

ARTICLE 19 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

County Proposal June 24 – Union TAs to CP dated June 24 on June 26

Section 19.1 – Grievance Defined -County Modifies May 9, 2023

The County and the Union recognize early settlement of grievances is essential to sound employee-employer relations. The parties seek to establish a mutually satisfactory method for the settlement of grievances of workers, the Union, or the County. In presenting a grievance, the aggrieved and/or his/her representative is assured freedom from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal.

a) **Definition -CCL**

A grievance is defined as an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of the provisions of this Memorandum of Agreement, Department Memoranda of Agreement and/or Understanding Merit System Rules, or other County ordinances, resolutions, Policy and/or Procedure Manuals, or alleged infringement of a worker's personal rights (i.e., discrimination, harassment) affecting the working conditions of the workers covered by this Agreement, except as excluded under Section 19.1(b)

b) **Matters Excluded From Consideration Under the Grievance Procedure**

1. Disciplinary actions taken under Section 708 of the County Charter.
2. Probationary release of workers.
3. Position classification.
4. Workload/Caseload.
5. Merit System Examinations.
6. Items requiring capital expenditure.

7. Article 2 – No Discrimination

~~7.8.~~ Items within the scope of representation and subject to the meet and confer process.

Section 19.2 – Grievance Presentation -CCL

Workers shall have the right to present their own grievance or do so through a representative of their own choice. Grievances may also be presented by a group of workers, by the Union, or by the County. No grievance settlement may be made in violation of an existing rule, ordinance, memorandum of agreement or memorandum of understanding, nor shall any settlement be made which affects the rights or conditions of

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Page 1 of 5

other workers represented by the Union without notification to and consultation with the Union.

The Union shall be provided copies of individual or group grievances and responses to same. Such grievances may not proceed beyond Step One without written concurrence of the Union.

The Union shall have the right to appear and be heard in all individual or group grievances at any step. Upon request by County, the Union shall appear and be heard in such grievances at any step.

Section 19.3 – Procedural Compliance -CCL

Union grievances shall comply with all foregoing provisions and procedures. The County shall not be required to reconsider a grievance previously settled with a worker if renewed by the Union, unless it is alleged that such grievance settlement is in violation of an existing rule, ordinance, memorandum of understanding, or memorandum of agreement.

Section 19.4 – Time Limits -CCL

Time limits may be extended or waived only by written agreement of the parties. If either party fails to comply with the grievance time limits, the grievance shall be settled in favor of the other party. If, as a result of such action the parties are unable to reach agreement or an appropriate remedy, the matter may be referred to an arbitrator as provided below and the arbitrator shall fashion an appropriate remedy.

Section 19.5 – Informal Grievance Step -CCL

It is agreed that workers will act promptly through an informal meeting with their immediate supervisor outside of the bargaining unit on any act, condition or circumstance which is causing worker dissatisfaction and to seek action to remove the cause of dissatisfaction before it serves as the basis for a formal grievance.

A meeting should take place whenever requested by either party to assist to clarify or resolve the grievance. The worker may be accompanied by his/her steward, Assistant Chief Steward or Chief Steward at the informal meeting.

Any resolution reached at the informal step must be in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, or other rule or ordinance and shall not set precedent.

Section 19.6 –Grievance

- a) **Step One** - Within twenty (20) working days of the occurrence or discovery of an alleged grievance, the grievance shall be presented in writing to the appointing authority. A copy of the grievance will be sent to Labor Relations and this copy

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Page 2 of 5

shall dictate time limits. The grievance form shall contain information which identifies:

1. The aggrieved;
2. The specific nature of the grievance;
3. The time or place of its occurrence;
4. The rule, law, regulation, or policy alleged to have been violated, improperly interpreted, applied or misapplied;
5. The consideration given or steps taken to secure informal resolution;
6. The corrective action desired; and
7. The name of any person or representative chosen by the worker to enter the grievance.

A decision shall be made in writing within twenty (20) working days of receipt of the grievance.

A copy of the decision shall be directed to the person identified in (7) above and grievant, or in the case of a group grievance, to the grievant listed first in (1) above. A copy shall be sent to the Union and this copy shall dictate time limits.

- b) **Step Three** - If the aggrieved is not satisfied with the Step ~~One~~Two decision, ~~he/she/they~~ may, within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the first step decision, present a written presentation to be directed to the County Executive's designated representative indicating the aggrieved wishes (1) the County Executive's designated representative to review and decide the merits of the case or whether (2) the aggrieved wishes the grievance to be referred to an impartial arbitrator. At this step, a meeting shall be held if requested by either party. The grievant may be accompanied by his/her Steward, or Assistant Chief Steward or Chief Steward. All parties meet and disclose the theory of the grievance and the theory of denial as well as the facts upon which these theories are based.
- c) **Pre-Arbitration Meeting (Stipulation and Arbitrator Selection)** – After a grievance has been moved to Step Two, the Union and County shall continue efforts at resolution. In addition, all parties will attempt to stipulate to all facts, disclose all pertinent information and agree on the question or questions to be submitted to an arbitrator.

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Page 3 of 5

Pre-Arbitration meetings shall be held monthly for each department/agency. By mutual agreement, pre-arbitration meetings may be scheduled more frequently. The Union shall be entitled to have released, for pre-arbitration meetings, the grievant, and in the case of a group grievance, no more than two (2) of the affected workers, and the appropriate Chief Steward, or Assistant Chief Steward in his/her absence, and the Steward.

Each grievance shall be specifically reviewed and discussed at a maximum of two pre-arbitration meetings. The parties may mutually agree to have additional meetings prior to arbitration. If a grievance remains unresolved after discussion, review, fact stipulations, information disclosure and determination of the questions or question to be submitted to the arbitrator, the parties will select an arbitrator from the panel in Section 19.6(d).

The parties will also decide if the grievance will be arbitrated on an expedited or regular arbitration basis.

d) **Arbitration**

For the term of this agreement the County and the Union have agreed to the following panel:

John Kagel
Paul Roose
Katherine Thomson
Monica Colondres

David Weinberg
Alexander Cohn
Luella Nelson

When the parties cannot reach mutual agreement regarding an arbitrator, they shall strike names from the above panel. The parties shall flip a coin to determine who strikes first. The parties will alternate the flipping of the coin.

No matter other than a grievance that is an alleged violation of a specific provision(s) as written and submitted in the formal grievance may be reviewed on the merits by an arbitrator. This memorandum of agreement shall be submitted as a joint exhibit. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to empower any arbitrator to change, modify or amend any of its provisions.

Members of this arbitration panel shall be requested to agree to render their decision within fifteen (15) working days of the hearing, receipt of the transcription or the briefs.

The parties may mutually agree to use an arbitrator not on the list or to add to, or modify the list. The arbitrator's compensation and expenses shall be borne equally

by the worker or the Union and the County. Decisions of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.

Section 19.7 – Expedited Arbitration -CCL

- a) The County and the Union, may upon mutual agreement of the specific case/or cases submit grievance disputes to expedited arbitration in the interest of obtaining a prompt disposition of the grievances brought by workers, the Union or the County.
- b) The expedited arbitration shall be conducted according to the following rules, and the arbitrators shall be required to agree to abide by them:
1. The County and the Union shall agree to schedule as many cases as can be reasonably presented within a normal work day.
 2. Prior to the arbitration, the parties must mutually agree to the question to be placed before the arbitrator or the case will not proceed through this process.
 3. It is the intent of this expedited arbitration procedure to not record these proceedings. It is agreed, however, that either party may request a stenographic record and transcripts and the party requesting the record shall bear the full cost of the reporter's fee and transcript. The other party shall not be entitled to a copy, unless the parties agree to share the costs.
 4. The parties shall be represented by staff advocates, unless otherwise mutually agreed. Staff advocates shall present their cases in accordance with standard rules of evidence and accepted arbitrable conduct.
 5. At the conclusion of the hearing, each party shall present an oral summation of its position. Post-hearing briefs shall not be submitted, unless otherwise mutually agreed.
 6. The arbitrator shall render his or her decision after each party has presented and summarized its case. The arbitrator shall confirm his/her decision in a written letter to each party.
 7. The arbitrator shall be paid a flat fee for each day of hearings, regardless of the number of cases presented during that day's hearing.

Section 19.8 – Arbitration Release Time -CCL

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Page 5 of 5

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