basis to believe the Sick Leave Policy is being abused, to certify that the employee can perform the essential functions of the job without risking the safety of themselves or others, or the employee's length of absence exceeds three full work days.
- (7) An employee may carry over an accumulated maximum of 800 hours of sick leave time for regular employees and 1,120 hours of sick leave time for sworn police and fire department employees to the next calendar year. Employees are eligible for an annual payout of accumulated sick leave time over 800 or 1,120 hours of sick leave, depending upon position, if requested by January 15 of each year.
- (8) Upon retirement from the city employment an employee will be paid for 25% of their accrued sick leave at their current base rate of pay. In addition, the city will purchase service credit up to six months on the remaining 75% of accrued sick leave hours for each retiring employee as provided for in the County Employees Standard Unused Sick Leave Program. Information regarding this program may be obtained by contacting the Kentucky Retirement Systems office. Any agency participating in the County Employees Retirement System which has formally adopted a sick leave program that is universally administered to its employees may purchase service credit with the retirement system for up to six months of unused sick leave for each retiring employee. The purchase of service credit does not apply to any employee who begins participation in the Kentucky Retirement Systems after January 1, 2014.

Attendance Incentive Program

- (1) The Attendance Incentive Program allows employees to cash out a portion of their sick leave balance once it reaches a maximum capacity pursuant to paragraph (8) of the Sick Leave Policy.
- (2) Employees must meet the following requirements in order to participate in the program:
 - a. Employees who work a 40-hour workweek who have an accrued sick leave over 800 hours as of December 31.
 - b. Employees who work a 24/48-hour shift who have an accrued sick leave over 1,120 hours as of December 31.
- (3) Provided the employee meets or exceeds the above criteria, the employee will be allowed to cash out any hours above the required maximums listed in paragraph (2). Cash-outs are allowed once a year during January at the employee's current hourly rate. For example, if your current hourly rate is \$20 and you want to cash out 10 hours, you will receive \$200 (\$20 x 10) minus all applicable taxes and deductions.

- (4) To request a cash-out, follow these steps:
 - a. Confirm with the payroll clerk that your sick leave balance is above the required minimums listed in paragraph (2).
 - b. Submit the request no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last working day in January.
- (5) Once the cash-out is processed, the employee's sick leave balance will be reduced by the number of hours cashed out.

Sick Leave Donation

- (1) The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for the administration of the Sick Leave Donation Program. This program permits city employees to donate a portion of their accrued sick leave time for the use of other employees who are experiencing a medical emergency or for maternity or parental leave. A medical emergency is a medical condition of an employee or their family member(s) that results in a prolonged absence from work and substantial loss of income due to the employee's exhaustion of all available paid leave. Use of donated sick leave time by another employee is permitted after human resources/risk manager determines the receiving employee's eligibility and the city manager approves.
- (2) Employees may donate accrued sick leave hours to coworkers who have experienced either their own medical emergency or to care for a family member during a medical emergency, or for the recovery from the birth of a child, or for parental leave as stated in the Parental Leave Policy. Employees wishing to receive donated leave must have exhausted their own paid leave time. Family member is defined as an employee's spouse, child, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, brothers, sisters, immediate in-laws, or other permanent members of the employee's household.
- (3) An employee wishing to donate sick leave hours to another employee must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Employee must have at least 200 sick leave hours accrued prior to the donation of sick leave hours to another employee.
 - b. Employee may not donate in excess of 160 hours per employee per calendar year. Sick leave may be donated in eight-hour increments only.
 - c. Employee must sign a statement of understanding Sick Leave Donation (HR Form 13) regarding the sick leave donation and its effect on the employee's accrued sick leave.
- (4) An employee who meets the following criteria shall be eligible to receive donated sick leave hours after the first pay period in which the employee's accrued leave (sick leave, vacation leave, and any other form of accrued leave) balance is zero.
 - a. An employee may not solicit any other employee on their behalf to donate sick leave time.
 - b. An employee must have worked for the city for 12 months or longer and must be an employee in good standing.
 - c. An employee must be in a full-time position established by the city council.
 - d. An employee must be off work due to a verifiable personal or family member's catastrophic illness or injury, not including workers' compensation.
 - e. An employee must provide medical certification of inability to work or certification of a serious illness of a family member.

- f. Employee must sign a statement of understanding, Sick Leave Application (HR Form 14).
- g. Provided an employee meets or exceeds the above criteria, the employee may receive donated sick time from other city employees as follows:
 - 1. An employee having a total of up to 120 months of accumulated service with the city shall be eligible to receive up to 100 hours of donated sick time in any calendar year.
 - 2. An employee having a total of 121 to 240 months of accumulated service with the city shall be eligible to receive up to 200 hours of donated sick time in any calendar year.
 - 3. An employee having a total of 241 to 360 months of accumulated service with the city shall be eligible to receive up to 250 hours of donated sick time in any calendar year.
 - 4. An employee having in excess of 360 months of accumulated service with the city shall be eligible to receive up to 300 hours of donated sick time in any calendar year.
- (5) A receiving employee may use donated time at the same rate as the receiving employee is normally scheduled to work. For example, a 20-hour per week employee may not receive and be paid for more than 20 hours donated per week; an employee working 40 hours per week may not receive and be paid for more than 40 hours per week.
- (6) There will be no accrual of vacation or sick leave as a result of using donated sick leave hours.
- (7) An employee who has received donated sick leave time must return to work at the earliest possible date the employee is fit to work, regardless of the availability of sick leave donations. The city reserves the right to request an opinion from a medical professional of the city's choice to attest to the continued need to be absent from work.
- (8) The department head shall process donations of sick leave time on the next pay period upon the receipt of authorization from the human resources officer, ensuring that the hours donated will be transferred to the receiving employee's sick leave account.
- (9) An employee receiving sick leave donations will continue to receive all other benefits provided by the city in accordance with the city's policies and procedures.
- (10) Any pay received by the employee as a result of donated sick leave time will be subject to any usual deductions on incomes (e.g., federal and state taxes, retirement, etc.).
- (11) Sick leave hours donated but unused shall be returned to the employees who donated the time on a prorated basis (e.g., an employee who donates 25% of the total sick leave hours donated shall receive 25% of the sick leave hours donated but not used).

Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

- (1) The city is subject to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and its amendments. In order to be eligible for FMLA leave, the employee must meet the following criteria:
 - a. The employee must have been employed by the city for at least 12 months within the past seven years prior to the leave, unless the break in service is due to an employee's fulfillment of military obligations; and

- b. The employee must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding FMLA leave. Any hours employees would have worked but for time spent in the military reserves or National Guard shall be considered part of the 1,250 required hours.
- (2) Qualifying employees are eligible to take up to a maximum of 12 weeks of job-protected leave from the city in any rolling calendar year. A rolling calendar year consists of any 12-month period measured backward from the start date of the requested leave. The leave may be paid, unpaid, or a combination of both, depending upon the employee's leave balances. Employees are entitled to 12 weeks of leave for the following reasons:
 - a. The birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child with the employee for foster care. The leave must be taken in the 12 months immediately following the birth, adoption, or placement of the child.
 - b. To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition.
 - 1. For purposes of this FMLA section, spouse, as defined in the statute, means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under state law for purposes of marriage in the state in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any state, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state.
 - 2. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex or common law marriage that either:
 - (a) Was entered into in a state that recognizes such marriages; or
 - (b) If entered into outside of any state, is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state.
 - c. A serious health condition which renders the employee unable to perform the functions of their position.
 - d. To allow an employee to deal with a "qualifying exigency" relating to the military deployment of a spouse, child, or parent. A qualifying exigency includes:
 - 1. Short-notice deployment;
 - 2. Military events and related activities;
 - 3. Childcare and school activities;
 - 4. Financial and legal arrangements;
 - 5. Counseling;
 - 6. Rest and recuperation;
 - 7. Post-deployment activities; and
 - 8. Additional activities arising from the military duty, provided that the employer and employee agree that such leave shall qualify as an exigency and agree to the timing and duration of such leave.

- e. Spouses, as defined by FMLA, who both work for the city and wish to take leave for the birth of a child and bonding with a newborn child, adoption or placement of a child in foster care and bonding with the newly placed child, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition may only take a combined total of 12 weeks of leave.
- (3) Employees are entitled to 26 weeks of leave within a 12-month period to take care of an injured service member, who is their nearest blood relative. This also extends to include family members of veterans who were members of the Armed Forces (including the National Guard or Reserves) at any point in time within five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy. For purposes of calculating leave entitlement, the 12-month period begins on the first day the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered service member.
- a. The nearest blood relative is defined as a blood relative other than a covered service member's spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority:
 - 1. Blood relatives that have been granted legal custody of the covered service member by court decree or statutory provisions;
 - 2. Brothers and sisters;
 - 3. Grandparents;
 - 4. Aunts and uncles; and
 - 5. First cousins.
 - b. If the covered service member has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as their nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA, then the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered service member's nearest blood relative. When no such designation is made, and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered service member, all such family members shall be considered the service member's nearest blood relative.
 - c. Spouses, if each spouse is a parent, spouse, son or daughter, or next of kin of the service member, who both work for the city, wish to take military caregiver leave may only take a combined total of 26 weeks of leave. When spouses take military caregiver leave as well as other FMLA leave in the same leave year, each spouse is subject to the combined limitations for the reasons for leave listed above.
- (4) In any event where FMLA-qualifying leave is foreseeable by the employee, the employee shall provide their immediate supervisor with advance notice of the leave request by submitting a FMLA Leave Request (HR Form 15). In many instances, the need for FMLA leave may not be foreseeable by the employee. In those instances, the employee's immediate supervisor or department head shall notify the human resources/risk manager of any circumstances that may qualify for FMLA, so that the city may make a determination whether to designate the leave as FMLA-qualifying for the employee.
- (5) The city shall require the following information to be submitted in conjunction with a request for FMLA leave or where the city has designated the leave as FMLA-qualifying:
- a. A FMLA Medical Certification Form, which can be obtained from the Department of Labor website (<https://www.dol.gov/whd/fmla/2013rule/militaryForms.htm>), will be required if FMLA leave is for the employee's own serious health condition or to care for a family member's serious health condition. Failure to provide the requested medical certification in a timely manner may result in denial of the leave until it is provided, including a reason for the

delay. The city, at its expense, may require an examination by a second health care provider designated by the city if the city has a reasonable question regarding the medical certification provided by the employee. Depending on the circumstance of the request the following forms should be used:

1. A FMLA Certification of Health Care Provider of an Employee's Serious Health Condition Form (WH 380E) will be required to certify the employee's own serious health condition.
 2. A FMLA Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition Form (WH 380F) will be required to certify the employee's family member's serious health condition.
 3. A FMLA Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Form (WH 384) will be required if any of the qualifying exigencies stated in (2)(d)(1-8) apply.
 4. A FMLA Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Covered Service Member (WH 385) will be required for care of an injured service member.
 5. A FMLA Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of a Veteran for Military Caregiver Leave (WH 385V) will be required if FMLA is for the care of a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces at any point in time within the five years preceding the date the veteran undergoes medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy.
- b. Employee may be asked to provide a new medical certification through the submission of the FMLA Medical Update (HR Form 16):
1. When the employee requests an extension of leave and the original medical certification states that serious health condition of employee or employee's family member will last a specified period and that period has ended;
 2. When circumstances described in the original medical certification have changed significantly (e.g., change in duration or frequency of employee's absence);
 3. When the original medical certification states that serious health condition(s) of employee or employee's family member will last indefinitely, the employee may be asked to provide a new medical certification, but no more frequently than every 30 days; and
 4. The employee must provide the new medical certification within 15 calendar days; however, the city may provide a reasonable amount of additional time if the employee has been unable to obtain certification in spite of employee's diligent, good faith efforts.
- c. The first time an employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the active duty or call to active duty status of a covered military member, the city will require the employee to provide a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other military documentation which indicates the appropriate military status and the dates of the active duty status.
- (6) Employees must use any accumulated sick, vacation, personal time, compensatory leave time, or other paid leave to the extent available during the FMLA leave period, unless such leave is covered under workers' compensation, in which case the employee may only use accumulated leave time for the purpose of satisfying any waiting period. Absences in excess of the employee's total accumulated leave will be treated as leave without pay.

- (7) The city will require employees returning from FMLA leave for a qualifying event related to the employee's serious illness to provide an FMLA Medical Release to Return-to-Work (HR Form 17). Upon return from FMLA leave, the employee will be restored to their original or an equivalent position. If an employee fails to return at the end of FMLA leave, the employee will be considered to have voluntarily resigned their position with the city.
- (8) The city will maintain health care benefits for the employee while on FMLA leave, but the employee is responsible for paying the normal monthly contribution for any portion of leave that is unpaid. If the employee elects not to return to work at the end of the leave period, the employee will be required to reimburse the city for the cost of premiums paid for maintaining coverage during the leave period. All other benefits cease to accrue during the unpaid portion of the leave.
- (9) It may be medically necessary for some employees to use intermittent FMLA leave. The city will work with employees to arrange reduced work schedules or leaves of absence in order to care for a family member's serious medical condition or their own serious medical condition.
- (10) Since leave taken because of the birth or adoption of a child must be completed within the 12-month period beginning on the date of birth or placement of the child, FMLA leave taken for this purpose may not be taken intermittently.

Parental Leave

- (1) The city recognizes that employees may need to be absent from work to care for a newborn child or new adopted or foster child (referred to as Parental Leave in this policy), or due to a pregnancy-related condition. The city provides parental leave of absence to all eligible employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Kentucky Pregnant Workers Act, and any other applicable law.
- (2) The human resources/risk manager is responsible for the administration of this policy. If an employee has any questions regarding this policy or if they have questions about parental leave that is not addressed in this policy, please contact the human resources/risk manager.
- (3) If an employee needs to take parental leave for the birth of a child or to care for a new adopted or foster child, they should provide advance notice to their supervisor or the human resources/risk manager. When possible, an employee should give at least a 30-day notice of their request for leave. If a 30-day notice is not possible because of medical necessity or for other reasons, they should give as much advance notice to the city as possible.
- (4) Written notice is preferred, but not required.
- (5) If an employee is suffering from a pregnancy-related disability and requires reasonable accommodation (which may include leave) for this purpose, they should speak with their department head and/or the human resources/risk manager to discuss a reasonable accommodation. The employee may be required to submit medical certification of their disability.
- (6) During parental leave, employees eligible for FMLA will continue to be paid their normal rate of pay for up to four weeks or 224 hours for certified firefighters. Employees not eligible for FMLA may use any or all their accrued but unused vacation or other paid time off during their parental leave. Employees should contact the human resources officer with any questions about their eligibility for FMLA leave.

- (7) After the four weeks of paid leave, qualifying employees are required to use any accrued and unused vacation and sick leave while on FMLA leave. For more information, see the city's FMLA Policy within Section 8 of this Handbook.
- (8) During parental leave, all benefits provided under an employee benefit plan are governed by the terms and conditions of the applicable employee benefit plan documents in accordance with applicable law. For all other benefits, an employee on parental leave will receive the same rights and benefits as employees on a paid/an unpaid leave of absence.
- (9) An employee's job will be held for them in accordance with applicable law while they are on pregnancy or parental leave.
- (10) If an employee is on pregnancy-related disability leave, when they are able to return to work, they must submit a doctor's certification stating they are medically able to return to their normal duties. Their continued absence from work beyond their required disability leave period (as determined by their physician) and exhaustion of all other available leave, may be deemed a voluntary abandonment of their job.
- (11) Nothing in this policy requires the city to reemploy individuals who are not eligible for reemployment rights under applicable law.
- (12) The city prohibits and will not tolerate discrimination or retaliation against any employee or applicant because of that person's parental leave. Specifically, no one will be denied employment, reemployment, promotion, or any other benefit of employment or be subjected to any adverse employment action based on that person's parental leave. In addition, no one will be disciplined, intimidated, or otherwise retaliated against because that person exercised rights under this policy or applicable law.
- (13) The city is committed to enforcing this policy against discrimination and retaliation. However, the effectiveness of our efforts depends largely on employees telling us about inappropriate workplace conduct. If employees feel that they or someone else may have been subjected to conduct that violates this policy, they should immediately report it. If employees do not report such conduct, the city may not become aware of a possible violation of this policy and may not be able to take appropriate corrective action.

Bereavement Leave

- (1) All full-time city employees shall be eligible for paid bereavement leave in the event of death in the employee's immediate or extended family. Bereavement leave shall be granted on the following basis:
 - a. Fire department employees shall be authorized for up to 24 hours and all other employees shall be authorized for up to three days of paid bereavement leave in the event of death in the employee's immediate family. For the purposes of this paragraph "immediate family" shall mean the employee's parents, stepparents, foster parents, spouse, children, step-children, grandparents, grandchildren, brother, sister, spouse's parents, or anyone permanently residing with the employee.
- (2) Whenever the use of bereavement leave is necessary, the employee shall provide advance notice to their immediate supervisor and the employee shall submit a leave request electronically in accordance with Section 8 of this Handbook. When possible, the employee shall submit the Absentee Request Form in advance of the leave. Otherwise, the employee shall submit the Absentee Request Form immediately upon return to work.

Unpaid Leave of Absence

- (1) Upon exhaustion of all accrued sick, vacation, or any other form of accumulated leave, any request for an unpaid leave shall be submitted to the employee's department head. The department head, in consultation with the human resources/risk manager and the city manager, will decide whether to grant the unpaid leave request and other terms of the leave depending upon the reasons for the requested leave and the needs of the department and the city.
- (2) If granted an unpaid leave of absence, an employee will not be compensated and will not receive any other employee benefits provided by the city, except as required by FMLA.
- (3) If an employee is out on FMLA, the city will continue to pay its share of any group health care premiums paid by the city prior to the FMLA leave, while any share of the group health care premiums which had been paid by the employee prior to FMLA leave must continue to be paid by the employee during the FMLA leave period. If any employee-required portion of the group health insurance premium becomes more than 30 days late, while on unpaid FMLA leave, the city may terminate coverage retroactively. For continuation of all other employee-paid optional benefits, such as life insurance, the employee will be subject to the terms and conditions of the specific plan, and the employee must pre-pay any applicable contribution or premium during the period of the absence in order to maintain those benefits.
- (4) For any unpaid leave that does not qualify under FMLA, the employee will not receive any employee benefits provided by the city. As such, the employee must make an election as to COBRA coverage for group healthcare for the employee, as well as any qualified dependents. In addition, the employee will be subject to the terms and conditions of the specific plan, to continue any optional benefits, upon pre-payment by the employee of the applicable contribution or premium during the period of the absence. Any failure by the employee to prepay any optional benefits may result in termination of the benefit.
- (5) Employees on unpaid leave will not accrue any vacation or sick leave time during the unpaid absence, except as provided by this policy.

Jury Duty and Court-Ordered Appearances

- (1) The city encourages employees to fulfill their obligation as citizens when called to serve jury duty or to comply with a court or administrative subpoena. An employee that is required to attend jury duty or comply with a court or administrative subpoena during their regular working hours at the city shall be paid their full salary for the period of such service.
- (2) An employee involved in litigation or court proceedings as a plaintiff or petitioner and is not appearing before the court as a result of a duly issued subpoena, shall not be eligible for the paid leave provided under the provisions of this policy but may be permitted to use annual or compensatory leave time for such absences as provided in Section 8 of this Handbook.
- (3) The employee must provide a copy of the summons or subpoena to their immediate supervisor as soon as possible after receiving such notice.
- (4) The employee shall submit a leave request electronically in accordance with Section 8 of this Handbook showing the dates and times out of the office necessitated by the employee's service required by the court.
- (5) Any employee excused by the court during their normal working hours shall contact their immediate supervisor to determine if they will be required to work the remainder of their normal work schedule.

Voting Leave

- (1) The city encourages its employees to vote on Election Day. To facilitate efficient scheduling and management of the office workload, an employee shall request voting leave from the employee's supervisor at least one day in advance of the election date, or one day in advance of the date on which the employee appears before the county clerk to request an application for or to execute an absentee ballot.
- (2) The supervisor shall grant a reasonable period of voting leave for an employee who is qualified to vote and who has requested voting leave in accordance with this policy. The city will compensate the employee for up to one hour of leave. Any additional leave will require the use of paid leave time. The supervisor shall specify the hours during which the employee may be absent.
- (3) Prior to using voting leave, the employee shall submit a leave request electronically in accordance with Section 8 of this Handbook showing the times the employee has been approved to be out of the office for voting leave.
- (4) An employee who requests and takes voting leave, but who fails to vote without an acceptable reason, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Military Leave

- (1) The city will comply with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) and the provisions of KRS 61.373 through 61.377 and KRS 61.394. USERRA grants military leave for employees, and in most cases, reinstatement rights regardless of whether the service is voluntary or involuntary.
- (2) As the laws change, or as interpretations of the laws change, military leave benefits for city employees may change accordingly. No attempt is made in this policy to cover all possible situations and circumstances that may arise when an employee is ordered to active duty. Therefore, as military leave situations arise, an employee should consult with their immediate supervisor or the human resources/risk manager for details regarding their military leave rights as a city employee.
- (3) Unless precluded by military necessity, an employee shall provide written notice to their immediate supervisor as soon as possible regarding the need for military leave.
- (4) In any one federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30), all full-time and part-time employees involved in military service for the United States or the Commonwealth of Kentucky are eligible to be paid their normal wages for a maximum of 21 days. Employees will only be paid based on the days they would have been scheduled to work if not for military leave. Any unused military leave in a federal fiscal year shall be carried over to the next year. Any unused military leave shall expire two years after it has accrued.
- (5) An employee shall be entitled to military leave without loss of time, pay, regular leave, impairment of efficiency rating, or any other employment rights or benefits to which the employee is entitled, including employer contributions that would have been paid into CERS if the employee had not been on military leave. Employer-provided CERS contributions will only be paid if the employee returns to work with the city upon an honorable discharge from the military.
- (6) Employees called to active duty should fill out the Active Duty Military Leave Notification (HR Form 18) as soon as practicable.

Leave Requests

- (1) The City of Winchester uses an electronic payroll system that operates as a payroll and leave management system. All employee requests for leave shall be submitted electronically through the city's electronic payroll management system. The department head will be responsible for exercising managerial discretion in deciding whether to approve or deny the leave request.
- (2) Employees are required to submit a leave request electronically whenever any type of leave is requested or taken as outlined in the policies contained in this Handbook. The employee is required to provide the date and time of the leave. Employees are permitted to use any type of leave time in 15-minute increments. Whenever possible, employees are required to submit a leave request before the leave is taken. In the event that it is impossible or impractical for the employee to submit a leave request prior to taking the leave, the employee shall immediately submit the form upon return to work. Any employee who takes leave time and fails to submit a leave request shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 9 – Appendices and HR Forms

APPENDIX A – SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS AND PRIVACY PROTECTION

- (1) This policy is adopted in accordance with KRS 61.931- 61.934 and is applicable to all personal confidential information received and retained by the city in regard to employment and within the regular course of city business.
- (2) The city will take measures reasonably necessary to ensure the confidentiality of social security numbers collected in the ordinary course of the city's business. Neither the city nor any of its employees will unlawfully disclose the social security numbers or other confidential personal information obtained during the ordinary course of business.
- (3) Nondigital media containing personal information shall be physically controlled and securely stored in a manner meant to ensure that the media cannot be accessed by unauthorized individuals. This may require storing media in locked containers such as cabinets, drawers, rooms, or similar locations if unauthorized individuals have unescorted access to areas where personal information is stored. If personal information is stored in an electronic format, it shall be protected from access by unauthorized individuals. Such information must be protected by software that prevents unauthorized access. If personal information is transmitted via email or other electronic means, it must be sent using appropriate encryption mechanisms.
- (4) The city shall designate a point of contact (POC). The POC shall serve the following functions:
 - a. Maintain the city's adopted Information Security Policy and be familiar with its requirements.
 - b. Ensure the city's employees and others with access to personal information are aware of and understand the Information Security Policy.
 - c. Serve as contact for inquiries from other agencies regarding its Information Security Policy and any incidents.
 - d. Be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Information Security Policy.
 - e. Be responsible for responding to any incidents.
- (5) Only authorized individuals are permitted access to media containing personal information. In addition to controlling physical access, user authentication should provide audit access information. Any access must comply with applicable regulatory requirements.
- (6) The city may use a social security number to perform an administrative duty related to employment (e.g., to verify the identity of an individual; detect or prevent identity theft; investigate a credit, criminal, or driving history; enforce legal rights or obligations; or administer insurance or benefits programs).
- (7) Security software used to protect personal information must provide user identification, authentication, data access controls, integrity, and audit controls.
- (8) Security software should be adequately tested to confirm functionality and to ensure that it is minimally disruptive to all associated operating systems, communications, applications, and other associated software systems. Contractual provisions must also ensure that the supplier's software, by design or configuration, will not introduce any security exposures.

- (9) The level of protection afforded by security software should be commensurate with the sensitivity of the data. The level of protection along with the methods to implement that protection should be addressed before any personal information is stored on a device.
- (10) Systems, networks, and application software used to process personal information must adhere to the highest level of protection reasonably practical. The city will use Intrusion Detection and Prevention software approved by the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT). A list of approved software is available on the COT website (<http://technology.ky.gov/Governance/Pages/KITS.aspx>), or the software must provide comparable or superior protection.
- (11) Information stored on digital media shall be encrypted in accordance with contemporary standards.
- (12) This policy prohibits the unnecessary placement (download or input) of personal information on portable computing devices. However, users who in the course of city business must place personal information on portable computing devices must be made aware of the risks involved and impact to the affected person/entities in the event of actual or suspected loss or disclosure of personal information. If personal information is placed on a portable computing device, reasonable efforts must be taken, including physical controls and encryption, to protect the information from unauthorized access. Additionally, each person using the portable computing device must sign a form approved by the city indicating acceptance of the information and acknowledging their understanding of the responsibility to protect the information. In the event the portable computing device is lost or stolen, the city should be able to accurately recreate the personal information and must be able to provide notification to all affected persons/entities.
- (13) When it is determined that personal information must be placed on a portable computing device, every effort should be taken to minimize the amount of information required. If possible, information should be abbreviated to limit exposure (e.g., last four digits of the social security number).
- (14) The city will secure and when applicable, appropriately dispose of nondigital media. Nondigital media containing personal information must be properly stored and secured from view by unauthorized persons.
- (15) Secure measures must be employed by the city and all permissive users to safeguard personal information contained on all city technology resources.
- (16) Cities shall ensure that all authorized personnel are familiar with and comply with this policy. The city shall ensure that only authorized personnel may hold and have access to personal information.
- (17) Threats to the security of personal information arise in many different ways. The city will make an attempt to be aware of the different types of threats and to enact reasonable measures to protect against each. Attacks on personal information may arise from:
 - a. External/Removable Media — An attack executed from removable media (e.g., flash drive, CD) or a peripheral device.
 - b. Attrition — An attack that employs brute force methods to compromise, degrade, or destroy systems, networks, or services.
 - c. Web — An attack executed from a website or web-based application.
 - d. Email — An attack executed via an email message or attachment.

- e. Improper Usage — Any incident resulting from violation of an organization’s acceptable usage policies by an authorized user, excluding the above categories.
 - f. Loss or Theft of Equipment — The loss or theft of a computing device or media used by the organization, such as a laptop or smartphone.
- (18) Whether in digital or nondigital format, the city will retain and keep secure all personal and confidential information as set out in the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives Record Retention Schedule. The city will physically destroy documents that contain personal confidential information, including social security numbers, by shredding or other secure fashion. Personal confidential information, including social security numbers, stored in a computer database which needs to be removed will be deleted from all programs and processes pursuant to techniques and standards commonly used for such purposes. The methods set forth below are listed in priority order with the most highly recommended safeguard listed first. One of the following safeguards must be implemented:
- a. Hire a document disposal contractor to dispose of the material. The contractor should be certified by a recognized trade association and should use disk sanitizing software and/or equipment approved by the United States Department of Defense. The city will review and evaluate the disposal company’s information security policies and procedures. The city will review an independent audit of a disposal company’s operations and/or its compliance with nationally recognized standards;
 - b. Secure and utilize shredding equipment that performs cross-cut or confetti patterns;
 - c. Secure and utilize disk sanitizing or erasing software or equipment approved by the United States Department of Defense; or
 - d. Modify the information to make it unreadable, unusable, or indecipherable through any means.
- (19) The city must disclose a security breach in which personal information is disclosed to, or obtained by, an unauthorized person. Notification of the incident must be made in the most prompt and expedient manner after the incident has been discovered. Within 35 days, a letter notifying affected individuals of actual or suspected loss or disclosure of personal information must be sent by the city describing the types of information lost and recommended actions to be taken to mitigate the potential misuse of their information.
- (20) When the city identifies a security breach in which personal information has been disclosed to, or obtained by, an unauthorized person, the city shall notify the Kentucky State Police, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, and the Commissioner of the Department for Local Government within three business days and they must complete form COT-F012. The city shall document the following:
- a. Preliminary reporting and description of the incident.
 - b. Response, including evidence gathered.
 - c. Final assessment and corrective action taken.
 - d. Final reporting.

- (21) Incident response procedures can be a reaction to security activities such as:
- a. Unauthorized access to personal information, data, or resources;
 - b. Denial of service attacks;
 - c. Actual or anticipated widespread malware infections;
 - d. Data breaches;
 - e. Loss/theft of equipment;
 - f. Significant disruption of services; and
 - g. Significant level of unauthorized scanning activity to or from hosts on the network.
- (22) The city shall make reasonable efforts to investigate any security breaches in which personal information is disclosed to, or obtained by an unauthorized person and shall take appropriate corrective action.
- (23) The city must comply with all federal and state laws and policies for information disclosure to the media or the public. In some circumstances, communication about an incident is necessary, such as contacting law enforcement. The city should use discretion in disclosing information about an incident. Such information includes network information, type of incident, specific infection type (if applicable), number of assets affected, specific detail about applications affected, applications used to employ corrective action/investigate, etc. The city may proactively share relevant incident indicator information with peers to improve detection and analysis of incidents. Within the parameters of the law, minimal disclosure regarding incidents is preferred to prevent unauthorized persons from acquiring sensitive information regarding the incident, security protocols, and similar matters in an effort to avoid additional disruption and financial loss.
- (24) Any employee of the city who knowingly violates the provisions of this policy will be subject to the city's disciplinary policy.

APPENDIX B – EMAIL AND COMMUNICATIONS RETENTION

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

This document defines acceptable management and storage of email and other electronic messages in the city as part of the city's records management program. All references to email in this policy include any and all electronic communications. This policy and procedure for email **applies to email use within the city, and does not supersede any state or federal laws, or any other city policies regarding confidentiality, information dissemination, or standards of conduct.**

Internet and email resources, services, and accounts are the property of the city, and are to be used for business purposes. Management has the right and the ability to view employees' email. City email is recorded and stored, and is the property of the city, subject to the requirements of the Open Records Act (KRS 61.870 to 61.884.)

SECTION 2. POLICY

The city provides for efficient, economical, and effective management of electronic mail records in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) chapter 171, sections 410-740. KRS 171.680 requires the board of commissioners to administer a program for managing records created, received, retained, used, or disposed by the agency.

This policy for managing electronic mail is consistent with legal requirements and efficient recordkeeping standards from the State Archives and Records Commission, the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, and the Commonwealth Office of Technology.

This policy applies to any and all electronic mail messages created, received, retained, used, or disposed of using the city's electronic mail system regardless of how the system is accessed. Mobile computing devices (such as Blackberries and other Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) or smart phones) allow for remote access to the city's email system and should be treated just like the system in your office or workstation.

SECTION 3. RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

The General Schedule for State Agencies lists the record series that are created and the retention period authorized by the State Archives and Records Commission for each series. All email sent or received by an agency is considered a public record. The content and function of an email message determine its retention period. All email messages must be retained or disposed of according to the Record Retention Schedule for Local Governments and/or State Government.

From General Schedule for State Agencies, Electronic and Related-Records Series E0059, Electronic Messages

This is any communication using an electronic messaging system.

Retention: Electronic messaging systems are a form of communication. The messages found in these systems can be any type of record. Identify what type of record the message is and follow the appropriate retention schedule.

Examples of Electronic Messages include:

- Email
- Text messages (more difficult to store than email)

- Voicemail (more difficult to store than email)
- Fax messages

Most email, but not all (see *Guidelines for Managing Email in KY Government* - <http://kdla.ky.gov/records/Documents/EmailGuidelines.PDF>), is considered correspondence and may be part of one of several categories of correspondence, described on the General Schedule for State Agencies.

The categories of correspondence are:

From *General Schedule for State Agencies, Miscellaneous Records Series M0050, Nonbusiness-Related Correspondence*

This is correspondence that is not related to agency business.

Retention: Destroy immediately.

Examples of Nonbusiness-Related Correspondence include:

- Unsolicited messages (e.g., sales pitches).
- Nonbusiness-related messages from coworkers (e.g., news articles, nonbusiness-related announcements from coworkers).
- Junk mail or spam.
- Personal messages.

NOTE: Nonbusiness-Related Correspondence is a public record, as defined by the Open Records Act (KRS 61.870-61.884) and if retained, can be subject to disclosure.

From *General Schedule for State Agencies, Miscellaneous Records Series M0002, Routine Correspondence*

This is routine correspondence that is central or essential to your work but is of a non-policy nature and deals only with the day-to-day general operations of an agency.

Retention: Retain no longer than two years. Routine correspondence that is part of a larger file, takes on the retention period of that file.

Examples of Routine Correspondence include:

- Assistance to citizens
- Explanations of policy
- Requests for information
- Business-related discussions within the city

NOTE: Since the retention for series M0002 Routine Correspondence is “*retain no longer than two years*,” a uniform retention period within the two-year window for routine correspondence needs to be established for all of the units covered by this policy. This could be done on the cabinet, department, or division level depending on where this policy is adopted. All employees in an agency, as defined in this policy, should be retaining routine correspondence for the same amount of time and following agency filing procedures. (See Section 5 for further guidance.)

From General Schedule for State Agencies, Miscellaneous Records Series M0001, Official Correspondence

This is correspondence that documents the major activities, organizational functions and programs of the city, and the important events in its history. **Retention:** Permanent.

Examples of Official Correspondence include:

- Policy memoranda (those dictating or establishing policy)
- Directives
- Event and other announcements
- Official notifications of city decisions or actions
- Summaries of an agency's cumulative experience or history (minutes)

SECTION 4. USER RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the user of the email system, with guidance and training from the city, to manage email messages according to the Local Government's Records Retention Schedule and the General Schedule for State Agencies.

It is the responsibility of the sender and receiver of email messages within the city's email system to retain the messages for the approved retention period. (See below Diagrams 1.1 and 1.2)

Because email messages can be forwarded and routed to multiple addresses, copies of the names of sender, recipient, date/time of the message, as well as any attachments must be retained with the message. Except for listserv mailing services, distribution lists must be able to identify the sender and recipient of the message.

The use of the administrative settings to control management of email messages (e.g., the rules, filters, and the AutoArchive features) in Outlook/Exchange as well as other server level automated classification and management systems, may automate and assist employees' classification and storage of messages. If such settings or software are used by the city, employees should be adequately trained and informed.

See "Storage of Email Messages Using Outlook" on the KDLA website.

(<http://kdla.ky.gov/records/Documents/Storage%20of%20email-v.2-10-17-06.PDF>).

SECTION 5. MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRONIC MAIL

Records created using an email system may be saved for their approved retention period by one of the following:

- (1) Place in folders and save in a user account on a network drive.
- (2) Transfer to an automated records management software application. Print message and file in appropriate hard copy file. Delete the electronic copy.
- (3) Print message and file in appropriate hard copy file. Delete the electronic copy.

SECTION 6. DISPOSITION OF ELECTRONIC MAIL

The legal retention and disposition of electronic mail messages is subject to the same requirements as any other record. This usually requires internal city approval, and the completion and submission of a records destruction certificate. (<http://kdla.ky.gov/records/recmgmtguidance/Pages/recdestruction.aspx>).

Due to the volume of email and the frequency of deletion, completing a records destruction certificate for email records is not practical. The city will establish and implement procedures to address the disposition of electronic mail records, in accordance with city business practice and following records retention schedules approved by the State Archives and Records Commission.

“It is the official policy of the city that all email messages found to be classified as routine correspondence will be deleted after _____ in accordance with the General Schedule for State Agencies or the Local Government Record Retention Schedule.”

SECTION 7. DEFINITIONS

- (1) Agency (public) – Every state or local office, state department, division, bureau, board, commission and authority; every legislative board, commission, committee and officer; every county and city governing body, council, school district board, special district board, municipal corporation, and any board, department, commission, committee, subcommittee, ad hoc committee, council or agency thereof; and any other body which is created by state or local authority and which derives at least 25% of its funds from state or local authority. (See KRS 171.410(4)).
- (2) Electronic – Relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities. (See KRS 369.102(1)).
- (3) Email Messages – Any communication supported by email systems internally, between other state, local, and federal agencies, and with constituents, voters, vendors, clients, citizens, and others. This definition applies equally to the contents of the communication, the transactional information associated with each message, and any attachments to the body of the message.
- (4) Email Systems – Applications that enable users to compose, transmit, receive, and manage text and/or graphic email messages and images across LAN and WAN networks and through gateways connecting the latter with the internet. The approved product for state agencies is Microsoft Outlook/Exchange.
- (5) Electronic Mail Receipt Data – Information in electronic mail systems regarding the date and time of receipt of a message, and/or acknowledgment of receipt or access by addressee(s).
- (6) Electronic Media – Media capable of being read by a computer including computer hard disks, magnetic tapes, optical disks, or similar media.
- (7) Electronic Record – A record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means. (See KRS 369.102(7))
- (8) Electronic Records System – Any information system that produces, manipulates, and stores public records by using a computer.
- (9) Employees (for the purposes of this policy only) – All users of city email systems, including employees, contractors, consultants, temporaries, volunteers, and other workers within city government.
- (10) Mailing List Service – An electronic mailing list hosting service (e.g., Listserv) used for discussions and announcements within a specified group of individuals. Subscribers to the service participate by sending information to and receiving information from the list using electronic mail messages.

- (11) Public Record or Record – All books, papers, maps, photographs, cards, tapes, disks, diskettes, recordings, and other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, which are prepared, owned, used, in the possession of or retained by a public agency. "Public record" will not include any records owned by a private person or corporation that are not related to functions, activities, programs, or operations funded by state or local authority. (See KRS 171.410 (1)).
- (12) Records Officer – Public agency employee who represents their unit of government in its records management relations with the State Archives and Records Commission and the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives as defined in 725 KAR 1:010.
- (13) Transactional Information - Information about the email message that can include name of the sender and all recipients, date and time the message was created and sent, host application that generated the message, and all of the systems and computers the message was routed through. Some or all of this transactional information may or may not be a visible part of the message. The federal courts have ruled that this information is a vital part of the message itself and is an important consideration when storing email messages.

(From *Guidelines for Managing Email in State Government*).

Figure 1.1 Decision Sequence for Determining Email Retention

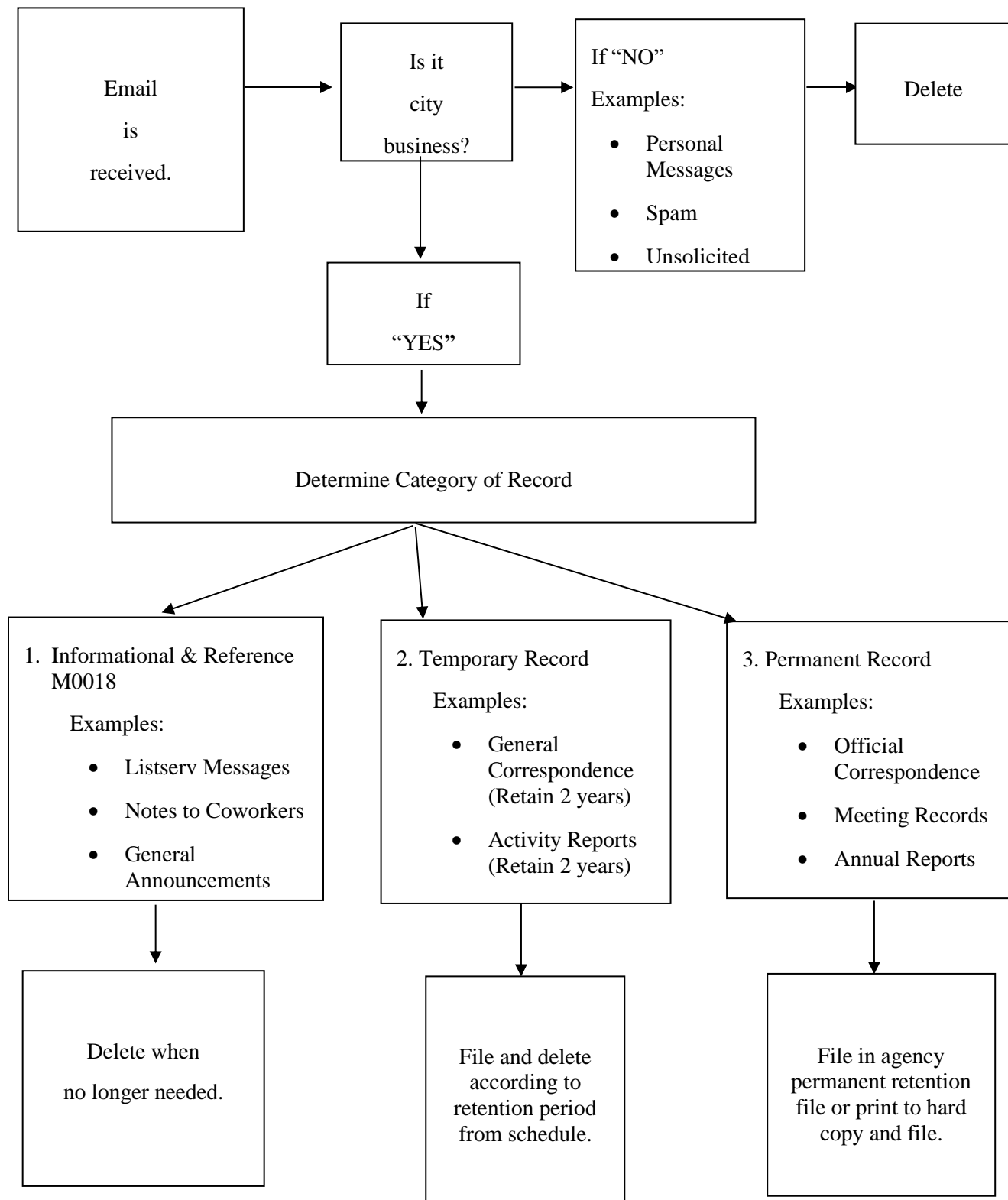
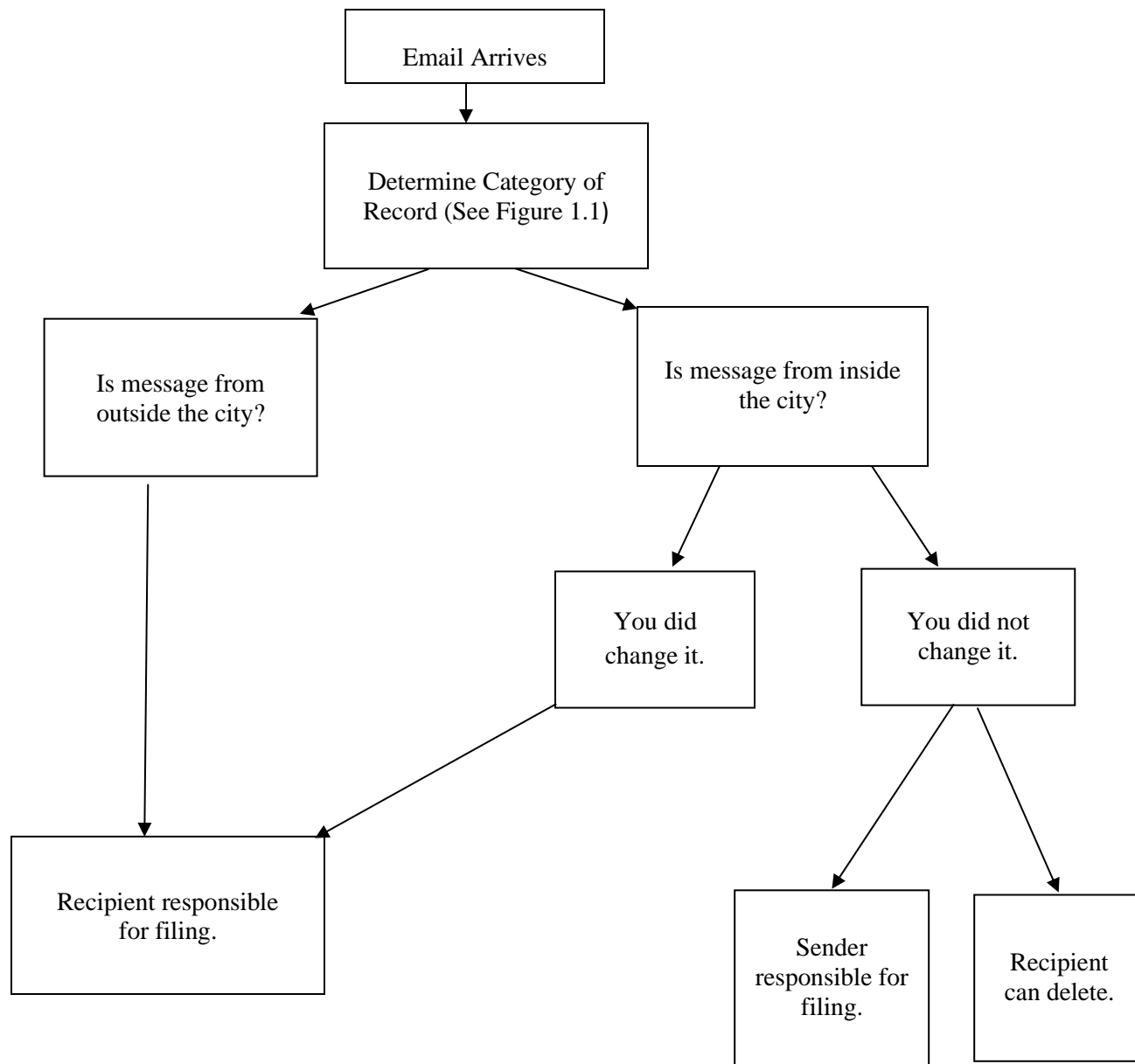


Figure 1.2 Determining Responsibility for Retaining Email Messages

Because email messages can be forwarded and routed to multiple addresses, copies of the messages may exist in many areas of the agency. In most cases, the author, or originator, of the email message is responsible for maintaining the “record” copy. However, in cases in which the recipient has altered the message (made changes, added attachments, etc.), or when the message is coming from outside the agency (and therefore not documented anywhere within the agency), the recipient is the one responsible for retaining the message.



APPENDIX C – CUSTOMER SERVICE PRINCIPLES

The purpose of these principles is to establish guidelines and expectations for city employees when providing customer service to city residents, the business community, and coworkers.

This policy discusses communication techniques to use when interacting with customers. It also sets forth standards for the time it should take an employee to respond to a customer's request for information or service. Telephone and email communication are important means with which to provide customer service. As such, this policy also includes a discussion regarding proper etiquette for these types of communication.

Providing effective customer service can often be difficult and challenging. Customers can oftentimes be impatient, frustrated, or angry. This policy offers tips on how to best communicate with customers in these situations, as well as suggestions for dealing with the associated personal stress.

Working for city government offers a unique opportunity to positively impact the quality of life for city residents and businesses. Every interaction an employee has with a customer is an opportunity to provide comprehensive and timely customer service. Consistently applying effective customer service techniques while adhering to established performance standards will improve the quality and effectiveness of the city's overall customer service program.

General - External and Internal Customers

There are both external and internal customers. External customers include anyone who comes to or calls city offices; all city residents and businesspersons; and visitors who use city businesses, city services, or attend city events. Internal customers include the elected officials and fellow city employees who are affected by the service you provide.

City employees are expected to treat every customer, whether external or internal, with courtesy and respect. In dealing with external customers, city employees are expected to be consistent in their application of city rules and requirements. In matters concerning fellow employees, city employees are expected to maintain a consistently high standard of conduct and support one another with timely and accurate communication. This will help city staff provide better service to our external customers and avoid duplication of efforts.

Customer Expectations and Sources of Frustration

To best serve customers, it is helpful to understand their expectations and to be aware of common causes of customer frustration. A customer will generally expect the following basic needs to be met: *to be understood, to feel welcome, to feel important, and to feel comfortable.*

Common causes for customer frustrations: having unmet expectations, being upset at someone or something, feeling that no one seems to listen or care, believing that services have not been delivered as expected, broken promises, being treated rudely, inconsistent or inaccurate information from city employees, and unfamiliarity with city procedures/ordinances.

With the above in mind, customers should always be taken seriously, treated with respect, given necessary and correct information, and able to speak to someone who will assist in addressing their concern.

Communication Techniques

1. Communication tips to promote effective customer communication:
 - Actively listen by maintaining eye contact.
 - Use the person's name in the conversation, as appropriate.
 - Take notes.

- Hear the entire message.
 - Use a pleasant tone of voice when speaking and smile, if appropriate. (Note: Smiling when a customer is upset can give off a feeling to the customer that the employee thinks the situation is a joke.)
 - Paraphrase or clarify the customer's message.
 - Avoid making snap judgments.
 - Give appropriate feedback.
 - Avoid using negative phrases such as: "You have to," "You can't," "You must," and "You need to." These words may instantly create a confrontational situation between people. Whenever possible, try using the following phrases instead: *"I'm going to ask you to do this"* or *"I can help you with that if you consider doing this."*
2. Voice characteristics that can assist in ensuring effective communication when speaking to customers:
- Volume – Maintain an adequate voice volume. If you speak too softly, the customer will have to strain to hear you or may not be able to hear you at all. Questions such as "What did you say?" or "Could you repeat that?" are indications that you are speaking too softly. In addition, it is important not to speak loudly. Speaking in a loud voice may make the customer feel threatened and uncomfortable.
 - Speaking rate – Speak at a constant rate. Speaking too slow or too fast may make it difficult for the customer to concentrate on what you are saying.
 - Pausing – Pausing allows you to place emphasis on a particular point, take a breath, or collect your thoughts. However, pausing too long or too often can become annoying.
 - Inflection – Inflection is a change in volume, rate and/or pitch to give particular emphasis to something said. Inflection varies among speakers. Therefore, it is best to speak in a natural voice. While speaking in a monotone should be avoided, an overly dramatic presentation is equally inappropriate.
 - Type of voice – Your attitude and manner of speaking express to the customer a particular point of view, meaning, or feeling. Be positive and courteous. When speaking on the phone, one's facial expression is reflected in one's voice. Smiling or maintaining a pleasant expression will help convey a friendly attitude.
 - Pronunciation/articulation/enunciation – Clear speaking establishes credibility while garbled speaking does the opposite. Avoid slurring words and running words together. For example, say *"Who is it?"* instead of *"Whosit?"* Do not eat when speaking on the phone.

Customer Service Guidelines

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish standards for responding to customer inquiries. They should be used when communicating on the telephone, through electronic mail, or in written correspondence.

1. Routine versus Non-Routine Requests – Requests that are relatively straightforward and do not require a great deal of research are considered routine. Employees are expected to make every effort to respond to routine inquiries on the same business day, but no later than the end of the next business day.

Requests that require a more detailed review are considered non-routine. Non-routine requests should be responded to as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the second business day after the day in which the request was received. If a request has not been completed within this time frame, employees are expected to inform the customer and provide an estimated time frame as to when you expect to fully respond to the request.

2. Telephone Usage and Etiquette Policy – Telephone calls from both internal and external customers should be answered as quickly as possible within three rings whenever practical.

- Employees who answer telephones as one of their primary job duties are prohibited from screening phone calls or avoiding calls from a particular person or phone number.
- Placing a call – When placing calls, employees should identify themselves by city department and name. For example:
“Hello, this is Glen Smith calling from the City of Winchester Human Services Division. Is Mr. Williams available?”
- If the intended party answers, provide them with accurate and concise information, following the same protocol when receiving calls as described below. If an employee must leave a message, they should be sure to clearly state their name, city department, phone number, and a brief summary of the purpose of the call. When possible, repeat the return phone number twice. For example:
“Hello, this message is for Mr. Billy Williams. This is Jim Johnson calling from the City of Winchester Human Services Division. My number is 000-000-0000. I am returning your call regarding the water department bill. Again, I can be reached at 000-000-0000. Thank you.”
- Receiving calls – Employees are expected to answer the telephone in a courteous and professional manner. After the employee’s greeting, the caller should be allowed to state their business or concern. Employees are advised to listen carefully and never cut a caller off before they are finished speaking.
- The employee should then attempt to assist the caller by providing accurate information in as concise a manner as appropriate. Provide only factual information and refrain from giving opinions or speculating.
- When the information has been provided, ask the caller if they need any further assistance. Once the caller is ready to hang up, thank the caller. Never hang up if the caller is still speaking, unless the caller is abusive. (More information on responding to complaints and angry customers is below.)
- Transferring calls and placing calls on hold – Employees should make every effort to assist the caller and avoid placing the caller on hold or transferring. If an employee is unable to assist a caller, needs information from another employee, or the caller needs to speak with someone from another department, the call may be transferred and/or placed on hold. The employee should say something like:
“I am unable to help you with this issue, but I’d like to transfer you to someone who can help. May I place you on hold briefly while I contact them to transfer your call?”
- Unless the caller is insistent, do not transfer them to another employee or their voicemail if the caller is angry. Instead, offer to take a message and make certain the message is delivered promptly. Similarly, avoid sending angry callers directly to the city manager without consulting your immediate supervisor to see if they can resolve the issue.

- If the customer gives permission, call the extension of the employee who will be able to help. Avoid transferring a call without speaking to the other employee. It is difficult for employees to take calls without preparation and the caller will find it frustrating if they are required to restate their request. If the employee answers, briefly share the caller's identity and general request. Prior to putting the customer on hold, it is a good idea to let the customer know the employee's extension just in case the call gets lost or dropped.
- If the employee you are trying to reach is not available, inform the caller that the person is unavailable and offer to take a message or transfer the caller to the employee's voicemail. Do not transfer the caller to an employee's voicemail without the permission of the caller. If the caller does not wish to leave a message, inform them politely that they are welcome to call back at another time.
- Call forwarding – It may be necessary at times for employees to utilize the call forwarding feature through the phone system when out of the office. Employees should check with their supervisor to see if they should use the call forwarding feature (or an out-of-office voicemail greeting) when planning to be out of the office.
- When out of the office, phone calls are generally forwarded to another employee or to a city-issued cell phone but may be forwarded elsewhere as needed at the discretion of the supervisor.
- Employees should consult the user prompts on their office telephone for instructions on how to forward calls or contact the human resources/risk manager or their designee for further assistance.
- Taking messages – If a caller is seeking a particular employee and that person is not available to answer their phone, inform the caller and ask if another employee may assist them, if appropriate.
- If the employee is not available to take the call, the answering employee should avoid providing unnecessary information to the caller. For example, state "I'm sorry; Jane is not available at this time." instead of "Jane is down in the lunchroom right now." The employee taking the call should offer to take a message or offer to transfer the call to the employee's voicemail. Allow the caller to choose the method of message delivery.
- Messages should include the information listed below. It is important for employees to take good notes and give messages to other employees promptly, in order to provide quick and accurate customer service:
 - Name of the person who the message is for, date, and time;
 - Name or initials of the employee taking the message;
 - Name of the caller's business/organization, if needed;
 - Telephone and other contact information where the caller can be reached;
 - Consider asking for the best time to return a call;
 - Purpose of the call/message/request;
 - Action requested by the caller, such as wants to see you, please return call, will call back, etc.; and
 - Repeat the information back to the caller to check accuracy.

- Returning telephone calls – Employees should make every effort to check their voicemail often and return calls as quickly as possible, within one business day or sooner. If an employee is on shift work, voicemail greetings should convey the fact that calls will be returned when the employee returns to work. Greeting messages should specify the date the employee expects to return to work.
 - Voicemail greeting – When setting up the primary greeting, employees should include their name and department. Greetings should be polite and concise. For example:

“Hello, you have reached the voicemail of John Doe, City of Winchester Public Works Department. I am unable to take your call at this time. At the tone, please leave your name, phone number, and a brief message, and I will return your call as soon as possible. Thank you.”
 - Greetings can be enhanced to allow the caller to speak to a live person if they do not wish to leave a message.
3. Email Usage and Etiquette Policy – Email messages from both internal and external customers should be answered as quickly as possible (by the end of the business day if practical). Employees are expected to respond to emails in a concise and professional manner. Following are email etiquette tips to follow when initiating or responding to an email:
- Be concise and to the point – Do not make an email longer than it needs to be. Keep the important information as close to the top of the email message as possible. Remember that reading an email is harder than reading printed communications and a long email can be very discouraging to read.
 - Respond promptly – Customers generally send an email because they wish to receive a quick response. As noted above, every effort should be made to reply to a routine request within the same business day but no later than the end of the next business day. If the request is complicated (non-routine), reply to the email, stating that you have received their email and you expect to get back to them within a certain time frame.
 - If you are out of the office for an extended period, place an out-of-office message on your email stating the date that you will respond to them, as well as an alternative person to call or email.
 - Use proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation – This is very important because improper spelling, grammar, and punctuation gives a poor impression of the city. Moreover, it is important for conveying the message properly. Emails with no full stops or commas are difficult to read and can sometimes even change the meaning of the text. Avoid using acronyms or city jargon as the reader may be unfamiliar. Use the spell check option for longer email messages.
 - Use proper structure and layout – Since reading from a screen is more difficult than reading from paper, structure, and layout are very important for email messages. Use short paragraphs and blank lines between each paragraph. When making points, consider numbering them. Do not use a background font or design that detracts from your message.
 - Do not overuse the high priority option, or it will lose its function when you really need it. Moreover, even if an email has high priority, your message will come across as slightly aggressive if you flag it as “high priority.”

Email Etiquette Tips

- Do not write in CAPITALS – IF YOU WRITE IN CAPITALS IT SEEMS AS IF YOU ARE SHOUTING. This can be annoying and may trigger an unwanted response from the recipient.
 - Don't leave out the message thread – When you reply to an email, it is more often than not best to include the original email in your reply; in other words click “Reply,” instead of “New Mail.” If a person receives many emails they obviously cannot remember each individual email. This means that a “threadless email” will not provide enough information and they will have to spend a frustratingly long time to find out the context of the email. Leaving the thread might take a fraction longer in download time, but it will save the recipient the time and frustration of looking for the related emails in their inbox or deleted folder.
 - Read the email before you send it – Reading your email from the recipient's point of view will help you send a more effective message and avoid misunderstandings and inappropriate comments.
 - Do not overuse “Reply to All” – Only use “Reply to All” if you really need your message to be seen by each person who received the original message.
 - Take care with abbreviations and emoticons – Try not to use abbreviations such as BTW (by the way) and LOL (laughing out loud). The recipient might not be aware of the meanings of the abbreviations and in business emails these are generally not appropriate. The same goes for emoticons, such as the smiley :). If you are not sure whether your recipient knows what it means, it is better not to use it.
 - Take care when requesting delivery and read receipts – If you decide it is necessary to request a delivery and read receipt, be advised that doing so could annoy your recipient before they have even read your message. Besides, it often does not work since the recipient could have blocked that function. If you want to know whether an email was received it may be better to ask the recipient to let you know if it was received.
 - Do not ask to recall a message – Chances are that your message has already been delivered and read. It is better just to send an email to say that you have made a mistake. This will look much more honest than trying to recall a message.
 - Use a meaningful subject – Try to use a subject that is meaningful to the recipient as well as yourself.
 - Avoid long sentences – Try to keep your sentences to a maximum of 15-20 words. Email is meant to be a quick medium and requires a different kind of writing than letters. Also take care not to send emails that are too long; chances are that the recipient may not want to or have the time to read it.
 - Keep your language gender neutral – Avoid using sexist language, such as “The user should add a signature by configuring his email program.” Apart from using him or her, you can also use the neutral gender, such as “The user should add a signature by configuring the email program.”
4. Translation and Interpretation Services – At times, employees may need the services of a translator or an interpreter to communicate with a customer. Employees are encouraged to seek guidance from supervisors.

Responding to Complaints and Angry Customers

1. Tips for Handling Complaints Effectively.

- Be patient – Do not interrupt the customer. Give the customer ample time to explain the issue. Project an air of interest, concern, and genuine desire to help the customer.
- Be understanding – Do not be judgmental. Customers want empathy. Let them know you understand by summarizing their concerns. The following statements demonstrate that you understand their concern:

“Let me see if I understand this....” -or- “You are feeling _____ because _____.” Speak calmly and slowly - this should help relax the customer and allow you to address the facts, not cater to the emotions. Speaking calmly and slowly will also help you to stay calm and focused.
- Sincerely apologize for the inconvenience - Even if you sense that the problem is not the fault of your department or the city and clearly not your fault, apologize to the customer for the inconvenience they have experienced. This is not admitting guilt or patronizing the person, but rather will communicate sympathy, understanding, and a willingness to assist the customer.
- Identify the problem – Based on the information the person communicates to you, restate the problem/issue in a concise way to make sure that all of the points are covered completely and to ensure that you have understood them correctly.
- Identify solutions – Depending on the specifics of the particular conversation and your knowledge of the organization, a solution may involve taking notes, promising to research the matter and following up at a later date. If it is a person on the telephone, a potential solution might be to have the person come into the office to speak to another employee.
- Make an agreement – You and the customer should determine what is to be done, when it is to be done, and by whom.
- **Follow-up personally to make sure the customer has been satisfied.**

2. Dealing with Angry Customers – When handling or responding to complaints and/or angry customers, the employee should be patient while allowing the customer to vent a reasonable amount of stress, anger, and/or frustration. Employees must remain calm and respectful at all times. Make an effort not to take complaints personally, assign blame or judgment, and attempt to follow the tips for handling complaints effectively.

When customers are offensive on the telephone, avoid the following behaviors:

- Hastily and/or unnecessarily transferring a complaint caller to an unsuspecting coworker.
- Ignoring a complaint caller while they “talk themselves out and calm down.”
- Placing a complaint caller on hold without a periodic check-in.
- Responding to the complaint by saying, “Sorry, that’s not my job.”
- Placing the blame on another department or employee. It solves nothing and hurts morale.
- Hanging up as if by accident.

- Promising to call right back. If you need to return the call, give a reasonable time frame.
 - Also, do not promise that someone else will return the call. Promising to give the message to the appropriate person is acceptable.
3. When a Customer Uses Abusive Language – Employees are not expected to put up with verbally abusive customers who use obscene or threatening language. If a customer is verbally abusive, keep the following in mind:
- Explain that the conversation is not resolving the problem.
 - Politely end the conversation by saying, “I am not comfortable with the way you are talking to me. Perhaps it would be better if we discussed this at another time.”
 - Notify the appropriate person in your department or supervisor who may receive a visit or a phone call from this person and present the facts as you see them.

When a customer is offensive and remains irate or refuses to listen, politely inform the customer that nothing can be done unless the customer cooperates. Inform the customer that their behavior is not acceptable, and that no assistance can be provided unless the conduct changes appropriately. If the customer refuses to cooperate, the employee should calmly inform the customer that the employee is terminating the conversation due to the customer’s behavior. For example:

“I am sorry, sir or ma’am, but I cannot help you if you continue to shout at me. I am ending the conversation at this time.” -or- “I am sorry, sir or ma’am, but I cannot help you if you continue to use abusive language. I am ending the conversation at this time.”

If the customer makes threats or in any way indicates a danger to safety, inform the police department immediately. Also, inform a supervisor as soon as possible of the incident and how it was handled. Record the details of the incident and provide a copy to the appropriate supervisor for reference purposes.

Stress Management and Employee Assistance Program

It is normal for city employees to feel “stressed out” when attempting to provide effective customer service, especially to individuals who are overbearing or angry. For tips on how to recognize and deal with personal stress, consider the city’s Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Information on this program can be found in Section 7 of this Handbook.

Conclusion

The standards herein are designed to help ensure that contact with customers will always be handled in a professional, courteous manner, and that city employees are providing the best possible internal and external customer service. Employees are encouraged to submit suggestions for amending and improving this policy and associated guidelines. Any suggestions or comments should be directed to the human resources/risk manager.

HR FORM 01 – HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I certify that I have received a copy of the City of Winchester Employee Handbook and have read and fully understand its contents. I have had an opportunity to ask my supervisor or the management personnel any questions that I have about the policies contained in the Handbook. I understand that failure to comply with the city's policies and rules may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

I understand that the City of Winchester Employee Handbook is not a contract of employment, express or implied, and that my employment is at will, for no specific period of time and may be terminated at any time by me or the city. No officer, manager, or other representative has any authority to enter into any agreement, oral or written, for employment for any specified period of time, or to make any agreement contrary to the foregoing unless approved by action of the board of commissioners, in accordance with the city budget.

I understand that the City of Winchester is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As outlined in the City of Winchester Employee Handbook, it is the city's policy to afford equal employment opportunity to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth, pregnancy/childbirth-related medical conditions, genetic makeup, national origin, disability, veteran or family status, an individual's status as a smoker or nonsmoker, or any other status or condition protected by applicable local, state, or federal laws, except where a bona fide occupational qualification applies. I understand any questions about this policy should be directed to my supervisor or any supervisor or management staff.

I understand that the City of Winchester Employee Handbook is a guide for common working practices and procedures for the city and that the city reserves the right to revise, terminate, or add to the employee Handbook with or without notice at any time.

Employee Name

Employee Signature

Date

HR FORM 02 – BACKGROUND CHECK AND RELEASE

CONFIDENTIAL

- (1) I, _____, give the City of Winchester my permission to conduct a criminal background and/or credit check using my name and personal information.
- (2) I understand the information given and received will be kept confidential and may affect employment offer.
- (3) I understand that a criminal conviction does not automatically disqualify me from employment, since the nature of the offense, date, and the job for which I am applying is also considered. In addition, pursuant to KRS 335B.020, no person shall be disqualified from public employment solely because of a prior conviction of a crime, unless the crime for which convicted is one described in KRS 335B.010(4) or otherwise directly relates to the position of employment sought.

Full Name _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Other Former Names (list all) _____

Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY) ____/____/____ Social Security Number ____-____-____

Driver's License Number _____ Issuing State _____

Applicant Signature

Date

HR FORM 03 – DISCIPLINARY FORM

Employee _____ Date _____

Supervisor _____ Position _____

Type of Warning _____ Oral Warning _____ First Written Warning

_____ Second Written Warning _____ Suspension

_____ Demotion _____ Disciplinary Probation

Problem _____

Recommended Action to Correct Problem _____

My signature indicates that I have been informed of a problem with my performance on the job and that I understand the recommended action which should be taken to correct my behavior.

Employee Signature

Date

Supervisor Signature

Date

Mayor Signature

Date

Failure to correct this behavior will result in further progressive discipline up to and including termination of your employment.

HR FORM 04 – DRIVER’S LICENSE BACKGROUND CHECK

CONFIDENTIAL

Based on the fact that I will need to drive a city vehicle or my own vehicle on city business, I, _____, give the City of Winchester my permission to conduct a driver’s license background check using my name and personal information.

I understand the information given and received will be kept confidential and may affect employment offering. I also understand that if hired, a driver’s license background check will be done on a yearly basis for as long as driving a vehicle on city business is a part of my job duties.

Full Name _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Other Former Names (list all) _____

Birthday (MM/DD/YYYY)____/____/____

Social Security Number ____-____-____

Driver’s License Number_____

Issuing State _____

Applicant Signature

Date

HR FORM 05 – COMPLAINT FORM

Employee Information

Name _____ Job Title _____

Complaint Information

Date of Occurrence _____

Have you discussed this issue with your supervisor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date(s) of Discussion _____ Supervisor's Name _____

Issue of Complaint List specific problem(s)/issue(s).

For clarification of the issues of your complaint, please provide statements regarding the unfavorable employment condition which is the subject of this complaint. Describe what happened, when, where, how your employment has been affected, and indicate names of others involved. Attach any supporting documentation.

List of persons with knowledge of problem.

My signature indicates that the information contained on this form and attachments to this form are true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Employee Signature

Date

Mayor Signature

Date Received

HR FORM 06 – OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT REQUEST FOR EMPLOYEES OTHER THAN POLICE OFFICERS

Please be advised of my intention to engage in work outside the City of Winchester. The employer, type of work I will be doing, and the work hours are as follows:

(1) Prospective Employer _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

(2) Type of work that I will be doing. (Explain in detail.)

(3) Work schedule. Include the hours to be worked and the period of time you will be keeping the job. If you do not know, please state that below.

Hours _____

Days _____

Period of Employment _____

(4) I understand that my outside employment cannot conflict with my city work schedule or cause an actual or perceived conflict with my job duties as an employee of the city or my ethical responsibilities provided for in the Ethics Code. If I continue to maintain the outside employment without the approval of the city, I understand that I may be subject to disciplinary action.

(5) I am not presently involved in any job task or responsibility that may create a potential conflict of interest with the outside employer listed above. I agree that if in the future my job duties create an actual or perceived conflict, I will immediately notify the city and take steps to avoid any conflict of interest.

Printed Name _____

Job Title _____

Signature _____

Date _____

.....

I, _____, department director for _____ have reviewed the employee's job duties and assignments as to whether there is actual or perceived conflict.

Recommend ☐

Not Recommend ☐

Reason/Comment _____

Department Director _____ Date _____

.....

I have reviewed the employee's job duties and assignments as to whether there is actual or perceived conflict.

Recommend ☐

Not Recommend ☐

Reason/Comment _____

Mayor _____ Date _____

.....

HR FORM 07 – DRUG- AND ALCOHOL-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- (1) The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited within the workplace of the City of Winchester. (See Section 3 of the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy contained within the Handbook.)
- (2) An employee found to be abusing drugs, but not convicted of any drug statute violation, will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination or be required to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes. The employer is not required to pay for this rehabilitation.
- (3) Each employee is required as a condition of employment to abide by the terms of paragraph (1) of this acknowledgment and notify the employer of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction.
- (4) The city shall, within 30 days after receiving notice from an employee of a conviction pursuant to paragraph (3), take appropriate disciplinary action against such employee, up to and including termination.
- (5) The city also assures to make a good faith effort to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4).

CERTIFICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I, _____, do hereby certify that I have read and understand the City of Winchester's Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy and have received a copy of the aforementioned policy.

Employee Signature _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

(if employee is under 18 years of age)

Date _____

HR FORM 08 – EXPENSE REPORT

City of Winchester

Department _____

Account _____

Date _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Purpose of Travel _____

Day of Week	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	Total
Date of Travel								
Location								
Mode of Travel A-Air C-City P-Private O-Other								
Air Fare								\$0.00
Taxi/Bus								\$0.00
Car Rental								\$0.00
Private Auto Mileage								
at \$0.505 per mile	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tolls								\$0.00
Gas (if not private auto)								\$0.00
Parking								\$0.00
Hotel/Lodging								\$0.00
Breakfast								\$0.00
Lunch								\$0.00
Dinner								\$0.00
Gratuities not to exceed 15%								\$0.00
								\$0.00
								\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

	Less Cash Advance	
	Amount Due Traveler	\$0.00
	Amount Due City	\$0.00
	CIRCLE EXPENSES FOR WHICH RECEIPTS ARE NOT ATTACHED	

Employee Signature _____

Dept. Head Signature _____

City Manager Signature _____

HR FORM 09 – TRAVEL, MEETING, AND CONFERENCE REQUEST

This form is to be filled out prior to the event.

Name _____

Department Head Approval _____ City Manager Approval _____

Department _____ Meeting Title _____

Meeting Title _____ Meeting Date _____

Meeting Location _____

Reason for Attendance _____ Estimated Cost _____

Name of Spouse/Guest Attending _____

(City will not pay for spouse attendance.)

Does guest need to be registered for the conference? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Special Requirements _____

Hotel Request ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Will make own reservations. (Must have city manager approval on file.)

Hotel Other than Conference Hotel _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Choice of Accommodation ☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ King Bed ☐ Smoking ☐ Non-Smoking

Guaranteed to city credit card; guest to pay own charges. City will cover room and tax only; however, this must be requested at least five days prior to departure.

Travel Request

Flight Request ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Will make own reservations. (Must have city manager approval on file.)

From (city/time) _____ To (city/time) _____

Car Rental ☐ No ☐ Yes (Must have city manager approval on file.)

HR FORM 10 – AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT COMPENSATORY TIME OFF IN LIEU OF OVERTIME PAY FOR NONEXEMPT EMPLOYEES

I understand that, in accordance with the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act and KRS 337.285, nonexempt employees are allowed, with the approval of their department heads, to accrue compensatory time off work instead of receiving payment for overtime hours worked.

I voluntarily agree ahead of time to accept compensatory time off in lieu of overtime pay for any overtime hours which I will work from _____ (date) to _____ (date). I understand that I will accrue compensatory time at the rate of one-and-one-half hours for each overtime hour which will be worked during this period. I understand that this compensatory time will not be counted as time worked for purposes of computing overtime or additional compensatory time.

I further understand that compensatory time may be accrued up to 80 hours for all employees and must be used or paid in accordance with city policy and the law. I understand that I may use the compensatory time within a reasonable period after making the request to use if the use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. I also understand that the city can require me to take compensatory time off in order to manage the accrual limitation. In addition, I understand that it is the sole responsibility of this department to monitor and maintain records of my accrued and used compensatory time.

I understand that if I were to resign or be terminated from this position, transfer from this department, or be promoted into an exempt position within this department, this department is responsible for arranging for me to use or to be paid the balance of my accrued compensatory time at a rate of compensation not less than the average rate received by the employee during the last three years or the final regular rate received by the employee, whichever is higher.

I understand that this agreement is only in effect for the specific date or dates cited above.

Employee

Printed Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Department _____ Date _____

Department Head Approval

Printed Name _____ Title _____

Signature _____ Department _____ Date _____

HR FORM 11 – EDUCATION PAY INCENTIVE APPLICATION

I, _____, a full-time employee of the City of Winchester, Kentucky, do hereby agree and acknowledge the following:

1. The city has paid the expenses set out below.
2. The city is granted authority to withhold the total amount of education expense for tuition as stated below, provided I do not make a grade of “C” or higher, if for any reason I should withdraw before completion of the class, or if confirming grades are not received in the Personnel Office by the end of the month following the semester. The total amount to be repaid will be divided equally over a 12-month period unless the employee requests a shorter repayment period.
3. I understand that I cannot enroll in another class until the tuition I owe for this class is paid in full.
4. If termination of my employment should occur for any reason within one year of the enrollment date, I will repay the city for the total tuition expenses that have been repaid for me.

EXPENSE INFORMATION:

Class Name: _____

Class Number: _____

Beginning Date: _____

Tuition: _____

Signed: _____

Employee

Department

Date

Please sign and make a
copy for your file.

Original goes to the Personnel Office.

HR FORM 12 – EDUCATION PAY INCENTIVE ELIGIBILITY BY POSITION

All positions within the City of Winchester are eligible for an education incentive as follows:

Bachelor's Degree – 4 steps

Associate's Degree – 2 steps

Position	Training/Education/Certification	Step Pay Increase
City Manager	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified City Manager/Administrator ICMA Accreditation	4
	KCCMA Public Manager/Administrator Certification/Certificate	2
	Certified Project Manager – Two-Year Accreditation College/University or Equivalent	2
	Municipal bonds/public finance for managers/public sector budgeting/public accounting I & II/certified strategic planner/public sector leadership/intro to communications/public speaking/interpersonal communications/conflict management or resolution/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Admin. Assistant	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified Administrative Assistant I	2
	Certified Administrative Assistant II	2
	Typing I & II/MS Office basics/MS Office Suite/advanced/Excel I & II/Excel advanced/media relations/intro to communications/public speaking/interpersonal communications/Kentucky Open Records/Kentucky municipal law/Kentucky records retention/ other KLC annual training/certification/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Municipal Clerk	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified Kentucky Municipal Clerk – Three-Year Certification	4
	Certified Municipal Clerk – National Certification through IMCA	2
	Kentucky Master Municipal Clerk	2
	Master Municipal Clerk	2

	Library & Archive research/historic document research & preservation/Excel I & II/Excel advanced/interpersonal communications/Kentucky Open Records/Kentucky municipal law/Kentucky records retention/other KLC annual training/certification/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
HR/Purchasing	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified Human Resource Officer	4
	Kentucky Association Human Resources Managers Certification	2
	Certified Purchasing Officer Accreditation	2
	National Institute of Governmental Purchasing – NIGP Certification	4
	Commonwealth of Kentucky Insurance Certification	2
	Kentucky Certified Purchasing Officer Accreditation	2
	Leadership basics/HR for the public sector/KRS law for public employees; police & fire/Kentucky municipal law/federal wage & hour, overtime law/Kentucky employment law, rules & regulations/insurance administration & management/health insurance administrator/public sector purchasing/public sector budgeting/public sector finance/Library & Archives research/historic document research & preservation/Excel I & II/Excel advanced/Kentucky public procurement-PO/pro-service contracts PO/dealing with difficult employees/HR records retention/risk management in the workplace HR/risk management in purchasing/HR & PO/OSHA best management practices & federal law/public employer/employee rights/civil rights & liabilities/nondiscrimination in fair housing Title III & Title VI/legal aspects of public procurement/developing & managing RFPs/RFQs/public sector ethics/personnel management overview/personnel management advanced/basics to Kentucky workers' compensation law/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Finance director/ Treasurer/Deputy Treasurer	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified Financial Officer (National/International Certification)	4
	GFOA – Accounting Academy	2
	GFOA – Leadership Academy	2
	GFOA – Advanced Accounting	2
	Certified Public Accountant	

	Municipal bonds/public finance for managers/public sector budgeting/public accounting I & II/public sector finance 101 overview/public sector finance advanced 2/strategic budgeting/planning grants writing & administration/Kentucky business law/intro to communications/public speaking/interpersonal communications/conflict management or resolution/KRS law for public employees; police & fire/Kentucky municipal law/federal wage & hour, overtime law/Kentucky employment law, rules & regulations/insurance administration & management/public sector finance/Library & Archives research/historic document research & preservation/Excel I & II/Excel advanced/Kentucky public procurement/pro-service contracts/dealing with difficult employees/records retention/risk management in the workplace/risk management in purchasing/OSHA best management practices & federal law/public employer/employee rights/civil rights & liabilities/nondiscrimination fair housing Title III & Title VI/legal aspects of public procurement/developing & managing RFPs/RFQs/public sector ethics/personnel management overview/personnel management advanced/basics to Kentucky Workers' Compensation law/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Planning Director	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Certified Public Planner – AICP Exam/Certification (American Institute of Certified Planners)	4
	Historic Preservation Certification	2
	Strategic planning (certified)/community engagement/organization/public sector leadership/media relations/intro to communications/public speaking/interpersonal communications/conflict management or resolution/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky/historic preservation/historic, classical, or modern architecture/urban planning concepts/Kentucky municipal law/national or international planning concepts and/or theory	1
Admin. Assistant (Planning)	Same as Administrative Assistant with Additional Options as Stated Below.	
	Certified Event/Program Coordinator/Planner Accreditation	2
	Historic Preservation Certification	2
	Urban Planning Concepts	1
Building Inspector	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	Additional ICC (International Code Council) Certifications/Accreditations	2

	International Building Code Certification/Accreditation/Trainings	2
	Public Health Trainings/Certifications/Accreditations	2
	Historic preservation/historic, classical, or modern architecture/urban planning concepts/Kentucky municipal law/Kentucky public health code/national or international planning concepts and/or theory/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Engineering	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	AIA – American Institute of Engineer/Architecture Certification/Accreditation	4
	Certified Project Manager	2
	International Building Code Certification/Accreditation/Trainings	2
	State/National Arborist Certification/Accreditation	2
	KYDOW Stormwater Management Certification/Accreditation	2
	Federal EPA National Certification/Accreditation	2
	Public Health Training/Certification/Accreditation	2
	Historic preservation/historic, classical, or modern architecture/urban planning concepts/Kentucky municipal law/Kentucky public health code/national or international planning concepts and/or theory/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	2
Code Enforcement/ Environ. Quality	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4
	State & National Property Maintenance Code Certification	2
	International Building Code Certification/Accreditation/Trainings	2
	State/National Arborist Certification/Accreditation	2
	KYDOW Stormwater Management Certification/Accreditation	2
	Federal EPA National Certification/Accreditation	2
	Public Health Training/Certification/Accreditation	2
	National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Floodplain Management Certification/Accreditation	2
	Historic preservation/historic, classical, or modern architecture/urban planning concepts/Kentucky municipal law/Kentucky public health code/national or international planning concepts and/or theory/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Main Street Manager/Director	Master's, PhD/Doctorate, or Other Post-Bachelor's Degree	4

	Certified Kentucky Main Street Director	4
	Kentucky Main Street Director Certification	2
	Certified Event/Program Coordinator/Planner Accreditation	2
	International Economic Development Council (IEDC) Certification	2
	Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management – Grant Administrator/Community Development	2
	American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Certification	2
	Historic Preservation Certificate	2
	Main Street America Leadership Development Certificate	2
	Main Street America Community Transformation Certificate	2
	Media relations/intro to communications/public speaking/interpersonal communications/historic, classical, or modern architecture/urban planning & design/Leadership Winchester/Leadership Kentucky	1
Public Works Operator	Military Experience (2+ years)	2
	Grade and Drain Level 1 and 2 Training	2
	Pesticide Training – Training and Testing for Categories 3, 5, & 6	2
	Chainsaw Safety Clinic	2
	Roadside Vegetation Management/Americans with Disabilities Act: Sidewalk Facilities for Public Rights-of-Way/Snow and Ice Removal	1
Admin. Assistant (Public Works)	Same as Administrative Assistant with Additional Options as Stated Below.	
	SkillPath Administrative Assistant Conference Track 1 or 2	2
	National Administrative Assistant Conference Track 1 or 2	2
	Pryor Management Skills for Secretaries, Support Staff, and Administrative Assistants Seminar	2
Certified Police Officers	Military Experience (2+ years)	3
	Criminal Justice Executive Graduate	3
	FBI Academy/SPI Graduate	3
	80-hour instructor certification (current as to program requirements)/80-hour investigations course/80-hour marksman certificate/SWAT certificate/Academy of Police Supervision graduate/EMT (current as to program requirements)/Kentucky Law Enforcement Council Police	1

	instructor/departmental technology specialist (certified by department head)/drug recognition expert/CAP law enforcement executive certificate/CAP intermediate law enforcement officer certificate/CAP advance law enforcement officer certificate/CLIME (three years)/CAP advanced investigation certificate/CAP law enforcement supervisor/ CAP law enforcement manager certificate/field training officer/car seat technician certification/marksman annual qualification	
Police Dispatchers	Military Experience (2+ years)	3
	Criminal Justice Executive Graduate	3
	CAP dispatcher supervisor certificate/CAP dispatcher director certificate/CAP dispatcher basic certificate/CAP dispatcher intermediate certificate/CAP dispatcher advance certificate/40-hour instructor course	2
Paramedic	Military Experience (2+ years)	3
	KBEMS EMS Educator I, II, and III	3
	KBEMS	
	Prehospital Trauma Life Support Certification	2
	Advanced Medical Life Support Certification	2
	Tactical Combat Casualty Care for Medical Personnel	2
	Rope Rescue Technician	2
	Confined Space Search and Rescue Tech Certification	2
	Advanced stroke life support provider and/or instructor certification/ PALS/PEARS provider and instructor/critical care endorsement/BLS; Heartsaver; First aid; CPR; and AED Instructor/ACLS Instructor	1
Fire	Military Experience (2+ years)	3
	IFSAC Instructor I and II	3
	Car Seat Installation Certificate	2
	NFPA Trench Rescue Technician Course	2
	NFPA Animal Rescue Technician Course	2
	NFPA Course on Operational Level Shoring	2
	NFPA and FEMA Compliant Structural Collapse Technician Certification	2
	FEMA Approved Technical Search Specialist Technician Certification	2
	KYEM Approved Ground Search and Rescue Course	2

	NFPA Swift Water Rescue Technician Course	2
	NFPA Ice Rescue Technician Course	2
	NFPA Vehicle Rescue Technician Course	2
	IFSAC pump operator driver certificate/IFSAC aerial ladder operator driver certificate/IFSAC fire officer I and II/NFA executive fire officer/NFA managing officer/IAAI or NAFI fire investigator/Kentucky fire inspector I and II/NFPA fire inspector I certification/SCBA repair technician and personnel respirator fit testing	1

HR FORM 13 – SICK LEAVE DONATION FORM

Employee Name _____

I authorize the city, under the outlined conditions in the Sick Leave Donation Policy in Section __ of the City of Winchester Employee Handbook, to transfer the following leave to the recipient's donated leave bank.

Donation To _____

Name of Recipient

Number of Leave Hours Donated _____

Employee Name Printed

Employee Signature

Date

****Return this form to the human resources****

Verification of Eligibility
(To be completed by the city clerk.)

Total leave available as of today.	
Total leave after donating vacation hours.	
Total approved donated leave.	

Transfer made for the following pay period. _____

HR/Risk

Date

HR FORM 14 – SICK LEAVE APPLICATION FORM

Employee Recipient Name _____

Amount of Leave Needed _____

Please provide a reason transferred leave is needed, including anticipated duration of the leave needed.
(If this is an amended request, provide reason for extension.)

Employee Signature

Date

****Return this form to the human resources****

Verification of Eligibility
(To be completed by the city clerk.)

Total leave available as of today.	
Total approved donated leave.	

Transfer made for the following pay period. _____

City Clerk Signature

Date

HR FORM 15 – FMLA LEAVE REQUEST

I, _____, request to be placed on the city's Family and Medical Leave of Absence in regard to the following:

Reason for Leave of Absence

- ☐ The birth of a child, or placement of a child with me for adoption or foster care.
- ☐ My own serious health condition.
- ☐ Because I need to care for my ☐ spouse ☐ child ☐ parent due to their own serious health condition.
- ☐ Because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- ☐ Because I am the ☐ spouse ☐ son ☐ daughter ☐ parent ☐ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Family and Medical Leave Start Date _____

Family and Medical Leave End Date _____

Request for Intermittent Family Medical Leave or reduced work schedule including duration. Cannot be used for birth of a child, placement of a child for adoption, or foster care.

I understand that I must first use all my personal, vacation, compensatory time, and accrued sick leave.

Employee Signature _____ Date _____

HR Manager Approval _____ Date _____

HR FORM 16 – FMLA MEDICAL UPDATE

For Completion by the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

Page 1 of 2

Employee Name _____

INSTRUCTIONS to the HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: The employee listed above is either your patient or is requesting continuation of leave under FMLA to care for your patient. Based on the attached original Medical Certification for FMLA please advise as to any changes since the last certification was filled out by you. Answer, fully and completely, all applicable changes. Your answer should be your best estimate based upon your medical knowledge, experience, and examination of the patient. Be as specific as you can; terms such as “lifetime,” “unknown,” or “indeterminate” may not be sufficient to determine FMLA coverage. Limit your responses to the condition for which the employee or employee’s family member is seeking continued leave. Please be sure to sign the form on the last page.

Provider’s Name and Business Address _____

Type of Practice/Medical Specialty _____

Telephone () _____ Fax () _____

CHANGES IN MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

Identify question number in the original certification with your response.

Signature of Health Care Provider

Date

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

If submitted, it is mandatory for employers to retain a copy of this disclosure in their records for three years. 29 U.S.C. § 2616; 29 CFR § 825.500. Persons are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The Department of Labor estimates that it will take an average of 20 minutes for respondents to complete this collection of information, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have any comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, send them to the Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Room S-3502, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210. **DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. RETURN TO THE PATIENT.**

HR FORM 17 – FMLA MEDICAL RELEASE RETURN TO WORK

(To be completed by health care provider.)

Page 1 of 2

Due Date of Form _____

Employee Name _____

Position _____

Department _____

NOTE TO THE EMPLOYEE: It is the responsibility of the employee to have their treating physician(s) complete this form. It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that the form is returned to the human resources/risk manager by _____.

Health Care Provider Instructions

Complete this section by marking the applicable statements, providing the requested information, and sign and date where indicated. You may provide comments on a separate sheet if you need additional space. Please review the attached list of essential job functions in answering the following questions.

1. Please review the attached list of essential job functions. Is the employee currently able to perform the essential functions of their job?

☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Yes, with restrictions and/or accommodations.

2. In reviewing the list of essential functions of the employee's job, list any medically necessary restrictions that the employee has in returning to active employment.

3. Are the medically necessary restrictions permanent or temporary? If temporary, please describe an anticipated time line for the employee to reach maximum medical improvement.

☐ Permanent ☐ Temporary

4. If the medical condition of the employee will change over time, please describe these changes as they relate the capability of the employee to perform the essential functions of their job.

5. Is there other information related to work that the city should be aware of that would assist the employee in a successful return to active employment?

Name of Health Care Provider _____

Specialty _____

Address _____

Health Care Provider Signature _____ Date _____

HR FORM 18 – ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY LEAVE NOTIFICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Department _____

Date of Leave _____ Approximate Date of Return _____

If leave is expected to extend beyond your paid leave, do you wish to continue your voluntary benefits?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, please list the benefit and amount below.

(Examples: FSA, Life Insurance, Family Health Insurance, and United Way Payroll Deductions)

Benefit	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

You will need to indicate how you would like to pay your premium(s) and or contributions below.

_____ Monthly _____ Quarterly _____ Annually

Payments are due as follows. _____

If payments are not made as indicated, you are subject to losing coverage and or benefit.

Written order attached? _____ Yes _____ No

NOTE: You are not required to provide written orders until you have been on leave more than 30 days. Once you have exceeded 30 days you will need to submit a copy of your orders to the city to ensure your eligibility under the Uniformed Services Employments and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA).

Employee Signature _____ Date _____

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____

City Manager Signature _____ Date _____

Office Use Only

Date Received _____ Copy to Payroll _____ Copy of Orders _____



**PERSONNEL
POLICY
SERVICES**

