

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR JOINT SUBMISSION  
TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGARDING THE  
CLERICAL AND OFFICE SERVICES  
EMPLOYEE UNIT

THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING made and entered into this 8<sup>th</sup> day of  
December, 2015,

BY AND BETWEEN

Authorized Management Representative  
(hereinafter) referred to as "Management" of the  
County of Los Angeles (hereinafter referred to as  
"County")

AND

SEIU, Local 721, CTW, CLC (hereinafter referred  
to as "Union").

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ARTICLE 1      PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding to promote and provide for harmonious relations, cooperation and understanding between Management and the employees covered by this Memorandum; to provide an orderly and equitable means of resolving any misunderstandings or differences which may arise under this Memorandum of Understanding; and to set forth the full and entire understanding of the parties reached as a result of good faith negotiations regarding the wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment of the employees covered by this Memorandum, which understanding the parties intend jointly to submit and recommend for approval and implementation to the County's Board of Supervisors.

ARTICLE 2            RECOGNITIONSection 1.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Employee Relations Ordinance of the County of Los Angeles and applicable State law, Los Angeles County Employees Association, SEIU, Local 721, was certified on April 23, 1970 by County's Employee Relations Commission (Employee Relations Commission File No. R-74-69) as the majority representative of County Employees in the Clerical and Office Services Employee Representation Unit (hereinafter "Unit") previously found to be appropriate by said Employee Relations Commission. The Los Angeles County Employee Relations Commission adopted an Amendment of Certification on February 26, 2007 transferring representational responsibilities to SEIU, Local 721 for bargaining units formerly represented by SEIU Local 660 and SEIU Local 535. Management hereby recognizes SEIU, Local 721, as the certified majority representative of the employees in said Unit. The term "employee" or "employees" as used herein shall refer only to employees employed by County in said Unit in the employee classifications comprising said Unit as listed in the Salaries Article, as well as such classes as may be added hereafter by the Employee Relations Commission.

Section 2.            Exclusive Recognition

Management agrees that it shall recognize SEIU, Local 721, as the exclusive representative of the employees in said Unit when County rules, regulations or laws are amended and SEIU, Local 721, has shown it has met the requirements of any such new rules.

ARTICLE 3            IMPLEMENTATION

This Memorandum of Understanding constitutes a mutual recommendation to be jointly submitted to County's Board of Supervisors. It is agreed that this Memorandum of Understanding shall not be binding upon the parties unless and until said Board of Supervisors:

- A. Acts, by majority vote, formally to approve said Memorandum of Understanding;
- B. Enacts necessary amendments to all County ordinances, including the Los Angeles County Code, required to implement the full provisions hereof; and
- C. Acts to appropriate the necessary funds required to implement the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding which require funding.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Board of Supervisors fails to take all actions necessary to timely implement this Memorandum of Understanding, it is understood that the parties may mutually agree to implement appropriate provisions of this Memorandum which do not require specific approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Implementation shall be effective as of the date approved by the Board of Supervisors. If the parties do not mutually agree to implement appropriate provisions of this Memorandum not requiring approval by the Board of Supervisors, then negotiations shall resume upon the request of either party.

ARTICLE 4            AUTHORIZED AGENTS

For the purpose of administering the terms and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding:

- A.     Management's principal authorized agent shall be County's Chief Executive Officer, or his/her duly authorized representative [Address: 222 North Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90012; Telephone: (213) 974-2404], except where a particular Management representative is specifically designated in connection with the performance of a specific function or obligation set forth herein.
  
- B.     The SEIU, Local 721 principal authorized agent shall be the Executive Director or his /her duly authorized representative (Address: 1545 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, California 90017; Telephone: (213) 368-8660).

ARTICLE 5            OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT

The parties agree that subsequent to the execution of this Memorandum of Understanding and during the period of time said Memorandum is pending before the Board of Supervisors for action, neither SEIU, Local 721, nor Management, nor their authorized representatives, will appear before the Board of Supervisors or meet with members of the Board of Supervisors individually to advocate any amendment, addition or deletion to the terms and conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding. It is further understood that this Article shall not preclude the parties from appearing before the Board of Supervisors nor meeting with individual members of the Board of Supervisors to advocate or urge the adoption and approval of this Memorandum of Understanding in its entirety.



ARTICLE 6            NON-DISCRIMINATION

The parties mutually recognize and agree fully to protect the rights of all employees covered hereby to join and participate in the activities of SEIU, Local 721 and all other rights in the Employee Relations Ordinance and Government Code, Sections 3500 through 3511.

The provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be applied equally to all employees covered hereby without favor or discrimination because of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin, political or religious opinions or affiliations, or disability status or other factors not directly related to the successful performance of the job.

ARTICLE 7      TERM

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding shall commence on the date when the terms and conditions for its effectiveness, as set forth in Article 3, Implementation, are fully met, but in no event shall said Memorandum of Understanding become effective prior to 12:01 a.m. on October 1, 2015. This Memorandum of Understanding shall expire and otherwise be fully terminated at 12:00 midnight on September 30, 2018.

ARTICLE 8            RENEGOTIATION

In the event either party hereto desires to negotiate the provisions of a successor Memorandum of Understanding, such party shall serve upon the other its written request to commence negotiations as well as its initial written proposals for such successor Memorandum of Understanding, during the period of May 15 to May 31, 2018.

Negotiations shall begin no later than June 15, 2018. If full and entire agreement on the terms of a successor Memorandum of Understanding is not reached by July 31, 2018, an impasse shall be automatically declared on those issues which remain in dispute unless the parties mutually agree to continue negotiations.

ARTICLE 9            WORK RELEASE FOR NEGOTIATIONS

It is the intent of the parties to engage in good faith negotiations and endeavor to reach agreement on a successor Memorandum of Understanding.

The Chief Executive Office/Employee Relations Division will meet and consult with SEIU, Local 721 thirty (30) calendar days prior to the commencement of negotiations for the purpose of obtaining information to ensure the release of a reasonable number of departmental employee representatives to attend and participate in successor contract negotiations.

For employees working on an evening or night shift the Chief Executive Office/Employee Relations Division will coordinate temporary work schedule/shift changes with Departments subject to operational considerations to facilitate negotiations for a successor MOU.

The parties shall be guided by past bargaining practice and ERCOM decisional precedent in releasing employee representatives to attend contract negotiations.

SEIU, Local 721 shall provide a final list containing the names and departments for bargaining committee members (regular members and alternates) to the Chief Executive Office/Employee Relations Division at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of negotiations.

ARTICLE 10            COORDINATED BARGAINING

The parties agree that coordinated bargaining shall take place between the County and SEIU's Local 721 Bargaining Policy Committee. Such bargaining shall include general salary movement, employee benefits, term, and common language provisions. Common language provisions shall be included in the individual unit MOUs.

Individual unit tables will continue to bargain economic matters including special pay practices, bonuses, recruitment and retention adjustments, step increases, differentials, and other compensation unique to their MOU's. Individual unit tables will also continue to bargain operational issues such as transfers, caseloads, training and other matters which are unique to their MOU's

The parties agree that the Fringe Benefits MOU will continue to be bargained between the County and SEIU's Local 721 Bargaining Policy Committee.

ARTICLE 11      GRIEVANCE PROCEDURESection 1.      Purpose

The purpose of the grievance procedure is to provide a just and equitable method for the resolution of grievances without discrimination, coercion, restraint, or reprisal against any employee or employees who may submit or be involved in a grievance.

Section 2.      Definitions

1.      Wherever used the term "employee" means either employee or employees as appropriate.
  
2.      "Grievance" means a complaint by an employee concerning the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding or of rules and regulations governing personnel practices or working conditions, which complaint has not been resolved satisfactorily in an informal manner between an employee and his/her immediate supervisor.  
  
A group grievance is a common complaint by a number of employees within the department or a unit thereof.
  
3.      "Business Days" mean calendar days exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

Section 3.            Responsibilities

1. SEIU, Local 721, agrees to encourage an employee to discuss his/her complaint with his/her immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor will, upon request of an employee, discuss the employee's complaint with him/her at a mutually satisfactory time.
  
2. Departmental Management has the responsibility to:
  - A. Inform an employee of any limitation of the department's authority to fully resolve the grievance; and
  
  - B. Supply the employee with the necessary information to process his/her grievance to the proper agency or authority.
  
3. The Union agrees to encourage an employee, who files a formal written grievance, to state clearly and concisely the specific action(s) being grieved, the article(s) violated and the specific remedy requested. If the grievance is returned to the employee, Management will state in writing the reasons for the return. If the grievance was timely filed, new time limits will be established in accordance with Section 7, Level 1 of this grievance procedure.

Section 4.            Waivers and Time Limits

1. Failure by Management to reply to the employee's grievance within the time limits specified automatically grants to the employee the right to process the grievance to the next level.
2. Any level of review, or any time limits established in this procedure, may be waived or extended by mutual agreement confirmed in writing.
3. If an employee fails to appeal from one level to the next level within the time limits established in this grievance procedure, the grievance shall be considered settled on the basis of the last decision and the grievance shall not be subject to further appeal or reconsideration.
4. By mutual agreement, the grievance may revert to a prior level for reconsideration.

Section 5.            Employee Rights and Restrictions

1. The employee has the right to the assistance of a Union representative in the preparation of his/her written grievance, and to represent the employee in formal grievance meetings.

Subject to mutual agreement, considering the nature and complexity of the grievance, an employee may have additional representative(s).



2. The grievant may be required by either party to be present in meetings with Management for purposes of discussing the grievance.
3. A County employee selected as a representative in a grievance is required to obtain the permission of his/her immediate supervisor to absent him/herself from his/her duties to attend a grievance meeting. The employee representative shall give his/her supervisor reasonable advance notice to ensure that his/her absence will not unduly interfere with Departmental operations.
4. An employee may present his/her grievance to Management on County time. In scheduling the time, place and duration of any grievance meeting, both the employee and Management will give due consideration to the duties each has in the essential operations of the department. No employee shall lose his/her rights because of Management imposed limitations in scheduling meetings.

Section 6.            The Parties' Rights and Restrictions

1. Only a person selected by the employee and made known to Management prior to a scheduled formal grievance meeting shall have the right to represent or advocate as an employee's representative.
2. If the employee elects to be represented in a formal grievance meeting, the department may designate a Management representative to be present at such meeting.

3. Management shall notify SEIU, Local 721 of any grievance involving the terms and conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding.
4. The SEIU, Local 721, representative has the exclusive right to represent employees at any formal grievance meeting concerning a grievance that directly involves the interpretation or application of the specific terms and provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.
5. If the SEIU, Local 721 representative elects to attend any formal grievance meeting, he/she must inform departmental Management prior to such meeting. The department may also designate a Management representative to be present at such meeting.
6. Only County employees who have direct, first-hand knowledge of the event giving rise to the grievance may be called on as witnesses by the grievant. Such witnesses may attend formal grievance hearings on paid County time.

Section 7.            Procedures

Level 1.            Supervisor

- A. Within ten (10) business days from the occurrence of the matter on which a complaint is based, or within ten (10) business days from his/her knowledge of such occurrence, an employee shall file a formal written grievance. Three copies of the departmental grievance form shall be completed by the employee stating the nature

of the grievance and the remedy requested from his/her departmental Management. The employee shall submit two copies to his/her immediate supervisor and retain the third copy.

- B. Within ten (10) business days the immediate supervisor shall give his/her decision in writing to the employee on the original copy of the grievance and the reasons therefore.

Level 2.                    Middle Management

- A. Within ten (10) business days from his/her receipt of the supervisor's written decision and using the returned original copy of the grievance form, the employee may appeal to the appropriate level of Management as previously indicated by the employee's Department Head. The Department Head has the authority to waive the middle Management level if such a level is not appropriate because of the size of his/her department.

The middle Management representative shall discuss the grievance with the supervisor concerned and the employee before a decision is reached by him/her.

- B. Within ten (10) business days from receipt of the grievance, the middle Management representative shall give a written decision and the reasons therefore to the employee using the original copy of the grievance. Upon request, a copy of the decision will be given to the Union Representative.

Level 3.                    Department Head

- A.     Within ten (10) business days from his/her receipt of the decision resulting from the previous level, the employee may appeal to the Department Head using the original copy of the grievance.
- B.     Within ten (10) business days from the receipt of the employee's grievance, the Department Head or his/her designated representative who has not been involved in the grievance in prior levels shall make a thorough review of the grievance, meet with the parties involved and give a written decision and the reasons therefore to the employee and the Union representative. However, the Department Head or designate is not limited to denying a grievance for the reasons stated at any previous level in the procedure. Upon request, a copy of the decision will be given to the Union representative.
- C.     If the Department Head or his/her designated representative fails to give a decision within the specified time limit, the Union shall have the option of referring a grievance alleging a violation of the negotiated agreement between the parties to arbitration.
- D.     On matters that are not subject to arbitration pursuant to Section 8 hereafter, the written decision of the Department Head or his/her designated representative shall be final.

Section 8.            Arbitration

1.     Within thirty (30) business days from the receipt of the written decision of the Department Head, or his/her designated representative, SEIU, Local 721, may request that the grievance be submitted to arbitration as provided for hereinafter.
  
2.     Only those grievances which directly concern or involve the interpretation or application of the specific terms and provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding may be submitted to arbitration hereunder. In no event shall such arbitration extend to:
  - A.     The interpretation, application, merits or legality of any state or local law or ordinance, including specifically all ordinances adopted by County's Board of Supervisors; unless the arbitrator, in his/her discretion, finds it necessary to interpret or apply such state or local law in order to resolve the grievance which has been submitted to the arbitrator.
  
  - B.     The interpretation, application, merits, or legality of any or all of the County of Los Angeles Civil Service Rules, nor matters under the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission for which said Commission has established procedures or processes by which employees or employee organizations may appeal to, or request review by, said Civil Service Commission, including, but not limited to, discharges, reductions, and discrimination.

- C. The interpretation, application, merits or legality of the rules or regulations of the Department Head, the Chief Executive Office, or any other County Department, agency, or commission, unless the arbitrator, in his/her discretion, finds it necessary to interpret or apply such rules or regulations in order to resolve the grievance which has been submitted to the arbitrator.
  - D. Grievances on competent or better performance evaluations which do not meet the guidelines set forth at the Employee Relations Commission meeting of December 19, 1986. Management shall notify the Union within fifteen (15) business days prior to hearing if it intends to argue arbitrability. Both parties reserve the right to challenge a Commission decision in other forums.
3. In the event SEIU, Local 721 desires to request that a grievance, which meets the requirement of Paragraph 2 hereof, be submitted to arbitration, it shall within the time requirements set forth above send a written request to County's Employee Relations Commission, with a copy thereof simultaneously transmitted to County's Chief Executive Officer and to the County Department Head or Officer affected. The written request shall set forth the specific issue or issues still unresolved through the grievance procedure and which are to be submitted to arbitration.
4. The parties shall select a mutually acceptable arbitrator and request the Employee Relations Commission to appoint him/her pursuant to their applicable rules and regulations.

If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, they shall notify the Employee Relations Commission and request that they provide the parties with a list of five names from which the parties will attempt to mutually select an arbitrator. If the parties cannot mutually agree upon an arbitrator from the lists of arbitrators provided by the Employee Relations Commission, they will select an arbitrator through an alternate striking of names from that list. The party to strike the first name will be determined by chance.

5. Arbitration of a grievance hereunder shall be limited to the formal grievance as originally filed by the employee to the extent that said grievance has not been satisfactorily resolved. Arbitration hereunder shall be conducted in accordance with applicable rules and procedures adopted or specified by County's Employee Relations Commission, unless the parties hereto mutually agree to other rules or procedures for the conduct of such arbitration. The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be shared equally by the parties involved, it being understood and agreed that all other expenses including, but not limited to, fees for witnesses, transcripts, and similar costs incurred by the parties during such arbitration, will be the responsibility of the individual party involved.