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Updates and Revisions:

Appearance Policy 4.2 (Added Teamsters)	Revised 02.01.2025
Appendix I Use of City Owned Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging	Added 07.28.2025
Bereavement Leave Policy 9.11.....	Revised 10.01.2024
Bilingual Pay Policy 5.15.....	Added 10.01.2024
COVID 19 Donated Leave (former Appendix G).....	Repealed 12.16.2023
Employee Healthcare Coverage Policy 8.3	Revised 09.12.2024
Families First Coronavirus Response Act Policy	Repealed 12.16.2023
(former Appendix I)	
Federal Family and Medical Leave Policy 9.5A (Non-Represented, IAFF, Protec17 and Teamster Represented Employees).....	Revised 10.01.2024
Holidays Policy 9.3.....	Revised 05.01.2024
Inclement Weather Policy 5.16.....	Revised 12.16.2023
Leave of Absence without Pay Policy 9.12A (Non-Represented, IAFF and Protec17 Represented Employees	Revised 10.01.2024
Management and Professional Leave Policy 9.2.....	Added 05.01.2024

Military Leave Policy 9.9A (Non-Represented, IAFF
and Protec17 Represented) Revised 10.01.2024
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Use of City Vehicles Policy 10.1..... Revised 01.01.2023
Vacation Leave Policy 9.1 Revised 05.01.2024
Washington State Paid Family and Medical Leave Policy 9.6
(Non-Represented, IAFF, Protec17 and Teamster
Represented Employees – Added Teamsters 2/1/2025) Revised 02.01.2025

CHAPTER 1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Mount Vernon places the highest value on its employees. We wish to see satisfied workers, with the support necessary to achieve the objectives of each position. The City believes that clear, consistent personnel policies contribute to greater job satisfaction. All employees and new hires are required to be familiar with these policies. If questions arise, please begin with a discussion with your supervisor or department director or the Human Resources Director.

These personnel policies serve as a general guide to the City of Mount Vernon's current employment practices and procedures. As such, we hope they will help employees better understand how the City operates and what is expected of an employee, and what the employee can expect in return. These policies also describe the compensation, benefits and other support provided by the City.

1.2 INTENT OF POLICIES

This employee handbook sets out general guidelines for City of Mount Vernon personnel policies and practices, rather than statements of specific treatment in specific situations. These policies are not intended to be a contract, express or implied, or any type of promise or guarantee of specific treatment upon which an employee may rely, or a guarantee of employment for any specific duration. Although the City will often make decisions that are consistent with the handbook, there may be times when it is not appropriate to do so, and the City retains the right to deviate from the handbook as circumstances warrant.

It is the City's intent that implementation of these policies, or any future revisions of these policies, will not result in any changes to wages, benefits, or working conditions of represented employees that are determined in the bargaining process.

1.3 AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT

The City hopes that our employment relationship will be long and mutually beneficial. That being said, the City of Mount Vernon adheres to Washington's employment at-will doctrine, meaning that either you or the City may terminate the employment relationship at any time with or without cause, and with or without advance notice. The City of Mount Vernon does not promise or guarantee that you will be employed for any specified length of time.

Unless specific rights are granted in writing in employment contracts, collective bargaining agreements, or civil service rules, all employees of the City are considered at-will employees. No supervisor, department director or representative of the City, other than the Mayor in writing, has authority to enter into any agreement with an employee for employment for any specified period or duration, or to make any written or verbal commitments otherwise altering the at will nature of the employment relationship.

1.4 SCOPE OF POLICIES

These personnel policies apply to all City of Mount Vernon employees. In cases where these policies conflict with any Civil Service rules and regulations, provisions of a collective bargaining agreement, City ordinance or state or federal law, the terms of that law, rule or agreement prevail. In all other cases, these policies apply. In the event of the amendment of any ordinance, rule, or law incorporated in this document or upon which these provisions rely, these personnel policies shall be deemed amended in conformance with those changes.

1.5 CHANGING THE POLICIES

As the need arises, the Mayor may modify these policies. The Mayor may deviate from these policies in individual situations, particularly in an emergency, in order to achieve the primary mission of serving the City's citizens. Employees may request specific changes to these policies by submitting suggestions to their department head.

The City also retains the right to revise, supplement, or rescind these policies without prior notice to employees. However, union representatives for the respective bargaining units representing City employees will be given a copy of any proposed changes to these policies for a 14 day (two week) comment period prior to implementation.

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

Adjusted Hire Date: Date that will be used for step increases and leave accrual adjustments. The 1st day of the month hired will be the adjusted hire date for employees hired on the 1st through the 15th of any month. The 1st day of the following month hired will be the adjusted hire date for employees hired after the 15th of any month.

Appointing Authority: The person empowered with authority to appoint and/or remove employees from City positions, or persons delegated by such appointing authority to perform duties which legally may be delegated. The City of Mount Vernon's appointing authority is the Mayor.

At-will Employee: Unless specific rights are granted to an employee in an employment contract, a collective bargaining agreement, or civil service rules, an employee of the City who may resign at any time, or who may be terminated at any time, with or without cause and with or without notice.

City: The City of Mount Vernon.

City Business: Includes work or job duties directly arising out of a work assignment or work duties that directly benefit the City and its operations.

City Facility: Any building that is owned or leased by the City. Except as otherwise provided herein, the term does not include City parks, parking lots, sidewalks, or streets.

Class/Classification: Systematic arrangement of job titles into categories according to positions sharing similar job functions and/or responsibilities. A representative sample of the City's classification system includes classifications such as Management, Technical/Professional, and Skilled Trades.

COBRA Rights: Federal law which permits employees who resign or are terminated from City employment to continue eligible group medical coverage at their personal expense for a specified period of time determined by federal law.

Days: References to "days" in these policies shall mean calendar days unless otherwise stated.

Department Director or Department Head: An employee responsible for directing one or more City departments or divisions.

Emergency: A circumstance that, if not immediately addressed, may cause injury or damage to persons or property, or an unforeseen set of circumstances warranting a deviation from normal procedures to address it.

Employee Assistance Program: A program designed to assist City employees and

their family members to solve problems through professional counseling.

Exempt Employee: An employee who does not receive overtime pay for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week as provided in the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) because the employee works in a bona fide executive, administrative, professional or other exempt capacity covered by the FLSA and Washington Minimum Wage Act.

Exigent/Emergency Circumstances: Circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that entry (or other relevant prompt action) was necessary to prevent physical harm to the officers or other persons, the destruction of relevant evidence, the escape of a suspect, or some other consequence improperly frustrating legitimate law enforcement efforts.

General Notification: Notification on employee bulletin boards or through an employee newsletter, email or similar form of notification.

Good Driving Record: Established by WCIA point system.

Immediate Family: Includes the following: spouse; registered domestic partner; parent; child; brother or sister; mother or father-in-law; son or daughter-in-law; grandparent; grandchild; or any relative who lives in the employee's home. An individual is considered a relative whether related by blood, marriage or adoption.

Non-Exempt Employee: An employee who receives overtime pay for hours worked beyond forty (40) hours in a standard work week in accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and Washington Minimum Wage Act. The amount of overtime pay is one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for actual hours worked, unless provided otherwise in a bargaining agreement.

Non-Public Area of a City Facility: An area which has been declared by the Mayor or department director in charge of the facility as not being open on a regular basis to members of the public.

Non-Represented Employee: An employee who is not a member of a bargaining unit and is not represented by a bargaining agent in matters of wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Other Part-time Employee: Other part-time employee includes seasonal, on-call, and other part-time employees that average less than 20 work hours per week.

Pro-rata Basis: The ratio between the number of hours in an employee's normal work schedule and forty (40) hours per week, as it applies to leaves and benefits.

Regular Full-Time Employee: An employee hired in a budgeted, authorized position, who has successfully completed a trial period as defined in these policies and who

regularly works a minimum of forty (40) hours a week on a regular year-round schedule.

Regular Part-Time Employee: An employee hired in a budgeted, authorized position, who has successfully completed a trial period as defined in these policies and who regularly works less than forty (40), but at least twenty (20) hours a week on a regular year-round schedule, unless provided otherwise in a bargaining agreement.

Represented Employee: An employee who is a member of a bargaining unit and represented by a bargaining agent in matters of wages, benefits, and working conditions.

Trial Employee: An employee who has not yet completed a trial period in a regular position and who has not been granted regular employment status. Unless otherwise specified, when regular employees are referred to in these policies, the reference includes trial employees.

Weapon: Any object, instrument or incendiary device which is (1) designed in such a manner to inflict harm or injury to another person, or (2) used in a manner threatening harm or injury to another person (See Policy 10.5).

CHAPTER 3 EMPLOYMENT

3.1 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Mount Vernon is an equal opportunity employer. This means that the City does not discriminate in employment decisions or policies in violation of laws on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation (including gender identity), pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state and local law. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including hiring, placement, promotion, termination, reduction in force, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

Employees who believe that their protected class status was taken into account in any employment decision should complain immediately to the Director of Human Resources. If the employee believes the Director of Human Resources is involved in the discrimination, the employee should complain to either the Mayor or the City Attorney. Any complaints of unlawful discrimination will be investigated, and the City will take prompt, corrective action to remedy any complaints found to have merit.

3.2 GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR APPOINTMENT

The Mayor is the official authorized to appoint all City employees. Vacancies may be filled by re-employment, trial appointment, original appointment, promotion, demotion, transfer or reinstatement. Each vacancy should be anticipated sufficiently in advance of the need, to provide the involved department and Human Resources Department with ample time to complete the selection process. The appointing authority shall appoint only from among those persons who are confirmed by Human Resources as being eligible for the particular classification or position.

3.3 HIRING AND EMPLOYMENT

Individuals who want to be considered for employment with the City of Mount Vernon must complete application materials. Resumes may supplement, but not replace, the City of Mount Vernon official application. Applications will be accepted for open positions and will be considered only for that position. Applications must be received by Human Resources no later than the closing of City Hall on the published closing date for filing, except for electronically filed and mailed applications, which will be accepted if postmarked by the date of the deadline. A closing date may be extended by Human Resources. Applications, whether accepted or rejected, will not be returned. Applications will be maintained in City archives for at least three years. An applicant who changes his/her address or phone number is responsible for notifying Human Resources of the change.

The City of Mount Vernon relies up the accuracy of information contained in the employment application, as well as accuracy of other data provided throughout the hiring process and employment. Any misrepresentation, falsification, or material omission may result in exclusion of the individual from consideration for employment, or, if hired, termination of employment.

The Mayor has authority to authorize the expenditure of City funds for actual expenses incident to employee recruitment, including, but not limited to, actual moving expenses for newly hired employees not to exceed ten percent of the employee's first full year's salary. The employee may be required to execute an agreement obligating the employee to reimburse all or a portion of the moving expenses paid by the City if the employee fails to remain in the service of the City for a specified period of time.

3.4 NEW HIRE SELECTION

- A. **Vacant Position:** When a position becomes vacant, and prior to any posting or advertisement of the vacancy, the department director shall review the position, its job description and the need for such a position prior to any posting or advertisement of the vacancy. The position will be posted and/or advertised only upon approval of the Mayor.
- B. **Competitive Examination:** The Human Resources Director shall establish competitive examination and/or selection procedures for filling existing and anticipated vacant full-time positions. The City may contract with any agency or individual to prepare and/or administer examinations. Selection procedures for regular positions may be open and/or promotional, as may be determined by the Mayor, depending upon which approach will best serve the interests of the City with regard to a particular vacancy. The City may also conduct background procedures, to the extent allowed by law.
- C. **Operation of Motor Vehicles:** Applicants for positions involving the operation of a motor vehicle must be at least 18 years old and will be required to present a valid Washington State driver's license with any necessary endorsements. Driving records of all finalist applicants will be checked. Applicants with poor driving records, as determined by the City, may be disqualified for employment in positions requiring driving duties. City will use point system established by WCIA to determine if driving record is acceptable.
- D. **Applicant Reference Check:** Human Resources may arrange for or conduct a background investigation including contact of references, prior and present employers, and a review of the applicant's listed education and work history. If the results of this investigation uncover information concerning the applicant's qualifications, rating or eligibility, the application process may be terminated or an conditional offer, if already extended, may be withdrawn.

- E. **Conditional Offer:** As a condition of employment, after an offer of employment has been made and prior to commencement of employment, successful applicants may be required to undergo a medical/psychological examination to determine their physical and/or mental fitness to perform work in the position to which appointment is to be made. The purpose of the examination is to determine whether an individual is physically and mentally capable of performing the job and to ensure his/her physical and/or mental condition will not endanger the health, safety or well-being of other employees or the public. The offer of employment may be conditioned on the results of the examination.
- F. **Positions requiring CDL:** Those applicants being considered for positions which require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) must submit to and pass a pre-employment urine/drug screen and, upon employment, participate in the Substance Abuse Testing Program.
- G. **Applicant Disqualification:** A candidate may be disqualified from consideration if he/she: 1) is found to lack the requirements/qualifications established for the position; 2) is physically or mentally unable to perform the essential duties of the position, as determined by a competent medical authority (and the individual's disability cannot reasonably be accommodated in the workplace); 3) refuses to submit to a medical examination or complete medical history forms; 4) the medical exam reveals current abuse of alcohol or use of controlled substances; 5) has made a false or misleading statement on the application; 6) has used or attempted to use political pressure or bribery to secure advantage in the selection process; 7) has failed to submit the application correctly or within the prescribed time limit; 8) has directly or indirectly obtained information regarding the testing materials; 9) has taken part in the compilation and administration of the selection process for which he/she is an applicant; 10) is related to an employee working in the same division as the one in which the opening occurs and the provisions of this manual would act as a bar to such employment; or 11) is not considered the best qualified candidate for the position. This is a non-exclusive list of reasons a candidate may be disqualified.

3.5 PERS RETIREE APPLICANTS:

Retiring employees may be eligible to reapply for employment pursuant to RCW 41.40.010 and 41.40.037:

- A. **PERS Plan I Retirees:** may be rehired to work no more than 867 hours per calendar year without suffering the loss of benefits unless the following requirements are met.
- The hours worked in excess of 867 per calendar year may not exceed a cumulative total of 1900 hours for the lifetime of the retiree.
 - There shall be a minimum break in service of three (3) calendar months from the time the Plan 1 retiree retires and the time they are rehired.

- The City of Mount Vernon must document a justifiable need to rehire the retiree into the position.
- The retiree must be hired through the City's established hiring process
- The process, decisions, and results must be documented and retained in the event of an audit.

Once these requirements are met, the retiree may work no more than 1500 hours per calendar year without suffering a loss of benefits.

- B. Rehiring Plan II or Plan III Retirees:** Retirees under Plan 2 or 3 may work up to a maximum 867 hours in a calendar year in an eligible position defined in RCW 41.40.010 or as a law enforcement officer under RCW 41.26.030, providing there is a one month break in service between the date of retirement and date of rehire.

3.6 TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES

Department directors may use temporary employees in place of regular employees on vacation or other leave, to meet peak workload needs or temporarily fill a vacancy until a regular employee is hired. In an emergency, temporary employees may be hired without competitive recruitment or examination, although all hiring processes must comply with applicable state and federal laws.

Temporary employees may include, without limitation, the following:

- A. Grant-funded projects:** These employees will be involved in projects or activities that are funded by special grants for a specific time or activity.
- B. Miscellaneous or special projects:** Other significant and substantial bodies of work may be appropriate for temporary employees. These bodies of work should be either non-routine projects for the department or related to the initiation or cessation of a City function, project, or department.
- C. Seasonal positions:** Employees who work in positions that, due to the nature of the work, have predictable periods of inactivity exceeding one month.
- D. Temporary placement in regular positions:** Employees who fill regular positions due to a regular employee's temporary absence such as extended leave or during the recruitment and selection process for a regular position.
- E. Internships/Job Training Programs:** Employees hired to work in a position for the purpose of gaining practical experience related to his/her course of study in an undergraduate or graduate school program, or other type of formal job training program.

Temporary employees are employed on an "at will" basis and can be terminated at any time with or without cause and with or without notice. They are not entitled to any of the procedural protections contained in the Personnel Policies Manual. Temporary employees are paid on an hourly basis and are eligible to receive worker's

compensation, unemployment, and social security benefits; they are not eligible to receive any other City benefits (such as vacation, sick leave, health insurance, holidays). Temporary employees pay contributions to the Social Security system, as does the City on their behalf.

Temporary employees will normally not be placed on the State of Washington Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), although there are a few exceptions depending on PERS eligibility criteria. Temporary employees who fill positions requiring seventy (70) or more hours per month for five (5) or more months in a year over a two (2) year period or on an ongoing basis, will participate in PERS, which requires employer and employee contributions. It is the responsibility of the hiring supervisor to determine PERS eligibility at the time of hire, and to monitor all temporary/hourly positions so that PERS membership requirements are met. Human Resources are available to provide assistance in determining PERS eligibility.

3.7 INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS

- A. **Internships:** To assist in the development of future workforces, the City of Mount Vernon may choose to participate in internship programs. All internships must be approved by the Mayor and Department Head. Internships are generally unpaid positions, but in some cases the Mayor may approve compensation for the intern. Interns will be required to comply with City policies and procedures. Internships are stand-alone programs and do not entitle the student to a position at the conclusion of the internship period.
- B. **Volunteers:** The City of Mount Vernon may utilize volunteers to assist within the organization. All volunteer assignments will receive approval from the Department Head prior to commencement. Prior to assigning a volunteer to an assignment, please refer to the Volunteer Handbook and Policy (located on the I drive under Volunteer Programs). Volunteers may receive reimbursement for specific portions of their volunteer service, such as mileage reimbursement. A current employee may not volunteer in any capacity related to his/her paid position. While volunteers are unpaid, volunteers will be required to comply with City policies and procedures and will sign the Volunteer agreement

3.8 TRIAL SERVICE PERIOD

- A. **New Hires:** an employee's first six months of employment with the City of Mount Vernon will be considered a trial service period, unless otherwise stated in a collective bargaining agreement. This period is used to train and evaluate the employee's performance, conduct, observation of rules, and attendance. An employee may be released at any time during this trial period, with or without cause. Unless a collective bargaining agreement or Civil Service rules states otherwise, successful completion of the trial period will not alter the employee's at-will status.
- B. **Promotion/Job Change:** Employees who are promoted or receive a job change will serve a new six month trial service period. This trial service

period will be used to determine the employee's ability to perform the new responsibilities. Benefits will not be affected by this period.

If the City has been unable to adequately observe an employee's trial service period (for new employees or promotion/job changes), or if circumstances occur or change during this period that require the need for additional observation, the City may extend the trial service period for a specified length of time.

3.9 EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES (NEPOTISM)

To avoid the reality or appearance of improper influence, favor or conflict of interest, and for reasons relating to supervision, safety, and security, the City of Mount Vernon does not allow individuals related by blood, adoption, marriage, or registered domestic partnership to be employed where

- A. One would have the authority (or practical power) to supervise, appoint, remove or discipline the other; or make effective recommendations pertaining to the salary level, promotion, or transfer of the other;
- B. One party is responsible for auditing the work of the other;
- C. One party would handle confidential material that creates improper or inappropriate access to that material by the other;
- D. Other circumstances exist that might lead to potential conflict among the parties or conflict between the interest of one or both parties and the best interests of the City.

If two employees marry or become registered domestic partners, become related or begin sharing living quarters with one another, and in the City's judgment, the potential problems noted above exist or reasonably could exist, only one of the employees will be permitted to stay with the City, unless reasonable accommodation, as determined by the Mayor can be made to eliminate the potential problem. The decision as to which employee will remain with the City must be made by the two employees within thirty (30) calendar days of the date they marry become registered domestic partners, become related, or begin sharing living quarters with each other. If no decision is made during this time, the City reserves the right to terminate either employee.

3.10 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT

The City of Mount Vernon expects employees to place a priority on their employment and avoid other employment or activities that interfere with the employee's ability to do his/her job, meet his/her work schedule or otherwise create a conflict of interest. If an employee is gainfully employed outside of the City, the employee must advise in writing his/her department head of such employment. Outside employment must meet the following conditions:

- A. It shall in no way detract from the efficiency of the employee in the employee's work;
- B. It shall in no way bring discredit to City employment;
- C. It shall not take preference over extra duty required by City employment;
- D. If it involves employment with an agency to which the City contributes financial support, the employee must have approval of the Mayor and concurrence from the City Council;
- E. It shall not result in a benefit of any kind or nature to the employee as a result of his/her position with the City;
- F. It shall not result in any potential for overtime pay liability under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act or any other State, Federal or local laws or regulations.

3.11 EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL RECORDS & PRIVACY

- A. **Personnel File:** A personnel file is kept for each employee in Human Resources. An employee's personnel file contains: the employee's name; title and/or position held; job description; department to which the employee is assigned; salary; changes in employment status; all training received; performance evaluations; personnel actions affecting the employee, including discipline; accommodation and other pertinent information. Medical information about employees is contained in a separate confidential file. It is the employee's responsibility to notify the Human Resources Department of changes in personal information such as address, marital status, birth of a child, etc.
- B. **Employee Review:** Employees have the right to review their own files at a mutually convenient time with reasonable notice. An employee may request, through the Mayor, removal from his/her personnel file of information the employee believes to be irrelevant or erroneous. If the Mayor denies an employee's request to remove information, the employee may file a written rebuttal statement to be placed in his/her file. A former employee shall retain this right of rebuttal for two years after the last day of City employment.
- C. **Confidentiality:** Personnel files are kept confidential to the extent permitted by law (e.g. Chapter 42.56 RCW and RCW 42.56.230). Except as required by law, access will be limited to the employee, employee's immediate supervisor/department director, Human Resources, City Attorney, Mayor, and Mayor's designee. If an employee is subject to an investigation or other disciplinary matter, regardless of whether discipline results, such information may become available to the public under current interpretations of the public disclosure laws.

3.12 EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES

Only the Human Resources Department, Mayor or Department Directors or designees will provide employment references on current or former City employees. Other employees shall refer requests for references to the appropriate Department Director or Human Resources Department. References will be factual in nature and job related. All written references need to be filed with Human Resources.

The City has immunity under RCW 4.24.730 for certain disclosures of employee information to a prospective employer. Human Resources will endeavor to retain a written record of the identity of the person or entity to which information is disclosed under RCW 4.24.730 for a minimum of two years from the date of disclosure, and the employee or former employee shall have the right to inspect any such written record upon request; any such written record shall become part of the employee's personnel file.

3.13 EMPLOYEE AWARD PROGRAMS

- A. **Safety Award Programs:** The Safety Committee is authorized to develop and establish Safety Award Programs with incentive awards, subject to the approval of the Mayor. Award recipients shall be designated by the Department Directors and the Mayor. The goal of each safety program will be to reduce workplace injuries, time loss and to improve work practices.
- B. **Service Award Programs:** The City maintains a practice of providing employee recognition awards for years of service. The award may be given to an employee who has completed aggregate City service equal to 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years.

CHAPTER 4 GENERAL POLICIES & PRACTICES

4.1 EMPLOYEE CODE OF ETHICS

The City of Mount Vernon is committed to conducting its business with integrity underlying all relationships, including those with citizens, customers, suppliers, and communities, and among employees. The highest standards of ethical business conduct are required of City of Mount Vernon employees in performing their responsibilities.

Employees will not engage in conduct or activity that may raise questions as to the City's honesty, impartiality, or reputation, or otherwise cause embarrassment to the City. Employees will avoid any action, whether or not specifically prohibited in the personnel handbook, which might result in or reasonably be expected to create an appearance of:

Using public office or public position for private gain,
Giving preferential treatment to any person or entity, or
Adversely affecting the confidence of the public in the integrity of the City.

In addition, employees are expected to use basic tact and courtesy toward the public and fellow employees, abide by safety rules and safe work practices; comply with directions from supervisors; preserve and protect the City's equipment, grounds, facilities and resources; and provide orderly and cost efficient services to citizens. Unsatisfactory employee conduct will be handled through the disciplinary procedures.

All employees should feel comfortable taking appropriate action against illegal, improper or unethical behavior of others. If an employee is unsure of a specific action, it is his or her responsibility to ask questions and seek guidance. In addition, employees should report all unethical behavior to their managers or director or Human Resources Director. Retaliation against employees who raise genuine concerns will not be tolerated.

4.2 EMPLOYEE APPEARANCE

Employees shall wear appropriate apparel for their job assignment as determined by their position and department director. Employees are expected at all times to present a professional image to customers and the public. Acceptable personal appearance, like proper maintenance of work areas, is an ongoing requirement of employment with the City of Mount Vernon.

The Police and Fire Departments have specific grooming guidelines that supersede those stated below.

Dress for your Day:

The Dress for your Day policy allows for employees' discretion to select appropriate dress for the business of each workday. Employees are allowed to wear casual dress on workdays when they do not have meetings with residents, Councilmembers, or other outside third parties. When involved in any such meetings, employees are expected to wear business attire. While dress for your day is intended to be relaxed, the expectation is that employees will nevertheless wear clothing appropriate of an office environment. Traditional business attire is always acceptable.

Examples of Appropriate vs. Inappropriate Attire

*these are examples, not an exhaustive list

Appropriate	Inappropriate
Pants/Skirts/Dresses	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress pants, khakis, corduroys, or capris • Suits, dresses, skirts of appropriate length • Jeans (clean and free of rips, tears, fraying; not excessively tight or revealing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatpants • Exercise apparel or activewear • Beach wear • Shorts • Ripped pants of any kind • Very short skirts • Leggings unless paired with an appropriate length skirt or dress
Shirts/Tops/Jackets	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polo collar knit or golf shirts • Button down shirts • Sweaters, long or short sleeve • Short-sleeve blouses or shirts • Turtlenecks • Blazers or sport coats • Jackets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shirts with offensive writing or large logos • T-shirts or sweatshirts • Beachwear, tank tops • Exercise apparel or activewear • Crop tops, clothing showing midriiffs, halter tops
Shoes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loafers or tie shoes • Dress shoes, pumps (low to high heeled) • Dress sandals • Deck shoes, dress boots • Casual, open back shoes (mules, sling backs) • Athletic or walking shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flip flops or floppy sandals • Slippers

Certain employees may be required to meet special dress, grooming, and hygiene standards such as wearing uniforms or wearing clothing according to safety protocols, depending on the nature of their job.

Employees who come to work dressed inappropriately will be sent home and directed to return to work in proper attire. Under such circumstances, the employee will not be compensated for the time away from work.

Repeated violations may result in discipline.

Tattoos.

Tattoos may be visible during work hours with the exception that at no time while an employee is representing the City in any official capacity shall any offensive tattoo or body art be visible. Examples of offensive tattoos include but are not limited to those that exhibit or advocate discrimination; those that exhibit gang, supremacist, or extremist group affiliation; and those that depict or promote drug use, sexually explicit acts, or other obscene material.

Hair: Hair should be clean, combed, and neatly trimmed or arranged. Unkempt hair is not permitted. Sideburns, mustaches, and beards should be neatly trimmed. Hairstyles should be appropriately professional and should not present a distraction, or safety issue, in the performance of the employee's job function. City departments may have specific grooming guidelines that supersede those stated here, particularly where the job function involves direct contact with the public.

Religious accommodation: The City recognizes that certain forms of dress and adornment are required by the employee's religious beliefs or practices. The City complies fully with federal and state antidiscrimination laws that require employers such as the City to reasonably accommodate an employee's religious beliefs and practices. Please consult Human Resources if you believe a certain type or style of dress or adornment is required by your religious beliefs or practices.

4.3 EMPLOYEE ID BADGES

As a part of the City's strategy to ensure safety and security of our City employees and improve our services to citizens, effective July 1, 2018; all employees will be required to obtain and carry a City of Mount Vernon photo identification (ID) badge. ID badges shall be obtained through Human Resources on the first day of employment.

City of Mount Vernon employees that don't wear a uniform that identifies them as City employee must visibly display their ID badge on their person during working hours. Employees (wearing a uniform with a city logo) are encouraged, but not required, to display their ID badge on their person during working hours.

Contractors, Volunteers and Temporary Staff with assignments of two or more weeks will be issued a photo ID badge. Those with a shorter assignment may be issued a generic City ID badge without a photo. Contractors, Volunteers and Temporary Staff must wear ID badges at all times while on City premises. It will be the responsibility of the department manager or designee to collect the ID badges on the last day of the assignment.

If an employee's ID badge is lost or stolen, it should be reported immediately to Human Resources, and a replacement obtained. Upon separation from employment, employees are required to return their City ID. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure the employee's ID badge is returned for destruction before leaving the City.

4.4 DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

The City of Mount Vernon will not discriminate against qualified applicants or employees with a sensory, physical or mental disability. Applicants and employees with a disability must be able to perform the essential functions of the job with reasonable accommodation. Employees whose disabilities require workplace accommodation are asked to seek the assistance of the City in order to initiate a mutual discussion of the employee's and City's needs.

In order to provide a reasonable accommodation, the City may seek to communicate with you and your medical provider(s) to gain a better understanding of any limitations you possess, and given those limitations, the means by which an accommodation would allow you to perform the essential functions of a position. Such communication with your medical provider will occur only after you have given written consent.

4.5 ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the City of Mount Vernon's policy to foster and maintain a work environment that is free from unlawful harassment. Toward this end, the City will not tolerate unlawful harassment that is made by an employee toward any co-worker or member of the public. Employees are expected to show respect for each other and the public at all times, despite individual differences.

Unlawful harassment is defined as verbal or physical conduct that demeans or shows hostility or aversion toward another employee or members of the public due to their protected class status. Harassment typically includes slurs or demeaning comments to employees or members of the public relating to race, ethnic background, gender, religion, sexual orientation (including gender identity), age, disability, marital status, military status or any other legally protected status.

Any harassment of a fellow employee or member of the public will be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Examples of behaviors which are inappropriate and/or illegal include (but not limited to): *Negative or offensive comments; jokes; slang names or labels; talking about or calling attention to another employee's physical or mental capacity in a derogatory or offensive manner; displaying offensive pictures, cartoons or calendars on City property.*

(See Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure, Policy 4.6, for guidance on what to do if you or a coworker experience harassment.)

4.6 SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful. Sexual harassment is also inappropriate and offensive and will not be tolerated by the City of Mount Vernon. The City considers sexual harassment a serious offense, and an employee who harasses another employee or member of the public will be disciplined as in any other case of serious employee misconduct.

Examples of sexual harassment that the City prohibits its employees from engaging in include:

Vulgar or sexual comments, jokes, stories, and innuendo, Graphic or suggestive comments about someone's body or manner of dress, Gossip or questions about someone's sexual conduct or orientation, Vulgarity, leering, inappropriate touching and obscene or suggestive gestures, Display in the work place of sexually suggestive photographs, cartoons, graffiti and the like, Unwelcome and repeated flirtations, requests for dates, and the like, Unwelcome sexual advance by a supervisor or a coworker, Solicitation or coercion of sexual activity, dates, or the like by the threat (expressed or implied) of punishment, Intimidating, hostile, derogatory or otherwise offensive remarks that are directed at a person because of that person's sex, where the remarks cause discomfort or humiliation and interfere with the performance of the employees duties.

Employees engaging in sexual harassment are subject to discipline, up to and including termination. (See following Discrimination/Harassment Complaint Procedure, for guidance on what to do if you or your co-worker experience sexual harassment).

4.7 DISCRIMINATION/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

If at any time you believe you are being subject to harassment or discrimination, or if you become aware of such conduct being directed at someone else, you should promptly notify the Human Resources Director. If you believe the Human Resources Director is involved in the harassment, you should report the conduct to the Mayor. All reported incidents will be investigated under the following guidelines:

- A. The City will appoint or retain an investigator who can be neutral and fair to all parties involved in the investigation. The City may bring an outside investigator if there is no one employed by the City who can complete a fair and timely investigation.
- B. All complaints will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law, and will be disclosed only as necessary to allow the City to investigate and respond to the complaint. No one will be involved in the investigation or response except those with a need to know. Any special concerns about confidentiality will be addressed at the time they are raised.
- C. Any employee who is found to have violated this policy is subject to corrective action up to and including termination.

- D. The City will not permit retaliation against anyone who makes a complaint or who cooperates in the investigation of a complaint. Allegations of retaliation will be investigated separately, and if sustained, will be subject to corrective action up to and including termination.

4.8 WORKPLACE VIOLENCE POLICY

The City of Mount Vernon prohibits violence in the workplace and is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of all forms of violence, including verbal or physical threats, intimidation, and abusive statements or any conduct that reasonably causes other to feel intimidated or unsafe.

Employees, with the exception of Commissioned Officers, are prohibited from bringing weapons to work or on City premises. The City reserves the right to inspect employee's desks, offices, file cabinets, computers, City-owned vehicles or other similar work spaces, with or without notice, when the City has a legitimate belief of employee misconduct or when the City needs to obtain work-related materials in the employee's possession. Furthermore the City reserves the right to inspect with or without notice, all personal packages, automobiles and other items, that come on to City property when exigent/emergency circumstances exist and there would be harm if the City waited to obtain consent/warrant. *The definition of Exigent/Emergency Circumstances comprise of circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that entry (or other relevant prompt action) was necessary to prevent physical harm to the officers or other persons, the destruction of relevant evidence, the escape of a suspect, or some other consequence improperly frustrating legitimate law enforcement efforts.* The City of Mount Vernon encourages its employees to raise workplace concerns with their immediate supervisor. If the supervisor is unavailable, or if the complaints remain unresolved after talking with the supervisor, or if the nature of the complaint is such that the employee does not feel he or she can discuss the complaint with his or her supervisor, the employee may make a complaint to the Human Resources Director or to the Mayor. If the complaint involves an immediate threat to the employee's safety, the employee should alert the police and take any measures reasonably necessary to protect the employee.

The City of Mount Vernon prohibits the following:

- a. Any act or threat of violence made by an employee against another person's life, health, well-being, family or property.
- b. Any act or threat of violence, including but not limited to, intimidation, harassment, or coercion.
- c. Any act or threat of violence that endangers the safety of employees, clients, vendors, contractors or the general public.
- d. Any act or threat of violence made directly or indirectly by words, gestures or symbols.
- e. Use or possession of a weapon on the organization's premises, except for commissioned officers.

Upon receiving a complaint, the City will promptly investigate the matter to determine relevant facts and circumstances. Information about any complaint will be treated as confidentially as possible, consistent with proper investigation and responsive action. Based on its investigation, the City will take immediate and appropriate corrective action. Individuals who lodge good faith complaints or who participate in a City investigation will not be retaliated against or otherwise treated adversely for having done so.

4.9 DRUG FREE WORKPLACE POLICY - See Appendix A

4.10 NON-SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is prohibited in City Vehicles and Facilities, including City-owned buildings and offices or other facilities rented or leased by the City, including individual employee offices.

In accordance with RCW 70.160, smoking is prohibited within twenty-five (25) feet of any entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. The law also applies to any “place of employment,” which the law defines, in part, as “work areas” and any area which employees are required to pass through during the course of employment.

4.11 COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC MEDIA ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY - See Appendix B

4.12 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY - EMPLOYEE USE – See Appendix C

4.13 COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS – CELL PHONE POLICY – See Appendix D

4.14 SOLICITATIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS

Solicitations of funds, sales of tickets, unauthorized posting of notices, distribution of literature and solicitation of membership in organizations in City facilities or at City work locations during working time are prohibited unless authorized by the Mayor.

4.15 ACCEPTING GIFTS

- A. An employee shall not accept anything of value from the public for or because of any official act he or she has performed or will perform. In this connection, an employee shall not solicit or accept directly or indirectly any gift, gratuity, favor, entertainment, loan or any other thing of monetary value from members of the public with whom he or she has an official relationship, whether or not proffered for or because of any action or decision of the employee, such as from a person or organization that:
 - 1) Has or is seeking a permit, action approval, favorable recommendation, contractual or other business or financial relationship with the department;

- 2) Conducts operations or activities that are regulated by the department;
 - 3) Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of his/her official duties.
- B. The restrictions set forth do not apply to the following:
- 1) Obvious family or personal relationships, such as those between employee, his/her parents, children, or spouse, when the circumstances make it clear that those relationships rather than the business of the persons concerned are the motivating factors;
 - 2) The acceptance of food and refreshments of nominal value on infrequent occasions in the ordinary course of a luncheon, dinner meeting or other meeting, or on an inspection tour where an employee may be properly in attendance;
 - 3) The acceptance of loans from banks or other financial institutions on customary terms to finance proper and usual activities of employees, such as home mortgage loans;
 - 4) The acceptance of unsolicited advertising or promotional materials, such as pens, pencils, note pads, calendars and other items of nominal intrinsic value;
 - 5) The acceptance of an award for a meritorious public contribution or achievement given by a charitable, religious, professional, social, fraternal, nonprofit educational or recreational, public service or civic organization;
 - 6) Travel, food and lodging paid for by third parties for employees to conduct City business on City time, providing for business, administrative or educational purposes. The benefit of those gifts would go to the City who would normally pay for the travel, food and lodging, rather than to the specific employee who accepts those gifts.

4.16 POLITICAL ACTIVITY

City employees and elected officials shall not:

- A. During working hours knowingly solicit or receive, directly or indirectly, political contributions from anyone, including other employees of the City or from persons on the employment lists of the City;
- B. During working hours permit any office or place of work in the City to be used for the purpose of making or giving notice of any political assessment,

subscription or contribution. This section shall not apply to any public auditorium, park or place utilized for political rallies when governmental business is not being otherwise conducted therein;

- C. Use their position or authority in the City to further the political interest of any candidate;
- D. Participate in any political activity while in uniform.

4.17 SALES TO OR FROM CITY

City employees shall not sell or barter anything to the City or to a contractor supplying the City, or make any contract with the City or purchase anything from the City other than those things which the City offers generally to the public, such as, but not limited to, utility services, and then only on the same terms as are offered to the public, unless an invitation to submit sealed bids is published and the City accepts the sealed bid which is most advantageous to the City.

PROVIDED, that certain items which are of such a nature as to make it advantageous to limit public access to them and for which properly trained City employees are willing buyers may be sold by the City to such employees upon establishment of a fair market value by disinterested persons. Such items include, but are not limited to, such things as handguns within the Police Department.

PROVIDED FURTHER, that upon retirement of a police canine, as an alternative to destruction of the animal, a qualified police canine handler shall be entitled to retain such animal as a family pet so long as ownership and control is not transferred to any other party.

4.18 CITY PROPERTY / PERSONAL PROPERTY / PRIVACY LIMITATIONS

- A. **City Property/Personal Liability:** The City of Mount Vernon may furnish desks, closets and/or lockers for security of employee coats, purses and other personal possessions. The City does not, however, assume responsibility for any theft or damage to the personal belongings of employees.
- B. **City Property/Privacy Limitations:** Employees should have no expectation of privacy when using such or any other City property. The City regards desks, closets, lockers, work spaces, computers, file cabinets and files, city vehicles, furniture and other City property, as well as data, programs, communications, messages and other property created on, acquired by, developed for or located in any City facility or equipment, either in printed or digital format, as City property. The City reserves the right to search the same, including any personal possessions contained in them when it determines that there is a security, health, or other appropriate reason to do so. Such reasons may include, without limitation, the following: the need to locate City property; health or safety concerns; reasonable suspicion of

misconduct; termination of employee; or for other business-related purposes.

The City reserves the right to review the contents of any document or communication, created or stored on a City computer or phone system, including electronic mail, text messaging, voicemail, and google account information. Employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in these areas or in any other City work areas or when using City equipment.

- C. **City Equipment/Personal Use:** City equipment is provided at public expense to assist employees in carrying out official City business. While personal use of city equipment is prohibited, it is recognized that certain de minimis use may occur, e.g., the receipt of a personal phone call on a City-owned phone. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure the City of Mount Vernon incurs no cost as a result of any de minimis personal use of City equipment. Inappropriate or excessive use of City equipment for personal purposes may subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.
- D. **Removal of City Equipment:** No employee shall remove City property from the premises of the City or authorized City job sites except as required for the official and authorized performance of their duties. Department heads should take care to determine the City assets are not intentionally or inadvertently removed from City facilities.
- E. **Personal Property:** The City recognizes that employees may need or want to bring personal property to work. The City permits employees to do so but asks its employees to refrain from bringing unnecessary or inappropriate personal property to the workplace.

Any property that is not appropriate for the conduct of normal business, that may be disruptive to workflow, may pose a safety risk to employees or the public, or which violates the terms of any City policy may be considered unnecessary or inappropriate. It will be within the City's sole discretion to determine whether certain personal property is unnecessary or inappropriate.

The only personal property that an employee may be asked to use for City business is their personal vehicle. However, employees may choose to bring and use personal property in the performance of job duties. If personal property is used to perform job duties, employees must obtain written approval from a supervisor prior to its use and the property must comply with City standards.

It is the employee's responsibility to safeguard personal belongings. The City will not be liable for lost, damaged or stolen property of its employees and at no time will the City replace or reimburse an employee for personal property that an employee brings to the workplace. Employees are encouraged to exercise reasonable care to safeguard personal items brought to work. For

example, employees should not bring valuables to work and should not leave personal items where they might be damaged or stolen.

Improper or excessive use of personal property brought onto City property or worksites or during work hours (for example, the excessive or inappropriate use of personal cell phones for personal phone calls, text-messaging, imaging or videotaping), may also result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

4.19 LEGAL LIABILITY

Employees shall comply with the laws and regulations that relate to the performance of their duties and shall perform their duties as reasonable and prudent persons. In accordance with, and to the extent required by the provisions of RCW 4.96.041, the City shall provide and pay for the reasonably necessary expenses of legal defense to employees for actions filed against employees for acts or omissions found by the City to be within the scope of his or her official City duties.

CHAPTER 5 HOURS OF WORK AND COMPENSATION

5.1 ATTENDANCE

- A. **Attendance:** Punctual and consistent attendance is a condition of employment and is considered an essential function of the job for all City employees. All employees are expected to report to work as scheduled and perform productive work for the City during their scheduled work shifts. Each employee is responsible for maintaining an accurate record of his or her attendance.
- B. **Notification of Absence:** Employees unable to work or unable to report for work on time are to notify their supervisor as soon as there is a foreseeable need. Employees must notify and obtain permission from their supervisor for any early departures or absences during the work day. If an absence continues beyond one day, the employee is responsible for reporting in each day, unless other arrangements have been approved in advance by the employee's immediate supervisor or Human Resources. If the supervisor is unavailable, the employee may leave a message with the department director or his/her designated representative, stating the reason for being late or unable to report for work.
- C. **Absence without Authorization or Notification:** An employee who is absent without authorization or notification on a scheduled work day is subject to disciplinary action, including possible termination.
- D. **Abandonment:** An employee who is absent without notification or authorization for three (3) consecutive scheduled work days shall be considered as having abandoned his or her job and may be terminated. Employees may also be disciplined up to and including termination for failing to report to work without notice or with insufficient notice for non-medical reasons.

Absence due to Medical Condition: If an employee's regular attendance is impacted by a medical condition, the affected employee is expected to notify his or her supervisor or Department Director, or contact Human Resources, to discuss whether a temporary change in their work schedule is appropriate.

5.2 WORK DAYS AND WORK SCHEDULES

- A. **Standard Work Day & Schedule:** The standard work days for most employees, are Monday through Friday with an 8 hour work day, which includes two 15-minute paid rest periods. Employees will also receive a half or hour unpaid lunch period.

For most City employees, the designated work week is forty (40) hours within a seven (7) day work period, from Sunday (12:01 a.m.) to Saturday (midnight). Some departments or positions may use a different designated

workweek if specified in a union contract or working an alternative work schedule. The employee's department director will advise the employee regarding his/her specific work schedule and work hours. Part-time and temporary employees will work hours specified by respective department directors.

- B. **Alternative Schedule:** Consistent with the operational needs of the City and upon approval of the Mayor and the Human Resources Director, a department director may authorize alternative work schedule. Alternative work schedules are considered within an established period of work hours and may be implemented provided there is no appreciable disruption to department operations or service to the public during the established hours when City facilities are open to the public. The Mayor may terminate an alternative work schedule by department, division, or on an individual basis at any time.
- C. **Uniformed Personnel:** For uniformed fully commissioned police and fire suppression personnel, the City elects the 7(k) exemption under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The designated work periods for such personnel are set forth in the bargaining unit's collective bargaining agreement.

5.3 NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

City employee may be required, as a condition of employment, to work overtime when necessary as determined by his or her department director.

- A. **Overtime Compensation:** In accordance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), non-exempt employees, with the exception of uniformed personnel, will be paid at the rate of one and one half times the regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week. Vacation, sick leave and holidays taken in a pay period is not considered worked time for the purposes of calculating overtime. An employee should record his/her time to the nearest quarter hour. Employees that are mandated to work a holiday, will be allowed another day off in lieu of the holiday or will be paid overtime for hours worked on the holiday.

All overtime must be authorized in advance by the employee's department director. Working overtime hours without proper authorization may result in employee discipline, up to and including termination.

- B. **Breaks and Rest Periods:** Employees will typically receive a half hour to a one hour unpaid lunch period and will receive a 15-minute paid rest period for each four (4) hours worked. Employees cannot waive rest periods, combine the rest period with the lunch period, or use this time to shorten the work day, unless approved by the Department Head.
- C. **Compensatory Time:** Non-exempt employees entitled to overtime pay may request compensatory time off instead of cash payment. This is approved on a case-by-case basis by the employee's department head. The City is not

required to grant compensatory instead of overtime pay. If the compensatory time option is exercised, the employee is credited with one and one-half times the hours worked as overtime. Eligible employees accrue compensatory time in the same manner as overtime. The maximum accrual of compensatory time shall be forty (40) hours. Employees may use compensatory time within a reasonable time period after making a request to their department head, unless doing so would unduly disrupt City operations. Effective 1/1/2019, employees must use compensatory time prior to vacation time unless otherwise stated in a collective bargaining agreement.

Accrued compensatory time shall be compensated on an hour for hour basis when an employee terminates employment with the City.

Part-time employees will not accrue compensatory time unless working over 40 hours in a work week. All time worked over normal part-time schedule, shall be paid as hours worked.

5.4 EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Employees in exempt positions as defined by the Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA) are exempt from overtime payments for hours worked beyond forty (40) hours in a workweek. Such employees will be paid on a salary basis.

5.5 COMPENSATION FOR ONE DAY TRAVEL – NON EXEMPT

Employees shall be paid for time spent traveling to and from another city for a meeting/training/conference in the same day. Travel time from home to City job location is not compensable and is subtracted from travel time when employee goes from home directly to location of training/meeting. Travel will only be paid at the overtime rate if the employee has work more than 40 hours within the work week not to include holiday, sick or vacation leave.

5.6 COMPENSATION FOR OVERNIGHT TRAVEL – NON EXEMPT

When employees are required to travel away from their homes and the travel spans more than one workday, an employee shall be paid for actual time spent traveling if it occurs during regular work hours. Employees traveling on non-work days, shall be paid for the travel if it takes place during the employees regular work hours.

Travel time as a passenger on an airplane, train, boat, bus or automobile outside of regular working hours, whether on a regular work day or non-regular work day is not considered work time. The exception is that the driver's time is considered compensable whether driving during regular work hours or not.

Example:

An employee who regularly works from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday through Friday is assigned work out of town. On Friday, the employee works at his regular job location until 4 p.m. and then travels by bus to an out of town work

location, arriving at 6 p.m. The employee should be compensated for 8 hours on Friday, since with overnight travel only the travel time that overlaps the employee's regular working hours must be paid. On Saturday, the employee works from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an hour meal break. The employee then leaves to travel home by bus, arriving at 6 p.m. Since only the travel time that overlaps the employee's regular working hours on a non-working day must be paid, the employee is compensated for 8 hours of pay. (8 hours x 1.5)

5.7 CALL BACK

All employees are subject to call back in emergencies or as needed by the City to provide necessary services to the public. A refusal to respond to a call back without a reasonable excuse is grounds for disciplinary action, including possible termination. Employees called back to duty will be paid their appropriate rate of pay for hours worked, including overtime if applicable. Exempt employees that are mandated to return to work on their unscheduled day, will receive straight pay for hours worked.

5.8 PAYROLL RECORDS

The official payroll records are kept by the Finance Department. Each employee shall submit a payroll record to his or her supervisor on twice a month (or as designated by the Finance Department) basis, a signed or electronically signed work record, noting hours worked, leave taken and overtime worked. An employee's physical or electronic signature on his/her work record constitutes his/her verification that the time reported as worked or paid leave taken away from work was in accordance with the policies of the City and all time has been recorded accurately. All employee time must be reviewed and approved by the supervisor. The Mayor shall approve work records for department directors.

5.9 PAY-DAYS

The City will pay employees twice monthly (5th and 20th of the month). If a designated payday falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the paycheck for that payday will be ready for each employee on the preceding business day.

Any errors in an employee's pay shall be corrected on the next paycheck, provided said error(s) are reported by the employee to the supervisor and payroll at least ten (10) business days prior to issuance of the next check. This reporting deadline is designed to allow processing time and failure to meet it will not result in forfeiture of an employee's right to claim an adjustment at a later date. In some situations, additional time may be needed to investigate and verify the error.

5.10 PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

The City will withhold from the employee's paycheck those deductions required by law and any voluntary regular deductions authorized by the employee, applicable union contract, or statute. The City will deduct other contributions and/or payments upon written employee authorization, subject to approval by the Mayor and the capabilities of

the City's computer accounting system.

5.11 REPORTING COMPENSATION ISSUES

It is the City's policy to comply with the requirements of the FLSA and Washington Minimum Wage Act and any other laws regarding compensation and deductions.

If an employee believes that an improper deduction has been made to his or her paycheck, or believes that his or her pay has been calculated improperly, the employee should immediately report this information to his/her direct supervisor, Payroll, or the Finance Director.

Reports of improper deductions or improper payment will be promptly investigated. If the City determines that an improper deduction has occurred, the employee will be reimbursed for any improper deduction made or any correction in pay needed to remain consistent with the wage and hour provisions, or any governing provision of a union contract or other legal obligation. Similarly, improper payments to employees will also be subject to reimbursement by the employee. Errors made by employees on timecards shall be corrected the following pay period.

5.12 SALARY CLASSIFICATION AND GRADES

Each job title within the City of Mount Vernon is structured into a salary classification system. Each position is designated in a particular salary range as shown on the City's salary and wage schedule. The wage schedule for non-represented positions is approved annually by the City Council. The wage schedules for represented positions are covered by bargaining agreements and are approved by the City Council for the contractual period of the respective agreement. All wages are included in the City's annual budget.

5.13 JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND RECLASSIFICATION

Job descriptions are the official description of the representative duties, responsibilities and supervisory relationships of a classification. The job description sets forth the following information for each position: title; summary of nature of work; essential duties and responsibilities; minimum requirements and qualifications, including knowledge, skills and abilities essential for satisfactory performance in the position. The descriptions may also include a summary of the physical demands, work environment and key relationships an employee may encounter while performing the essential functions of the position. The Human Resources Department maintains a master set of all job descriptions.

The content of any job description is intended to be descriptive rather than restrictive and shall not to be construed to limit or modify the authority of the Mayor to take from, add to, eliminate entirely or otherwise change the job content of any position. To make the most efficient use of personnel, the City reserves the right to change an employee's work conditions and duties as originally assigned either on a temporary or permanent basis. Department directors may address the possible reclassification of positions by

making a request to the Human Resources Department. Human Resources will review the request and make a recommendation to the Mayor, whose decision is final and not subject to review or appeal.

5.14 EMPLOYEE PAY RATES

- A. **Initial Employment:** New employees will usually begin employment at the beginning wage rate for their salary range. However, a new employee may be employed at a higher rate than the beginning wages when the employee's experience, training or proven capability warrant, or when prevailing market conditions require a starting rate greater than the established beginning rate. Additionally, the Mayor may negotiate and authorize leave accrual rates and balances for a new employee above entry-level rates.
- B. **Anniversary Date & Step Increases:** After an employee has been certified as having successfully completed the appropriate trial period, his or her anniversary date of employment will be retroactive to the date first employed on a full-time basis. Non-represented employees may be eligible for a step increase on their anniversary date or an evaluation of successful performance and recommendation by the Department Head and approval of the Mayor. Step increases for non-represented employees are subject to the availability of budgeted funds.
- C. **Cost-of-living Adjustments:** The Mayor may propose, and the City Council may grant, an across-the-board pay adjustment (cost-of-living adjustment) raising the salaries of all positions by a specified amount within a defined group of classifications.
- D. **Promotions:** Any employee promoted to a position in a higher classification and salary range will normally receive the next highest available pay step in the new range. The Mayor may authorize advancement of an additional step in some situations if the next highest step increase results in a raise less than 5% above the employee's base pay prior to the promotion.
- E. **Reinstatement to Former Position:** When an employee is reinstated to a former position after an unsuccessful trial period from a promotion or transfer, the former salary step may be restored. When an employee who has been laid off is reinstated to the same classification occupied immediately prior to lay-off, the employee will usually return to the same salary step held at the time of lay-off.
- F. **Pay Rates - Interim Temporary Assignments:** An employee approved for temporary assignment by the Mayor for an interim period lasting in excess of twenty (20) work days to perform the duties of a higher classification may have his/her salary raised to the next higher rate (of employee's current wage rate) within the new assignment classification. Temporary assignments will not usually exceed six (6) months duration. Compensation for interim temporary assignments shall not result in a classification change.

G. **Payroll Change Notices:** An employee scheduled to receive an increase in pay will receive the increased pay effective the first day of the month if the anniversary date or payroll change date is prior to the 15th of the month in which the increase is due. If the step increase date or payroll change date is after the 15th, the pay increase will be effective the first day of the following month in which the increase is due. A payroll change notice with appropriate signatures must be received and processed by Human Resources before a pay increase will take effect.

H. **Time Reporting:** Employees will record and be paid to the nearest quarter hour.

5.15 BILINGUAL INCENTIVE PAY

In recognition of the extra responsibilities and duties associated with assisting residents and customers, regular part-time and regular full-time customer facing, non-represented employees shall receive a premium of four percent (4%) of their base wage when language skills have been confirmed by a qualified language specialist or such other method. Bilingual pay for employees having general listening and speaking proficiency in Spanish, Russian, Ukrainian or any other language as approved by the Mayor can qualify for this incentive. An additional one percent (1%) premium will be paid to those employees that demonstrate reading comprehension and writing proficiency as confirmed by a qualified language specialist and who's ability to read and write a foreign language would enhance the service of the City.

Only one 4% incentive will be provided to employees that speak multiple languages.

To request bilingual incentive pay the employee should notify Human Resources. Human Resources will facilitate the language testing utilizing a third party service. Upon confirmation that the employee's language skills meet the required proficiency, the employee will be awarded bilingual incentive pay beginning on the first of the following month. Employees must retest annually to maintain the incentive.

The City reserves the right to cancel this program at any time.

5.16 COMPENSATION UPON TERMINATION

When an employee's employment with the City of Mount Vernon is terminated, the employee will receive the following compensation on the next regularly scheduled payday:

- A. Regular wages for all hours worked up to the time of termination which have not already been paid;
- B. Any overtime, compensatory time or holiday pay due;
- C. Any unused vacation up to a maximum of 240 hours.

- D. Full-time and permanent part-time employees who have worked for the City for five consecutive years and leave the City in good standing shall receive 10% of their unused sick leave up to a maximum of 96 hours for full time employees and 48 hours for permanent part time employees.

5.17 INCLEMENT WEATHER, UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES, EMERGENCIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

The City is simultaneously an employer and an agency responsible for providing services during inclement weather, natural disasters, hazards, and other unforeseen workplace emergencies. The City has a responsibility to consider the safety of its employees, as well as continuation of critical services for residents, when conditions pose a danger or risk. If the City determines to remain open, employees must make every reasonable effort to report to work if they can do so without endangering their personal safety. The policy establishes guidelines for staffing, compensation, and City operations during such conditions.

Recognizing that not all situations can be handled through the application of normal procedures, this policy is designed to establish the authority and procedures necessary to modify the organizational structure and chain of command for the duration of the event operations.

It is the responsibility of the Mayor, with assistance from Department Directors, to establish the planning and necessary operating guidelines for the Department's response to unusual occurrences. When more than normal City Department resources are necessary to control or resolve a situation, the Mayor will direct that the City Emergency Management plan be activated and incident management will apply accordingly.

Any employee unable to report to work will be required to use paid leave in the form of accrued vacation, floating holiday, compensatory time or sick leave in this order, as applicable. If these forms of paid leave are unavailable, unpaid leave for the period of absence will be required. Employees are required to follow standard policies and procedures for reporting an absence, late arrival and/or early departure.

The Mayor, or designee, retains authority to determine when conditions warrant closure of City facilities and/or suspension of non-critical activities and services. Should a closure or suspension occur, it is the responsibility of the department director, or designee, to provide timely communication of the closure or suspension to their employees (see Notification below).

If City offices close early or open late, employees will receive regular pay for that day unless they were otherwise absent that day.

During periods of inclement weather, emergency or a natural disaster, employees may be assigned emergency services work schedules other than their normal work assignments, and/or may be assigned to perform duties other than their regular duties.

Departments are responsible for identifying critical activities and services, identifying

emergency essential employees, deciding to move from normal operations to emergency service operations and emergency work assignments, and communicating those plans to all department employees.

Notification:

To ensure timely internal emergency notification and warning, the City will include the following information in a secure emergency notification database: employee name, city provided cellular device number, city provided email address, and desk phone number. Employees may add personal emergency contact information to this database voluntarily. Any personal contact information and employee name will be removed from the database upon separation from the City.

Alerts to city employees will only be sent for emergency purposes. An emergency purpose is defined as imminent or perceived imminent threat to life safety of employees within City facilities, to City property, or to City operations. Personal wireless telephone numbers and personal email addresses will be held in the employee's personnel records and/or be considered part of their public employment related records which information is exempt from public inspection and copying pursuant to RCW 42.56.250(1)(d).

Departments will designate staff who will be trained to use EMAG (Enterprise Messaging Service) for notification purposes.

Departments are responsible for providing notification to employees that do not have City issued cellular phones and who do not wish to supply their personal phone number for notification purposes.

CHAPTER 6 TRAVEL AND PERSONAL EXPENSES

6.1 TRAVEL & EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

- A. Employees may be authorized to make certain expenses from personal funds for the benefit of the City, and to receive reimbursement therefore from the City. Reimbursement may only be made for funds expensed by the employee as an agent of the City for the City's purposes only, and specifically to defray necessary costs while performing the employee's official duties.
- B. In order to qualify for reimbursement, all expenses must be reasonable and prudent under the circumstances and directly related to the conduct of City business. All such expenses are expected to be moderate in amount and care must be taken to avoid unnecessary or excessively costly expenditures. To be reimbursable, expenditures must be specifically authorized. Unauthorized expenditures include but are not limited to:
 - 1) Liquor
 - 2) Expenses of a spouse, registered domestic partner, or other person not authorized to receive reimbursement.
- C. All overnight travel must be pre-approved by the Department Director and the Mayor. Requests for overnight travel shall be submitted using the City Travel Request Form.
- D. No claim for reimbursement shall be paid unless it is accompanied by a bona fide vendor's receipt. Such receipt should show a date, a description of the purchase, vendor identification and amount paid. Credit card receipts are preferable where possible. Ticket stubs will be accepted as adequate documentation for reimbursement.
- E. Reimbursement for the expenses related to business travel is acceptable under the following general guidelines:
 - 1) City vehicle. Expenses necessarily incurred for vehicle operation are acceptable such as gas, oil, tires and necessary repairs. Such expenditures should not be made, however, except where necessary and where access to the City shop is impractical;
 - 2) Personal vehicle. Expenses shall be reimbursed for mileage on a private vehicle at the rate then allowed by the Internal Revenue Service for business related travel. Such mileage shall be computed by reference to, and by use of the most direct public highway route to and from, the employee's destination;
 - 3) Rental Vehicle. The cost of vehicle rental will be handled on an exception basis and must be approved in writing by the Mayor;

- 4) Air travel. Advance arrangements for air travel shall be made whenever possible for direct payment by the City to the travel agent or airline in a normal course of payment of bills;
- 5) Other travel expenses. Miscellaneous travel costs, such as traveler's checks, bus, taxi, bridge or other tolls, parking, ferry, porter and the like (but not including maid service) are authorized by listing the same as provided on the reimbursement form. Payment of a reasonable amount for porter service and the like is considered to be a necessary payment as therefore reimbursable. A vendor's receipt will be required only when the single item costs of this type of expense exceeds ten dollars (\$10.00);

F. Meals

Ordinarily meals consumed within Skagit County are not reimbursable; however, the reasonable costs of meals consumed in Skagit County while conducting City business may be authorized for reimbursement where required as a reasonable business necessity and where such expense would not otherwise have been incurred. The reasonable cost of meals consumed while conducting City business outside Skagit County is authorized for reimbursement. **Reimbursement for actual meal costs must be documented by a vendor's receipt** (preferably a credit card receipt). The maximum reimbursable amount for meals, which may include gratuity of not to exceed eighteen percent (18%), shall be the amounts set forth in accordance with the OFM Account Division Standard Per Diem Rates (www.ofm.wa.gov/resources/travel/colormap.pdf). If traveling for less than a day than the individual meal reimbursement amounts established by the OFM will be used.

- 1) It is intended that meals shall only be eligible for reimbursement if they are reasonable and necessary under the circumstances. It is expected that menu selections and restaurant selections shall be moderate in price where possible. No charges relating to alcoholic beverages shall be allowed.
- 2) In addition to the foregoing, the Mayor and department heads with the express prior authorization of the Mayor are expressly authorized to receive reimbursement for the purchase of meals, within or outside of Skagit County, for dignitaries, officials or other persons where, in the judgment of the Mayor, it is in the best interests of the City to do so. The limitations set forth in this section shall apply to such reimbursements, except that meal costs shall be considered a guideline, and not a maximum limit.

G. Lodging

Lodging will be reimbursed by the City when employees are required to spend

the night away from their homes to attend to City business and it has been approved by the Department Director and Mayor. Lodging expenses must be considered reasonable for the area.

- H. Where it is found to be reasonably necessary to exceed the maximum reimbursable amounts set forth in this section, reimbursement may be made for expenses in excess of the maximum, but only upon the express written authorization of the Mayor which shall be attached to the request for reimbursement.

6.2 USE OF CITY CREDIT CARDS

Each department in the City has been assigned bank credit cards to be used whenever possible by employees for any authorized employee expenses as described in the previous section. Such use is preferable to the employee reimbursement process. All limitations, exclusions and restrictions set forth in section 6.1 apply to such credit card usage. All credit card receipts must be submitted in a timely manner and in accordance with the appropriate billing procedure to the Finance Department upon returning from authorized City business (See appendix F).

6.3 OUT-OF-STATE TRAVEL

All requests for out of state travel must be presented to the mayor on a Travel Request Form prior to travel for approval.

6.4 CLOTHING REIMBURSEMENT

Departments requiring field work, such as the Building and Engineering departments, may need work clothing suitable to such work. The City shall not purchase work clothing for employees, except for protective gear such as over-boots or overalls. Where an employee's personal clothing is damaged due to the hazards of field work, the Finance Director is authorized to reimburse the employee for the purchase of replacement clothing, PROVIDED, the replacement is reasonable. Employees will not receive reimbursement for unusually expensive clothing or clothing damaged because of a lack of protective gear. Any replaced articles shall be turned into the Finance Director, who may then donate the damaged articles to any appropriate charitable institution. PROVIDED, that employees of the fire department and police department shall be provided with clothing or receive an allowance consistent with the benefits provided to the unionized, uniformed employees of their department.

CHAPTER 7 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS AND TRAINING

7.1 PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

To achieve the City's goal to train, promote and retain the best qualified employee for every job, the City conducts periodic performance evaluations for all regular full and part-time positions. Employee reviews are normally conducted by department directors or direct supervisors prior to completion of a trial period and every March thereafter. The evaluation function is a communication tool to provide an opportunity for supervisors and employees to discuss, in a structured way, what each can do to make the workplace more productive.

The evaluation is part of an employee's personnel record and may be a factor in determining whether the employee has successfully completed his/her trial period, receives a wage increase, or is promoted, transferred, disciplined, demoted, laid off or terminated. In the event an employee is not performing up to the City's and the supervisor's standards, the supervisor may establish a Performance Development Plan with a time frame for improvement and identify the tools needed for improvement. If the employee fails to improve in the time frame specified, the employee may be subject to discipline, including but not limited to demotion, or termination. Evaluations may also be used during periods when additional information or training is being used to increase an employee's ability and performance.

Supervisors and employees are encouraged to meet regularly to discuss performance, whether in a formal or informal setting. Communication on performance will regularly occur informally. Annual performance evaluations help employees understand the nature and quality of their performance. These meetings provide a plan for improvement, the motivation to improve performance, if needed, and the development of goals for future performance. Prior to an internal transfer into a new position, an evaluation shall occur. Employees assuming duties in the new position will normally be evaluated within six (6) months of assuming the new duties.

Within five (5) working days of the receipt of a copy of a performance evaluation, the employee may express agreement or disagreement with the evaluation by writing in the comment section of the evaluation form and/or attaching an additional page. The employee's response will be reviewed by the employee's supervisor, department director, and the Mayor. The employee's written response will be attached to the evaluation form and included in the personnel file.

Employee performance evaluations are not subject to grievance procedures.

Trial Employee –. The standard trial period shall be six months, but may be extended by the Mayor, up to an additional six months. Successful completion of the trial period does not alter an employee's at will status, unless the provisions of a collective bargaining agreement state otherwise.

7.2 EDUCATION/TRAINING BENEFITS

- A. **Mandatory Education/Training:** Mandatory training shall be provided at no cost to the employee. In addition to salary, travel expenses and tuition costs will be paid by the City, if applicable (see travel authorization and reimbursement – Section 6.1).

- B. **Optional Education/Training:** The City will reimburse the cost of tuition and lab fees for an advanced education course which would improve the employee's service and effectiveness to the City and which is pre-approved by the department head providing the course is satisfactorily completed with a grade "C" or higher. Reimbursement shall be limited to one (1) class per quarter or semester as appropriate and does not include the cost of textbooks. All course work related activities shall be on other than City time, except when approved by the department head.

- C. **Seminars:** The City will reimburse the cost of tuition and fees for seminars and training sessions which advance an employee's service to the City when pre-approved by the department head and subject to budgetary considerations. Seminars and training sessions shall be scheduled to minimize interference with work schedules.

- D. **Certifications:** The City will reimburse the cost of certifications that are required for the employee's position. If the employee fails the certification exam, the employee will be responsible for any further exams.

CHAPTER 8 GENERAL BENEFITS

Department owner/sponsor: Human Resources

8.1 BENEFITS DISCLAIMER

The City of Mount Vernon strives to provide competitive and cost effective benefits for employees as part of the employee's total compensation package. Employees should recognize that the total cost to provide the benefits programs described herein is a significant supplement to each employee's pay, and should therefore be viewed as additional compensation, paid in various benefit forms (including vacation and holidays) on behalf of each employee.

This portion of the manual contains a very general description of the benefits to which you may be entitled as an employee of the City of Mount Vernon. Please understand that this general explanation is not intended to, and does not, provide you with all the details of these benefits. Therefore, this manual does not change or otherwise interpret the terms of the official plan documents. The City of Mount Vernon refers its employees to the official plan documents for a complete description of the available benefits, as well as any pre-requisites, limitations or conditions on the receipt of those benefits.

The City of Mount Vernon reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to amend, modify or terminate, in whole or in part, all or any component of its benefit program, with the exception of those benefits required by law or through a collective bargaining agreement.

8.2 SOCIAL SECURITY AND DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT

The City of Mount Vernon makes contributions on behalf of all eligible employees to the Social Security System, in addition to those contributions made by the employee through FICA payroll deductions.

All regular uniformed employees in the police and fire departments are covered by the Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' Retirement System (LEOFF). All regular full-time and eligible part-time non-uniformed employees are covered under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Eligibility, benefit levels and contribution rates for each system are determined by the State of Washington.

Employees intending to retire are asked to notify the department director of their intent at least three months prior to the date of the planned retirement.

8.3 EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

The City of Mount Vernon provides employees with various health and welfare benefits. Information and summaries explaining these benefit plans will be furnished to all eligible employees and beneficiaries on a timely and continuing basis. The City reserves the right to modify, amend, or terminate its health and welfare benefits as they apply to all current, former, and retired employees. In addition, the administrator of each benefit plan has

discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to interpret the terms of the City's plans.

The extent of coverage and percentages of premiums paid by the City are determined annually through the budget process for non-represented employees and through the collective bargaining process for represented employees.

Under the terms of this policy and the City's health plan, the City provides health coverage to full-time employees, their spouses or registered domestic partners, and their dependents up to age 26. The benefit levels, terms, and conditions of the City's health plan, including costs owed by eligible employees, are explained in separate plan documentation and/or applicable collective bargaining agreements.

To be enrolled in health coverage under the City's health and welfare plans, eligible employees must comply with all applicable application requirements and deadlines. Failure to do so may result in delayed or no enrollment until the next annual enrollment period or upon a qualified change in status.

1. Medical Coverage

Eligible employees may enroll themselves, their spouses or registered domestic partners, and their dependents in one of the City's medical insurance plans. For employees who enroll in the High Deductible Healthcare Plan (HDHP), the City will offer an HRA/VEBA plan based on the level of coverage. The City will contribute annually to an employee's HRA/VEBA \$1,500 for employee-only coverage and \$3,000 for employee plus one (or more) coverage. Employees hired mid-year will receive a prorated HRA/VEBA contribution based on months of insurance coverage remaining in the calendar year, beginning the first full calendar month following the date of hire. In addition, once an employee receives an explanation of benefits (EOB) from the insurance provider listing an out-of-pocket maximum of \$2,500 for individual coverage, or \$4,000 for employee plus one (or more) coverage, the City will pay the additional out of pocket expenses, up to the annual out of pocket maximum. The City will use a third-party administrator, selected at the discretion of the City, to administer the plan.

2. Dental and Vision Coverage

The City offers dental and vision insurance coverage to regular employees working 30 or more hours per week.

For dental coverage, the City will pay 100% of the premium for employees and 90% of the premiums for spouses/domestic partners and dependents.

For vision coverage, the City will pay 100% of the premiums for employees and 100% of the premiums for spouses/domestic partners and dependents.

3. Employee Classifications for Health Coverage

The City's health benefits policy is administered to ensure compliance with the employer shared-responsibility provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). For purposes of determining health coverage, the City utilizes the employee definitions listed below.

- A. Full-Time. An employee who is reasonably expected to work, on average, 30 or more hours per week. Full-time employees are eligible for health coverage and will be enrolled in health coverage as specified in the City's health plans. Generally, employees are enrolled on the first day of the month following the employee's date of hire. In no event will an employee be enrolled more than 90 days after the date of hire or rehire.

Full-time employees working 30 or more hours per week will receive the full value of the City's contribution towards health premiums for themselves, a spouse or registered domestic partner, and eligible dependents.

- B. Part-Time. An employee who is reasonably expected to work, on average, below 30 hours per week. Part-time employees are not eligible for health coverage.
- C. Variable-Hour. An employee who, due to the nature of the position held, works fluctuating hours that cannot be reasonably estimated upon hire. Variable-hour employees are subject to limitations on work performed, and may not exceed 1,560 hours annually, or 130 hours monthly, without prior approval from Human Resources.
- D. Seasonal. An employee hired or re-hired annually into a position for which the customary annual employment is six months or less, beginning in approximately the same season of each calendar year. Seasonal employees are subject to a mandatory annual break in service of approximately six continuous months, unless a shorter duration is authorized by Human Resources, and are not eligible for health coverage.
- E. Volunteers. Volunteers are not employees and are not eligible for health coverage.

4. Measurement and Administrative Periods

Employees not immediately offered coverage upon hire are subject to the ACA look-back measurement and stability periods, described as follows:

- A. Initial Administrative Period (Phase 1). Begins on date of hire, continues until end of month.
- B. Initial Measurement Period. Begins on first day of first full calendar month following date of hire and continues for 12 months.

- C. Initial Administrative Period (Phase 2). Begins on first day of first full calendar month following Initial Measurement Period and lasts for the entire month.
- D. Initial Stability Period. Begins on first day of first full calendar month following Phase 2 of Initial Administrative Period and continues for 12 months.
- E. Standard Measurement Period. December 1 through November 30.
- F. Standard Administrative Period. December 1 through December 31.
- G. Standard Stability Period. January 1 through December 31.

To determine the average hours worked by employees during the 12-month initial or standard measurement periods, the City will divide the employee's total hours worked during the period by 52. Hours of service during measurement periods include both actual paid hours of service and paid hours for vacation leave, sick leave, holiday leave, or other paid leave. Periods of unpaid leave, including unpaid FMLA or military leave, are excluded from the hours worked calculation and are not considered when determining the average.

Given the six-month employment limitation imposed on seasonal employees, along with a mandatory break in service of at least six months, seasonal employees are not eligible for health coverage.

8.4 DUAL INSURANCE INCENTIVE (Health Insurance Opt-Out)

1. Full-time employees may opt-out themselves, spouses/registered domestic partners, and/or dependents from the City's medical and dental plan(s) upon hire date or during open enrollment and receive **45% of the City's portion of the monthly premium**.
2. Part-time eligible employees may opt-out of healthcare only for themselves and receive 45% of the City's portion of the monthly premium.
3. A City employee married to another City employee may opt-out of healthcare for themselves only when they are covered under their spouse's healthcare plan. Dependents of married City employees may only be enrolled on one parent's healthcare plan and may not be opted-out by the other parent.
4. The amount of the opt-out incentive will be calculated using the City's Preferred Medical Plan (High Deductible Health Plan). To qualify for this incentive, employees will be required to sign a waiver certifying that they, their spouses/registered domestic partners, and their dependents are covered by other group health coverage (and not an individual plan). The waiver must be completed annually. If the employee, dependents, or spouses/registered domestic partners later lose their (non-City) group medical coverage, they are eligible to rejoin the City's medical plan the first (1st) day of the following calendar month. Removing employee coverage is limited to the first 20% of the workforce (determined by application/waiver receipt date). There is no limit on employees removing spouses/registered domestic partners or dependents from the medical plan. The City reserves the right to cancel this program at any time.

8.5 CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE COVERAGE

Upon separation, or commencement of a qualifying unpaid leave of absence, benefits will continue through the end of the month in which the employee separates or takes leave from service. Employees enrolled in the City's health plans are eligible for continuation of benefits, as provided by COBRA, at the employee's option and expense, and subject to any applicable COBRA surcharges or fees. When separating from service, or taking an unpaid leave of absence, employees should contact Human Resources if they have any questions about their entitlements and enrollment obligations.

8.6 LIFE INSURANCE

Regular full-time, non-represented employees are provided with a life insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy in the amount of \$50,000.

Non-represented Directors are provided with a life insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy in the amount of \$200,000; per IRS regulations, employees will be responsible for paying taxes on premiums for coverage that exceeds \$50,000.

Regular full-time represented employees are provided with a life insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment policy as negotiated through their respective collective bargaining agreements. For eligibility requirements please refer to the plan information documents.

8.7 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The City of Mount Vernon offers an employee assistance program (EAP) through AWC to provide support for employees who may experience problems which affect the physical, mental and/or spiritual well-being of the employee or employee's family. The EAP provides an opportunity for employees or their family members to confidentially discuss problems and concerns affecting them. EAP staff provides assistance in addressing problems involving family and/or personal relationships or relationship problems at work, legal and financial issues or problems involving alcohol or other types of substance abuse. The program is part of the City's dental insurance program and provides up to three meetings per event with a counselor to assess an employee's needs, develop a plan of action and/or provide the employee with problem-solving referrals. The cost of any referral to another resource is the responsibility of the employee or family dependent, although these costs may be covered by the employee's health insurance. Employees' use of the EAP is confidential to the extent Washington State Law allows, unless the employee or family member signs a release specifically authorizing the sharing of information.

8.8 CITY WELLNESS PROGRAM

Annually, the City Council appropriates funds to provide a variety of programs designed to measure, monitor and encourage healthy lifestyles. These programs may include health screenings, health club membership subsidies or various wellness training classes. The Wellness Coordinator is responsible for determining which programs may be

available in any given year subject to budgetary restraints.

8.9 WORKER'S COMPENSATION

All employees and volunteers are covered by the State of Washington's Worker's Compensation Program. This insurance covers employees and volunteers in the case of an on-the-job injury or job-related illness and is funded by an employee and employer-paid premium. For qualifying cases, the State Industrial Insurance will pay the employee for medical costs and a portion of lost compensation when certain criteria are met. Employees shall be paid accrued leave for the difference between regular pay and that paid by the State and the leave shall be charged to the appropriate bank. Employees that have an on-the-job injury will be paid from their leave banks until L&I time loss payments are issued. Once the time loss payment order is issued, the employees' leave banks will be reimbursed based on the L & I payment amount and that payment amount will be deducted from the employee's paycheck.

Employees must report all job-related accidents to their supervisors and complete a Safety Incident Report immediately. Employees seeking professional medical attention for job-related injuries or illnesses should inform their health care professional as to the nature of their injury/illness so the appropriate paperwork can be filled out to open a claim.

Time loss due to a work injury will be run concurrent with FMLA.

8.10 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

City employees may qualify for Washington State Unemployment Compensation after separation from City employment depending on the reason for separation and if certain qualifications are met. For more information on these benefits, contact your local Employment Security office and/ or web site.

CHAPTER 9 LEAVE BENEFITS

Department owner/sponsor: Human Resources

9.1 VACATION LEAVE (Revised May 1, 2024)

- A. All regular employees accrue vacation leave beginning with their first day of employment. Regular Non-Represented part-time employees whose appointment is for less than 40 hours/week, but at least 20 or more hours per week, accrue vacation leave on a pro-rata basis
- B. Regular Full-time Non-Represented FLSA Non-Exempt and Non-Represented FLSA Exempt (Professional Level) employees accrue vacation leave according to the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Monthly Accrual</u>	<u>Annual Accrual</u>
0 to 5 years	8 hours	96 hours
Over 5 years	10 hours	120 hours
Over 10 years	13.34 hours	160 hours
Over 15 years	15.34 hours	184 hours
Over 20 years	17.34 hours	208 hours

- C. Part-time Employees Accrual Schedule: Regular part-time employees shall accrue vacation leave according to the following schedule:
- Four (4) hours for employees regularly scheduled 20 to 29 hours per week; and
 - Six (6) hours for employees regularly scheduled 30 to 39 hours per week.
- D. Part-time Employees Vacation Cap: Earned vacation time may accumulate to a maximum of one year's accrual. Vacation accrued in excess of one year's accrual shall be forfeit.
- E. **Director Level Positions:** Directors upon hire will be credited with 40 hours of vacation leave to be used upon completion of probation. The monthly accrual schedule will be as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Monthly Accrual</u>	<u>Annual Accrual</u>
Upon Hire	15.34 hours	184 hours
Over 9 years	17.34 hours	208 hours

- F. New employees shall be credited with vacation benefits from the employee's adjusted date of employment for use following satisfactory completion of his/her probationary period.

- G. Generally, new employees will begin employment with no amount of leave in their bank. With the approval of the Mayor, new non-represented FLSA non-exempt and Professional level employees can be awarded up to forty (40) hours of vacation on their date of hire.
- H. Each department director is responsible for scheduling its employees' vacations without undue disruption of department operations. Vacations will be scheduled with due regard to the wishes and desires of the employee and with particular regard for the needs of the City.
- I. Full-time employees: Unexpended vacation leave at the end of the calendar year in excess of the amount accrued in a year plus 80 hours will be forfeited by the employee.
- J. Accrued but unused vacation will be paid out to an employee upon separation from employment to a maximum of two years' worth of accrual. Any remaining accrued vacation time must be used before separation or is forfeited. However, if a new employee is terminated due to unsatisfactory completion of a probationary period, all accrued vacation time is forfeited.

9.2 MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE (Added May 1, 2024)

- A. **Management Leave:** Director level FLSA Exempt employees, in recognition of responsibilities, duties and time commitments outside of the normal work hours, shall be entitled to an additional eighty (80) hours of management leave annually. Employees will receive 80 hours in January of each year. Any unused hours at the end of the year will be forfeited. A director who begins employment prior to July 1 of that year will receive the full 80 hours, the director that starts employment on or after July 1 will receive 40 hours. There will be no cashout of these hours upon separation from service.
- B. **Professional Leave:** Non-Director FLSA Exempt employees, in recognition of responsibilities, duties and time commitments outside of the normal work hours, shall be entitled to an additional forty (40) hours of professional leave annually. These hours will be awarded to the employee at the beginning of each year. Any unused hours at the end of the year will be forfeit. An employee who begins employment prior to July 1 of that year will receive the full 40 hours, the employee that starts employment on or after July 1 will receive 20 hours. There will be no cashout of these hours upon separation from service.

9.3 HOLIDAYS (revised May 1, 2024)

A. The following holidays will be granted to all regular and probationary non-represented employees and to part-time regular and probationary employees (on a pro-rata basis) when a holiday occurs on a regularly scheduled workday.

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Day Observed</u>
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Birthday	Third Monday of January
President's Day	Third Monday of February
Memorial Day.....	Last Monday of May
Juneteenth	June 19
Independence Day.....	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday of November
Day after Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Friday in November
Christmas Day	December 25
One Floating Holiday	Employee's choice with department head
(regular full-time staff only)	approval and subject to subsection (G) of this chapter

B. When a holiday falls on a Saturday, employees not scheduled to work Saturday shall observe the preceding Friday as the holiday.

C. When a holiday falls on a Sunday, employees not scheduled to work Sunday shall observe the following Monday as the holiday.

D. Employees receive holiday pay based on their regular schedule.

E. When a holiday falls on an employee's regular flex day off, the employee may take the preceding or following business day off.

F. Holidays observed during an employee's annual vacation or other paid leave period shall not be counted as leave time.

E. Part-time employees that are required to work on a holiday will receive two times (2X) their regular rate of pay for those hours worked.

G. A regular full-time employee shall be entitled to one (1) paid "floating" holiday per calendar year after completing six (6) months of continuous City service. This floating holiday must be used on or before December 31st or it shall be forfeited without pay.

H. Holiday hours will be counted toward eligibility for sick leave and vacation benefits.

I. Holiday hours will be counted towards time worked for overtime purposes.

- J. If an employee's religious beliefs require observance of a holiday not included in the basic holiday schedule, the employee may, with his/her department director's approval, take the day off using vacation, comp time, or a floating holiday. If the foregoing leaves are exhausted, an employee may request leave without pay.

9.4 SICK LEAVE

A. Eligibility

All City employees, whether regular, full time, part-time, temporary or seasonal are eligible to accrue sick leave in accordance with RCW 49.46.210 (Washington Paid Sick Leave Law- WPSL). Employees are guaranteed to accrue WPSL at the rate of 1 hour for every 40 hours worked. For accrual purposes, hours worked encompasses actual working time, and not paid or unpaid leave. To establish the minimum accrual rates and to meet the requirements of the law, sick leave will be administered in the following manner:

Regular full-time employees accrue paid sick leave at the rate of 8 hours per month of continuous employment. The maximum number of hours of sick leave that regular full time employees can roll over at year end is 960 hours. Employees do not accrue sick leave benefits during a leave without pay. Accrual will begin on employee's first day of work and will eligible for usage immediately. Accrued but unused sick leave will be cashed out upon separation in accordance with Chapter 5.15.

Regular part-time employees (working an average of twenty (20) hours or more per week – year round) accrue paid sick leave at the rate of 4 hours per month of continuous employment. The maximum number of hours of sick leave that permanent part time employee can roll over at year end is 480 hours. Employees do not accrue sick leave benefits during a leave without pay. Accrual will begin on employee's first day of work and will eligible for usage immediately. Accrued but unused sick leave will be cashed out upon separation in accordance with Chapter 5.15. If a regular part time employee separates employment and is not eligible for a cash-out, and is rehired within 12 months, the employee will receive their sick leave balance at time of separation limited to 40 hours.

Other part-time employees (temporary, seasonal employees and employees working less than 20 hours per week) accrue paid sick leave at the rate of 4 hours per month of continuous employment. The maximum number of hours of sick leave that a temporary or seasonal employee can roll over at year end is 40 hours. Other part-time employees do not accrue sick leave benefits during a leave without pay. On-call employees will receive 1 hour of sick leave for every 40 hours worked (Payroll will calculate this based on the hours entered for these employees). Accrual for temporary, seasonal and on-call employees will begin on employee's first day of work, although sick leave may not be used until the employee has been employed for 90 calendar days. Accrued but unused sick leave will not be cashed out upon separation from the City. If an employee separates from the City and is rehired within 12 months any sick leave balance that existed at the time of separation will be

reinstated, provided that if the rehire occurs in the following calendar year, reinstatement of the balance will be limited to 40 hours.

B. Accrued Sick Leave may be used for:

1. The employee's own illness, injury or health condition; to accommodate the need for medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a health condition; or preventive medical care.
2. The employee's care for a family member with illness, injury or health condition; care for family member who needs medical diagnosis, care or treatment; care for family member who needs preventive medical care. Family members include an employee's child (whether biological, adoptive, foster, step-child, or child for whom employee stands in loco parentis, is a legal guardian for, or is a de facto parent and regardless of age or dependency status); parent (whether biological, adoptive, in-law, de facto, step-parent, legal guardian or person who stood in loco parentis to employee when employee was a child); spouse or registered domestic partner; grandparent; grandchild; or sibling.
3. An absence due to closure of the City's offices by order of public official for any health-related reason, or where the employee's child's school or day care is closed for such a reason.
4. Absences covered by the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking leave policy (9.6).

C. Notification:

Where the need to use sick leave is foreseeable, employees should submit written notice of the need for leave to their supervisor at least 10 days in advance of the leave date(s); for unforeseeable leave, employees must contact their supervisor as soon as the need for leave becomes known. Absences for more than three (3) consecutive work days will require documentation (see Employee Verification for Authorized Use of Accrued Paid Sick Leave form). An employee will have up to 10 calendar days to provide the required documentation. Documentation need not disclose the nature of the medical condition causing the need for leave, and if a requirement to provide documentation will result in unreasonable burden or expense to the employee, an employee may advise their supervisor of this concern and the City will evaluate its request in light of the circumstances.

Supervisors must notify HR when an employee misses more than three (3) continuous work days due to a medical condition.

9.5 FAMILY LEAVE (Police Guild Represented Employees)

In accordance with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and all applicable state laws related to family and medical leave, including but not limited to the Washington Family Leave Law, Chapter 49.78 RCW, regular city employees may be eligible for an extended leave of absence for certain family or medical reasons.

A. Family Leave under Federal Law:

1. **Eligibility:** The FMLA provides up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave every twelve (12) months to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons. To be eligible, one must have worked for the City for at least twelve (12) months with a minimum of 1,250 hours worked during the previous twelve (12) month period.
2. **Reasons for Taking Leave:** Unpaid FMLA leave is granted for any of the following reasons:
 - a. To care for a **newborn child, newly adopted child, or foster care child**. Leave to care for a child following birth or placement for adoption or foster care must be concluded within 12 months of the birth or placement;
 - b. To care for a **spouse, child, or parent** who has a serious health condition; or
 - c. An **employee's own serious health condition** which leaves the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her position, or for an employee's disability due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or childbirth.

Serious Health Condition Defined: A serious health condition is defined as an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves:

- Any period of incapacity or treatment connected with inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
- A period of incapacity of more than three consecutive, full calendar days from work, school, or other regular daily activities that also involves continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a health care provider;
- A period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care;
- A period of incapacity or treatment due to a chronic serious health condition, for a permanent or long-term condition for which treatment may not be effective, or to receive multiple treatments for restorative surgery after an accident or injury or for a condition

that would likely result in an incapacity of more than three full, consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical treatment (e.g. chemotherapy for cancer or dialysis for kidney disease).

3. **Intermittent Leave:** Under some circumstances, FMLA leave may be taken intermittently (that is, taken in blocks of time, or by reducing the normal weekly or daily work schedule), if medically necessary because of a serious health condition. If FMLA leave is for birth, placement for adoption or foster care, use of intermittent leave is subject to the City's approval. An eligible employee may also take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis when necessary because of a qualifying exigency arising from a family member's military service.
4. **Maintenance of Health Benefits:** The City will maintain group health insurance coverage for employees and their dependents while the employee is on FMLA as if the employee had continued to work. Arrangements will be made for employees to pay their share of health insurance premiums while on leave. In some instances, the employer may recover premiums it paid to maintain health coverage for an employee who fails to return to work from FMLA leave
5. **Notice and Certification:** Taking leave, or reinstatement after leave, may be denied if these requirements are not met:

An employee must give the City at least thirty (30) days' advance notice of a request for leave. If circumstances do not allow the employee to give the required notice, notice shall be given as soon as possible once the need for leave becomes known. If thirty (30) days' advance notice is not given, and the need for the leave and the approximate date of the leave were clearly foreseeable, the City may deny the request for leave until thirty (30) days after the date of notice.

Prior to approving a request for medical leave, including intermittent or part-time leave, the City may require medical certification from a health-care provider of the need for and probable duration of the leave for a serious health condition of the employee or the employee's immediate family member.

The City will require a medical certification of fitness for duty to return to work after a medical leave where the employee's own serious health condition made the employee unable to perform the employee's job, or where the medical condition or job are such that the City believes there may be a serious risk of injury to the employee or others if the employee is not fit to return to work.

6. **Periodic Reporting:** If an employee takes leave for more than two weeks, the City requires a report at least every thirty (30) days on the employee's status and intent to return to work. The City may also require subsequent re-

certification of the need for continued leave. If an employee discovers after beginning leave that the circumstances have changed and the amount of leave originally anticipated is no longer necessary, the employee may return to work earlier but only after providing the City with reasonable (usually two business days) advance notice of the intent to return, the reason for the change and any required medical release to work or fitness for duty certification.

- 7. Other Insurance Benefits While on Leave:** Employees covered by other City insurance plans, such as life or disability insurance, those coverages will continue during the paid leave on the same basis as during regular employment. If the employee takes unpaid FMLA leave, he/she will be responsible during the leave for the premiums normally paid plus the premiums normally paid by the City.

Taking a FMLA leave will not cause an employee to lose any employment benefits which accrued before the start of the leave (e.g., seniority). However, the employee will not accrue these benefits during FMLA leave.

- 8. Couples Employed by the City:** If a married couple is employed by the City, FMLA leaves may be restricted to a combined total of twelve (12) weeks in a twelve (12) month period for the birth or adoption or foster care placement of a child, or the care of the employee's parent with a serious health condition. Each Spouse is, however, eligible for the full 12 weeks of leave in the 12-month leave period to care for a child or spouse with a serious health condition, or for either employee's own serious health condition. Employees should confer with Human Resources regarding their leave rights under FMLA.

- 9. Determining Leave Availability:** FMLA leave is allowed for up to twelve (12) weeks during a twelve (12) month period. For purposes of calculating leave availability, the "12-month" period is a rolling 12-month period measured backwards from the date the employee uses any FMLA leave.

- 10. Substitution of Paid Leave:** An employee on FMLA leave must use any accumulated vacation, sick and/or other accrued leave they have available. After an employee on FMLA leave has exhausted their accumulated leave, the remainder of the FMLA leave will be unpaid. An employee who incurs a work-related illness or injury may be eligible to receive worker's compensation benefits. Any time off due to the work-related illness or injury will count toward the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

- 11. Designating Leave as FMLA Leave:** The City has the authority to designate before leave starts, whether any paid leave to be taken counts towards an employee's FMLA leave entitlement, and will notify the employee immediately upon learning that it qualifies as FMLA leave. The initial notification to the employee may be oral, but will be confirmed in writing by the next regular payday. The City's designation is based upon information obtained from the

employee or the employee's spokesperson (e.g., spouse, parent, physician, etc. if the employee is incapacitated). The employee must provide enough information to enable the City to make a determination, if not; the City may make a tentative designation until further inquiry is made to obtain the additional information. If the employee has accrued vacation or sick leave in their banks that they can use in compliance with City policy, the employee may choose to forego their right to FMLA leave (and the protections that being on FMLA provides) by signing a FMLA waiver form stating that it was the employee's choice to use their vacation leave or sick leave first and save their FMLA leave for later (See Section L below).

12. **Alternatives to Using FMLA:** Employees who have accrued leave in their banks (e.g., accrued sick leave), and can use their accrued leaves in accordance with City policy, may choose to use their accrued leaves first and save their FMLA leave for later, except for employees that are on Worker's Compensation. There are certain benefits and risks associated with such a choice. One of the benefits is that an employee may extend the amount of time the employee can be out on leave by saving FMLA leave for later. There are two primary risks of such a choice. First, an employee will not have the legal protections he/she is afforded when leave time is designated as FMLA leave time. Second, an employee who chooses to use accrued leave first must keep in mind that he/she will only qualify for FMLA leave in the upcoming 12 month period if he/she actually worked 1,250 hours in the past 12 months. Thus, an employee who remains out of work using accrued leave for substantial period may forfeit his/her FMLA leave entitlement for the upcoming year. The City requires that employees who forego FMLA for qualifying events to sign a form stating that they understand their FMLA rights and they are choosing to not take FMLA at this time. Employees that are receiving worker's compensation benefits will have FMLA run concurrently with any leave taken as a result of an on the job injury.

B. Medical Family Leave under State Law:

The State Family Leave Law (WFLA) expands on the Federal Leave law by allowing employees to use their choice of any accrued leave they have available to care for their child, spouse, state registered domestic partner, parent, parents of state registered domestic partner, parent-in-law, or grandparent as described below.

- A. **Eligibility:** Employees that have worked for the City for at least 12 months, although those months need not be consecutive, before the employee is entitled to leave under the FLA. In addition, the employee must have worked for at least 1,250 hours during the last 12 months before the leave is to commence.
- B. **Reasons for Taking Leave:** Employees may use their accrued leave under the Washington Leave Law for the following reasons:
 1. To care for a **child** with a health condition that requires treatment or supervision, or where the child needs preventative care (such as medical,

dental, optical or immunization services).

Child means a biological, adopted or foster child, a step-child, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is (a) under 18 years of age or (b) an adult child 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

2. To care for a **spouse, state registered domestic partner, or parent** who has a “serious or emergency health condition”.

Serious or emergency health condition is a condition that involves:

- An overnight stay in a hospital or other medical-care facility;
- A period of incapacity or treatment or recovery following inpatient care;
- Continuing treatment under the care of a health care services provider that includes any period of incapacity to work or attend to regular daily activities; or
- An emergency (*i.e.*, demanding immediate action).

C. **Notification:** Where the need for family care leave is unexpected, the City of Mount Vernon understands that advance approval of the use of leave (as in required for certain kinds of accrued leave) may not be possible. Employees are required, however to notify their supervisor of the need to take time off to care for a family member as soon as the need for leave becomes known. The City of Mount Vernon reserves the right to require verification or documentation confirming that a family member has or has had a “serious or emergency” health condition when available leave is used to care for that family member.

D. **Concurrent Running of Leave:** Leave taken under the Washington Family Leave Act (“WFLA”) runs concurrently (that is, at the same time) with leave taken under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (“FMLA”), with the exception of leave taken by the mother for pregnancy and the birth of a child. In that circumstance, leave under the FMLA begins when the mother takes time off for the pregnancy or childbirth. Leave under the WFLA only begins to run after the mother has exhausted her leave under the Washington Pregnancy Disability Regulation (“WPDR”). Under the WPDR, mothers generally have six weeks of leave beginning when the baby is born, but can be granted more leave when there are complications in the pregnancy or childbirth. Employees are required to use their accrued sick leave and/or vacation leave to receive compensation for the time off while on FMLA, WFLA, or WPDR. Employees who have accrued sick leave or vacation leave in their banks, and can use their accrued leaves in compliance with City policy, may choose to use those leaves first and save their FMLA/WFLA leave for later. Employees who choose to forego their right to FMLA/WFLA leave (and the protections that being on FMLA/WFLA provides) by signing a

FMLA/WFLA waiver form stating that it was the employee's choice to use their vacation leave or sick leave first and save their FMLA/WFLA leave for later.

The intersection of these leave laws is complicated and employees are encouraged to contact Human Resources with questions about how much leave they are legally entitled to.

- E. Return from State or Federal Family Leave:** Upon returning from a family leave, the employee will generally be assigned the same position held when the leave commenced or to a position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other conditions of employment. If other changes to the position occurred that were not related to the scheduled leave, the City may opt to process those changes (i.e. a department reorganization, or planned change that was decided on prior to the employee's scheduled leave). If an employee is found to have engaged in serious misconduct occurring prior to or after commencing family leave, which would normally give rise to discipline or termination, the City may proceed with such discipline, when discipline is not based on the employee's leave request.

Not all details concerning state or federal family leave are covered in this policy. If an employee needs to take family leave, please discuss this policy with the appropriate department director and with Human Resources to complete the required forms.

9.5A FEDERAL FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE (Non-Represented, IAFF, Protec17 and Teamster Represented Employees)

In accordance with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), Washington State Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) and all applicable federal and state laws related to family and medical leave, city employees may be eligible for an leave of absence for certain family or medical reasons.

A. Federal Family and Medical Leave:

1. **Eligibility:** The FMLA provides up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave every twelve (12) months to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons. To be eligible, one must have worked for the City for at least twelve (12) months with a minimum of 1,250 hours worked during the previous twelve (12) month period.
2. **Reasons for Taking Leave:** Unpaid FMLA leave is granted for any of the following reasons:
 - a. To care for a **newborn child, newly adopted child, or foster care child**. Leave to care for a child following birth or placement for adoption or foster care must be concluded within 12 months of the birth or placement;
 - b. To care for a **spouse, child, or parent** who has a serious health condition;

- c. An **employee's own serious health condition** which leaves the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her position, or for an employee's disability due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or childbirth.

Serious Health Condition Defined: A serious health condition is defined as an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves:

- Any period of incapacity or treatment connected with inpatient care (i.e., an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
 - A period of incapacity of more than three consecutive, full calendar days from work, school, or other regular daily activities that also involves continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a health care provider;
 - A period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care;
 - A period of incapacity or treatment due to a chronic serious health condition, for a permanent or long-term condition for which treatment may not be effective, or to receive multiple treatments for restorative surgery after an accident or injury or for a condition that would likely result in an incapacity of more than three full, consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical treatment (e.g. chemotherapy for cancer or dialysis for kidney disease).
- d. For a **"qualifying exigency"** arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member (including those in the regular Armed Forces, the National Guard or the Reserves) who is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call to covered active duty, and who has been or is being deployed to a foreign country. Qualifying exigencies are generally activities related to the active duty or call to duty, including attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings. Qualifying exigency leave also covers up to 15 days off to spend time with a covered military member who is on short-term temporary rest and recuperation leave during deployment.
- e. **Military Caregiver FMLA entitlement:** An eligible employee may also take up to 26 weeks of leave during a single 12-month period to care for an injured servicemember who is the employee's spouse, parent, child or next of kin. A covered servicemember is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a National Guard or Reserves member, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the servicemember medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the servicemember is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list. A covered servicemember may also be a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces any time during the five years preceding his/her need for medical treatment, recuperation or therapy for a serious injury or illness, where the injury or illness was incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. For purposes of this kind of leave, the 12-month period begins with the first day the employee takes leave. The 26 week cap includes leave taken by the employee for other FMLA qualifying reasons in the applicable leave year.

3. **Intermittent Leave:** Under some circumstances, FMLA leave may be taken intermittently (that is, taken in blocks of time, or by reducing the normal weekly or daily work schedule), if medically necessary because of a serious health condition. An eligible employee may also take FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis when necessary, because of a qualifying exigency arising from a family member's military service. If FMLA leave is to care for a child after the birth or placement for adoption or foster care, intermittent leave is subject to the City's approval. Where intermittent leave or reduced-schedule leave is needed for planned medical treatment, an employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to unduly disrupt business operations. Where an employee needs intermittent or reduced-schedule leave based on planned medical treatment, the City may transfer the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits that can better accommodate such recurring leave. When the employee no longer needs to continue on intermittent or reduced schedule leave, the employee will be restored to the same or equivalent job as the job that the employee left when the leave started.
4. **Maintenance of Health Benefits:** The City will maintain group health insurance coverage for employees and their dependents while the employee is on FMLA as if the employee had continued to work. Arrangements will be made for employees to pay their share of health insurance premiums while on leave. In some instances, the City may recover premiums it paid to maintain health coverage for an employee who fails to return to work from FMLA leave.
5. **Notice and Certification:** Taking leave, or reinstatement after leave, may be denied if these requirements are not met:

An employee must give the City at least thirty (30) days' advance notice of a request for leave. If circumstances do not allow the employee to give the required notice, notice shall be given as soon as possible once the need for leave becomes known. If thirty (30) days' advance notice is not given, and the need for the leave and the approximate date of the leave were clearly foreseeable, the City may deny the request for leave until thirty (30) days after the date of notice.

Prior to approving a request for medical leave, including intermittent or part-time leave, the City may require medical certification from a health-care provider of the need for and probable duration of the leave for a serious health condition of the employee or the employee's immediate family member.

The City will require a medical certification of fitness for duty form, or an activity prescription form, to return to work after a medical leave where the employee's own serious health condition made the employee unable to perform the employee's job, or where the medical condition or job are such that the City believes there may be a serious risk of injury to the employee or others if the employee is not fit to return to work.

6. Job Restoration Upon Return From Leave. Upon return from FMLA leave, an employee will be entitled to return to the employee's former position or a position

with equivalent pay, benefits and conditions of employment, unless unusual circumstances have arisen (e.g., the employee's position or shift was eliminated for reasons unrelated to the leave). If the employee chooses not to return to work for any reason, the employee should notify the City as soon as possible.

7. **Periodic Reporting:** If an employee takes leave for more than two weeks, the City requires a report at least every thirty (30) days on the employee's status and intent to return to work. The City may also require subsequent re-certification of the need for continued leave. If an employee discovers after beginning leave that the circumstances have changed and the amount of leave originally anticipated is no longer necessary, the employee may return to work earlier but only after providing the City with reasonable (usually two business days) advance notice of the intent to return, the reason for the change and any required medical release to work or fitness for duty certification.
8. **Other Insurance Benefits While on Leave:** Other City insurance plans, such as life or disability insurance, will continue during the paid leave on the same basis as during regular employment. If the employee takes unpaid FMLA leave, he/she will be responsible during the leave for the premiums normally paid plus the premiums normally paid by the City.

If the employee pays premiums for voluntary benefits (e.g., AFLAC, disability, or life etc.) the employee will be responsible for paying those premiums while on unpaid FMLA.

Taking a FMLA leave will not cause an employee to lose any employment benefits which accrued before the start of the leave (e.g., seniority, vacation and sick leave). However, the employee will not accrue these benefits during unpaid FMLA leave.

An employee on unpaid FMLA may not receive service credits towards their DRS retirement pension.

9. **Couples Employed by the City:** If a married couple is employed by the City, FMLA leaves may be restricted to a combined total of twelve (12) weeks in a twelve (12) month period for the birth or adoption or foster care placement of a child, or the care of the employee's parent with a serious health condition. Each Spouse is, however, eligible for the full 12 weeks of leave in the 12-month leave period to care for a child or spouse with a serious health condition, or for either employee's own serious health condition. Employees should confer with Human Resources regarding their leave rights under FMLA.
10. **Determining Leave Availability:** FMLA leave is allowed for up to twelve (12) weeks during a twelve (12) month period. For purposes of calculating leave availability, the "12-month" period is a rolling 12-month period measured backwards from the date the employee uses any FMLA leave.
11. **Substitution of Paid Leave:** An employee on FMLA leave may use accumulated

sick leave, to provide salary continuation. An employee that elects not to use sick leave must use any accumulated vacation, comp-time, management leave or professional leave they have available prior to being placed on unpaid leave. An employee who incurs a work-related illness or injury may be eligible to receive worker's compensation benefits. Any time off due to the work-related illness or injury will count toward the employee's FMLA leave entitlement.

12. **Designating Leave as FMLA Leave:** The City has the authority and responsibility to designate whether any paid or unpaid leave to be taken counts towards an employee's FMLA leave entitlement, and will notify the employee immediately upon learning that an absence qualifies as FMLA leave. The initial notification to the employee may be oral, but will be confirmed in writing within five business days. The City's designation is based upon information obtained from the employee or the employee's spokesperson (e.g., spouse, parent, physician, etc. if the employee is incapacitated).

9.6 WASHINGTON STATE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE (Non-Represented, IAFF, Protec17 and Teamster Represented Employees)

The Washington State Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) law (Chapter 50A RCW) and supporting regulations establish a program administered by the Washington Employment Security Department (ESD) to provide paid leave benefits and job protection to eligible employees who need leave for certain family and medical reasons. This policy provides a summary of the PFML program. Employees may obtain additional information at www.paidleave.wa.gov. To the extent an issue is not addressed in this policy, the City will administer this benefit program consistent with applicable statutes and regulations.

Payroll Deductions. The PFML program is funded through premiums collected by ESD via payroll deductions and City contributions. The premium rate is established by law. Should the State in the future modify the PFML premium rate or the percentage of premiums subject to collection through payroll deduction, the City will modify payroll practices to reflect those statutory changes.

Eligibility. Under PFML, employees may be eligible for monetary benefits and job protection when taking leave for covered reasons. Eligibility requirements are as follows:

Monetary Benefits: In order to be eligible for monetary benefits from ESD, an employee must have worked 820 hours in Washington (for any employer or combination of employers) during the qualifying period (generally, the year preceding the claim).

Job Protection: In order to be eligible for job protection under PFML, an employee must meet FMLA eligibility requirements (must have worked for the City for at least 12 months and have worked 1250 hours in the last year).

Benefit Continuation:

- a. When an employee is on authorized PFML leave, the City will continue the employee's health benefits during the authorized PFML leave period at the

same level and under the same conditions as if the employee had continued to work if the PFML overlaps with the Federal Family and Medical Leave.

- b. If an employee chooses not to return to work for reasons other than a continued serious health condition, the City may require the employee to reimburse the City the amount it paid for the employee's health insurance premium during the leave period.
- c. If the employee pays a portion of the health care premium, it is the employee's responsibility to continue to make this payment. If an employee contributes to an optional health and welfare plan such as life insurance or disability policy, the City will continue to make payroll deductions while the employee is on paid leave. If the payment is more than 30 days late, the employee's health coverage may be discontinued for the duration of the leave period, or the City will recover any payments made on behalf of the employee at the end of the leave period.

Leave Entitlement. Eligible employees are entitled to take up to 12 weeks of medical or family leave, or a combined total of 16 weeks of family and medical leave per claim year; an additional two weeks of leave may be available in the event the employee's leave involves incapacity due to her pregnancy. The claim year begins when the employee files a claim for PFML benefits through ESD. PFML leave may be taken for the following reasons:

Medical Leave: Medical leave may be taken due to the employee's own serious health condition, which is an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a health care provider, as those terms are defined under the FMLA and RCW 50A.05.010. However, an employee is not eligible for PFML benefits if the employee is receiving time loss benefits under the workers compensation system.

Family Leave: Family leave may be taken to care for a covered family member with a serious health condition; for bonding during the first 12 months following the birth of the employee's child or placement of a child under age 18 with the employee (through adoption or foster care); for qualifying military exigencies as defined under the FMLA; or during the seven calendar days following the death of a child they would have been eligible to bond with or were bonding with.

For purposes of family leave, covered family members include the employee's child (including in-laws), grandchild, parent (including in-laws), grandparent (including in-laws), sibling, spouse, or any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home or where the relationship creates an expectation that the employee care for the person, and that individual depends on the employee for care. "Family member" includes any individual who regularly resides in the employee's home, except that it does not include an individual who simply resides in the same home with no expectation that the employee care for the individual.

PFML may run concurrently with FMLA where an absence is covered by both laws. PFML leave may be taken intermittently, provided that there is a minimum claim requirement of eight consecutive hours of leave in a week for which benefits are sought.

PFML Application Process. An employee must submit an application to ESD in order to seek PFML benefits. For guidance on the application process, please refer to the ESD website (www.paidleave.wa.gov). Eligibility determinations will be made by ESD. If approved, the employee will need to file weekly benefit claims with ESD to continue receiving benefits.

Notification Requirements. An employee must provide written notice to the City of the intent to take PFML leave. This notice should be sent to the employee's supervisor, and to Human Resources. If the need for leave is foreseeable, notice must be given at least 30 days in advance of the leave. For unforeseeable leave, notice must be given as soon as practicable. The employee's written notice must include the type of leave taken (family or medical), as well as the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. If an employee fails to provide this required notice to the City, ESD may temporarily deny PFML benefits. After receiving the employee's notice of the need for leave, the City will advise the employee whether the employee is eligible for job protection under PFML or FMLA or both.

If leave is being taken for the employee's or family member's planned medical treatment, the employee should make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to unduly disrupt City business.

If taking leave intermittently, an employee must notify the Human Resources representative upon the close of every pay period of PFML leave utilized during the respective pay period so that the City may properly track leave use.

PFML Monetary Benefits. If ESD approves a claim for PFML benefits, partial wage replacement benefit payments will be made by ESD directly to the employee. The amount of the benefit is based on a statutory formula, subject to ESD adjustments. ESD's website provides a benefit calculator to assist employees in estimating their weekly benefit amount.

With the exception of leave taken in connection with the birth or placement of a child, or a qualifying military exigency, monetary PFML benefits are subject to a seven-day waiting period. The waiting period begins on the Sunday of the week in which PFML leave is first taken. The waiting period is counted for purposes of the overall duration of PFML leave, but no monetary benefits will be paid by ESD for that week.

Supplementation of PFML with Paid Leave. Paid leave (vacation, sick leave, floating holidays, paid holidays, compensatory time, or any other accrued leave) are considered supplemental to PFML. An employee may elect to use such accrued leave in accordance with leave policies during a PFML covered absence, and the receipt of accrued leave does not need to be reported to ESD as part of the PFML claims process. Employees may not supplement PFML with shared leave.

Job Restoration: Return to Work Recertification. An employee who is eligible for job-protected leave will be restored to the same or equivalent position at the conclusion of PFML leave, unless unusual circumstances have arisen (e.g., the employee's position or shift was eliminated for reasons unrelated to the leave). The City may require a return-to-work certification from a health care provider before restoring the employee to work following PFML leave where the employee has taken leave for the employee's own serious health condition. If an employee taking PFML leave chooses not to return to work for any reason, the employee should notify the City as soon as possible.

References:

Chapter 50A RCW

9.7 WASHINGTON PREGNANCY DISABILITY LEAVE (Police Guild Represented Employees)

WA Pregnancy Disability Leave allows a mother leave from work for the period of time she is temporarily disabled because of pregnancy or childbirth. FMLA will run concurrently with the Washington Pregnancy Disability Leave and Washington Family Leave Act for up to 12 weeks. Employees are eligible to utilize their accrued leave for the portion of disability leave. When an employee has exhausted her paid leave, she will be placed on a leave of absence without pay for the duration of the leave.

Once the pregnancy disability leave has ended (or the mother has been released by the physician), the WA Family Leave Act (FLA) provides an additional 12 weeks of leave to care for a newborn. Medical benefits are not paid after the initial 12 weeks of FMLA leave unless the employee has leave banks to cover the additional time taken. The Washington Family Leave Act (FLA) also provides up to twelve weeks leave to care for a state registered domestic partner to the same extent as a spouse.

9.8 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEAVE

In accordance with the Washington Domestic Violence Leave law, Chapter 49.76 RCW, the City will provide reasonable leave from work, including leave on an intermittent or reduced-schedule basis, for an employee to:

- A. Seek legal or law enforcement assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the employee or employee's family members including, but not limited to, preparing for, or participating in, any civil or criminal legal proceeding related to or derived from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;
- B. Seek treatment by a health care provider for physical or mental injuries caused by domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or to attend to health care treatment for a victim who is the employee's family member;
- C. Obtain, or assist a family member in obtaining, services from a domestic violence shelter, rape crisis center, or other social services program for relief from domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking;

- D. Obtain, or assist a family member in obtaining, mental health counseling related to an incident of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, in which the employee or the employee's family member was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking; or
- E. Participate in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocate, or take other actions to increase the safety of the employee or employee's family members from future domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

The employee may elect to use sick leave, vacation, compensatory time, or other accrued paid time off, or may take unpaid leave. Domestic violence leave, including documentation of such leave, will be applied and administered in accordance with the provisions of the state Domestic Violence Leave law. Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide greater or lesser leave rights to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking than those required by Chapter 49.76 RCW. Employees requesting Domestic Violence leave will be required to notify Human Resources.

9.9 MILITARY LEAVE (Police Guild Represented Employees)

- A. **Leave Under the Washington State Family Military Leave Act:** The City supports employees that are members of any United States Armed Forces division. An employee shall be entitled to and shall be granted military leave of absence from employment for a period not exceeding twenty-one (21) working days each calendar year (10.5 shifts for employees working a 24- hour shift). In general, if military service extends beyond twenty-one (21) working days, the additional leave shall be unpaid unless the employee uses accrued vacation or compensatory time. Such leave must be for the purpose of active training duty. Such military leave shall be in addition to any vacation or sick leave to which the employee might otherwise be entitled. The employee must furnish a copy of his/her orders to his/her department head prior to starting a tour of duty in order to receive full City pay for the period involved. Reinstatement upon return from military service will be determined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. As soon as practicable, individuals returning from any military leave of 30 days or more are required to provide evidence, such as a certified copy of release papers, that they are entitled to reemployment.
- B. **Washington Leave for Spouses/Registered Domestic Partners of Military Personnel:** In accordance with the provisions of the Washington State Family Military Leave Act, Chapter 49.77 RCW, during a period of military conflict a regular full-time or regular part-time employee who is the spouse/registered domestic partner of a member of the U.S. armed forces, national guard or reserves is entitled to take up to fifteen (15) days of unpaid leave: while their spouse/registered domestic partner is on leave from a deployment; or before and up to deployment once the spouse/registered domestic partner receives official notification of an impending call or order to active duty. The employee must provide his or her supervisor with notice of the employee's intention to take leave within five business days of receiving official notice: that the employee's spouse/registered domestic partner will be on leave; or of an impending

call or order to active duty. The 15 days of unpaid leave is per deployment. The employee may elect to substitute any form of accrued leave (except sick leave) for any part of the family military leave. Family military leave is in addition to other leave to which the employee may be entitled.

- C. **Federal Caregiver Leave for an Injured Service Member:** In accordance with the provisions of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, an employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent or nearest blood relative, may take up to 26 workweeks of unpaid leave during a single 12- month period to care for a member of the U.S. armed forces, national guard or reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness incurred by the service member in active duty that may render the person medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank or rating. The 26-week cap includes leave taken by the employee for other FMLA qualifying reasons. Caregiver leave can be intermittent. The administration of caregiver leave under the FMLA is subject to other FMLA procedures as may be appropriate, such as procedures regarding substitution of paid leave, reasonable notice, certification of the need for leave, and determining whether or not an employee is eligible to use such leave. (An "eligible employee" must have worked for the City for at least 12 months, with a minimum of 1250 hours worked during the past 12 months.) As with other forms of FMLA leave, not all details concerning caregiver leave are covered in this policy. If an employee needs to take caregiver leave, please see Human Resources for appropriate forms.
- D. **Federal Family Leave Due to a Call to Active Duty:** Also in accordance with the provisions of the 2008 amendments to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, an eligible employee may take up to 12 workweeks (during any 12-month period) of unpaid FMLA leave for any "qualifying exigency" arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the U.S. armed forces, national guard or reserves in support of a contingency operation. This form of FMLA leave shall be administered in accordance with applicable procedures of the FMLA and final regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor.

9.9A MILITARY LEAVE (Non-Represented, IAFF, Protec17 and Teamster Represented Employees)

- A. **Leave Under the Washington State Family Military Leave Act RCW 38.40.060:** The City supports employees that are members of any United States Armed Forces division. An employee shall be entitled to and shall be granted military leave of absence from employment with pay for a period not exceeding twenty-one (21) working days each calendar year (21 shifts for employees working a 24- hour shift). In general, if military service extends beyond twenty-one (21) working days, the additional leave shall be unpaid unless the employee uses accrued vacation or compensatory time. Such leave must be for the purpose of active training or duty. Such military leave shall be in addition to any vacation or sick leave to which the

employee might otherwise be entitled. The employee must furnish a copy of his/her orders to his/her department head and Human Resources prior to starting a tour of duty in order to receive full City pay for the period involved. Reinstatement upon return from military service will be determined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. As soon as practicable, individuals returning from any military leave of 30 days or more are required to provide evidence, such as a certified copy of release papers, that they are entitled to reemployment.

- B. Washington Leave for Spouses/Registered Domestic Partners of Military Personnel:** In accordance with the provisions of the Washington State Family Military Leave Act, Chapter 49.77 RCW, during a period of military conflict a regular full-time or regular part-time employee who is the spouse/registered domestic partner of a member of the U.S. armed forces, national guard or reserves is entitled to take up to fifteen (15) days of unpaid leave: while their spouse/registered domestic partner is on leave from a deployment; or before and up to deployment once the spouse/registered domestic partner receives official notification of an impending call or order to active duty. The employee must provide his or her supervisor with notice of the employee's intention to take leave within five business days of receiving official notice: that the employee's spouse/registered domestic partner will be on leave; or of an impending call or order to active duty. The 15 days of unpaid leave is per deployment. The employee may elect to substitute any form of accrued leave (except sick leave) for any part of the family military leave. Family military leave is in addition to other leave to which the employee may be entitled.

9.10 SHARED LEAVE PROGRAM (Police Guild Represented Employees)

A leave sharing program is hereby established for the purpose of permitting City employees, at no additional cost to the City other than the administrative costs of administering the program, to come to the aid of a fellow City employee who is suffering from, an extraordinary medical emergency which has caused, or is likely to cause, the employee to take leave without pay or to terminate his or her employment.

- A. Eligible employees may donate excess sick leave for use by another employee who is suffering from an extraordinary medical emergency. The severity of the emergency would cause the employee to take leave without pay or to terminate employment without shared leave. Employees who donate leave waive all rights to the donated leave.
- B. Employees may request a leave donation if:
- 1) the employee has or reasonably expects to use all of their accrued leave, with the exception of five (5) days which may remain in the employee's leave bank including vacation, sick, personal days, compensatory time, and exchange time,
 - 2) the employee would otherwise be on a leave without pay,
 - 3) the employee has been found to be ineligible to receive industrial insurance benefits and

- 4) the employee requesting a leave donation has provided medical justification and documentation both of the necessity for the leave and the length of time the employee reasonably can be expected to be absent due to the condition.

While an employee is receiving shared leave, the employee continues to be classified as a City employee and shall receive the same treatment in respect to salary, wages, and employee benefits as the employee would normally receive if using the employee's own accrued leave except that the shared hours received are not eligible for retirement benefits. Not under any circumstances, shall the total of the employee's salary and other benefits, including but not limited to any other benefit received as a result of payments by the city to an insurer, healthcare provider or pension system, exceed the total salary and benefits which the employee would have received had he or she been in a regular pay status.

- C. The maximum number of days an employee can receive of donated leave is sixty (60) in a rolling 12 month period. The Mayor and Human Resource Department retain discretion to determine the eligibility to receive donated leave. At such time it is found that shared leave is no longer needed, or will not be needed beyond a particular time, and then the value of any shared leave which remains unused shall be returned at its original value to the employee or employees who donated that leave. To the extent administratively feasible, the unused leave shall be returned on a pro-rata basis.
- D. The maximum amount of sick leave that can be donated per request, per calendar year is 40 hours. The donating employees' sick leave balance may not fall below 480 hours. Donations and use of leave are on an hour-for-hour basis, without conversion for differentials between rates of pay received by the donors and the recipients.
- E. The donating employee must complete the "Approval to Transfer Leave" form and submit to the Human Resources Department. The employee requesting shared leave must complete the "Request for Leave Share Form" and submit to the Human Resources Department.
- F. The leave donation program is a Good Samaritan program. The names of the people who have donated leave will be made available to the recipient if the recipient asks, but donations are not made with the expectation of receiving any gratuity. The recipient is welcome to write letters of appreciation, but gifts with monetary value are not allowed
- G. The Human Resource Department shall monitor the use of shared leave to insure equivalent treatment for all employees of the City. Inappropriate use or treatment of the shared leave provision may result in cancellation of the donated leave or use of shared leave. This program may be amended, suspended or terminated at any time by the City.

9.11 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

In the event of the death of a member of the immediate family or close relative, or others with approval of the Mayor full-time and part-time employees who work more than 20 hours per week shall be allowed to remain away from his/her employment as follows:

- A. Three (3) work days with full pay if the funeral is within the State of Washington.
- B. An additional two (2) work days off with full pay if it is necessary to travel outside the state.

With approval from the Department Director, funeral leave may be granted non-consecutively if taken within 30 days from the death.

9.12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY (Police Guild Represented Employees)

Upon written request of the employee, the Mayor may grant a leave of absence without pay not to exceed one (1) year. Employees must exhaust all accrued leave before requesting approval for a leave of absence without pay. Approval of such leave will be in writing and signed by the Mayor. Such leave shall be used in exceptional circumstances, solely in the discretion of the Mayor, who shall consider the length of such leave, the work load involved, and the need for a replacement employee. Leave of absence without pay shall not be routinely granted. No vacation or sick leave benefits or any other fringe benefits shall accrue while the employee is on leave without pay. Furthermore, the employee's anniversary date will be adjusted by the length of the leave granted. Upon expiration of the regularly approved leave without pay, the employee shall be reinstated in the position held at the time the leave was granted or other equivalent position.

9.12A LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY – Not related to Family and Medical Leave or ADA Accommodation requests (Non-Represented, IAFF, Teamster and Protec17 Represented Employees)

At the request of the employee, Department Directors may approve up to eighty (80) hours of leave without pay for employees when doing so does not adversely impact City business. If the Department Director grants the request, they must notify the Human Resources Department.

For requests for leave without pay in excess of eighty (80) hours, the Mayor, upon recommendation from the Department Director, may approve an employee request for leave without pay for a period not to exceed 26 weeks, if said approval would not be contrary to the interest and welfare of the City. Nothing in this provision limits the City's ability to provide unpaid leave as a reasonable accommodation to qualified employees under the Americans with Disability Act.

Leave without pay may not begin until all vacation and compensatory time off has been exhausted.

The City will not continue payment of health insurance premiums while an employee is on leave without pay for more than 30 days. Employees on unpaid leave may elect to continue their health insurance at their own expense as provided under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

No vacation, sick leave, or any other benefits accrue while an employee is on leave without pay.

Seniority: An employee's seniority and pay anniversary date shall be adjusted by the length of leave granted if the period of leave without pay exceeds 30 calendar days. There shall be no loss of seniority or adjustments to the pay anniversary date for leave without pay totaling 30 calendar days or less.

When the period of approved leave without pay expires, the employee shall be reinstated in the same or a similar position held at the time leave was granted. An employee who fails to promptly report for work at the conclusion of the approved period of leave without pay shall be presumed to have resigned and will be separated from employment.

9.13 JURY AND WITNESS DUTY LEAVE

In the event any employee is called for jury duty or is required to attend court as a witness, such employee shall be granted a leave of absence without loss of compensation for scheduled worktime. There shall be no reduction of accrued vacation or sick leave during the period such employee is actually serving as a juror or witness. In the event the employee is excused prior to the end of his/her work day, such employee shall report back to work immediately until again called by the court. Any juror fee or any witness fee paid to the employee may be retained by the employee, PROVIDED, the employee may not receive compensation in excess of the fee paid to all witnesses generally or for services as an expert witness, and also receive paid leave under this section.

9.14 ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

On a case-by-case basis, the City may place an employee on administrative leave, with or without pay, for an indefinite period of time. Administrative leave may be used in the best interests of the City, as determined by the Mayor, pending an investigation or other administrative proceeding or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the Mayor.

CHAPTER 10 USE OF CITY VEHICLES AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY

10.1 USE OF CITY VEHICLES (Updated January 1, 2023)

It is the policy of the City of Mount Vernon to provide vehicles for business use, to allow employees to drive on City business, to provide and require drivers to follow safety protocols, and to reimburse employees for business use of personal vehicles according to the guidelines below. Employees assigned emergency response duties may use City vehicles in accordance with applicable department policies. An employee's misuse of a City vehicle can result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. The Commercial Driver License policy is in addition to this policy.

The term "vehicle" as used in these guidelines includes, but is not limited to, cars, trucks, and vans.

1. Only employees 18 years old or older, possessing a valid Washington state driver's license and meeting the driver approval standards may drive a vehicle on City business. Employees who will be expected to drive a vehicle for City business will need to provide Human Resources with a copy of their valid driver's license. Human Resources will conduct a driver's license check annually for all employees that drive vehicles for City business.
2. Employees may not operate any vehicle for City business without prior approval of their supervisor. At the City's expense, the City will implement a drivers' abstract check for all City employees that regularly drive, or operate, City vehicles. The driving check will be pulled every two years, and the City shall notify the employee when they are subject to having a driver's abstract pulled.
3. Employees approved to drive on City business are required to inform their supervisor immediately of any changes that may affect either their legal or physical ability to drive or their continued insurability.
4. Employees are not permitted, under any circumstances, to operate a City vehicle, or a personal vehicle for City business, when any physical or mental impairment causes the employee to be unable to drive safely.
5. The City has a zero-tolerance policy, prohibiting employees from operating a City vehicle or any personal vehicle while on City business while using, consuming or under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs, prescription medications and over the counter medications that may affect their ability to drive. (Refer to drug and alcohol policy.)
6. Employees in job positions requiring regular driving for business as an essential job function must, as a condition of employment, be able to meet the driver

approval standards. For job positions that require periodic driving for City business, driver approval standards must be met prior to the employee's initial trip.

7. Employees who drive a vehicle on City business must, in addition to meeting approval requirements, exercise due diligence to drive safely and to maintain the security of the vehicle and its contents.
8. Employees are to attend driver training and vehicle orientation prior to operating a City vehicle. Periodic on-going driver training will also be provided.
9. Employees may use City vehicles for non-business purposes only with the approval of the department head.
10. Non-employee, non-business passengers are prohibited from riding in City vehicles without prior approval from the employee's department head. Non-employee, non-business passengers are prohibited from riding in the employee's personal vehicle, without prior approval from the employee's department head, when the vehicle is being used for City business. All permitted passengers must read and sign a "Permission-to-ride Waiver".
11. When no City vehicles are available, employees may use their own vehicles for business purposes with prior approval of their department head or designee. Auto liability coverage follows the vehicle. **Therefore, the employee's personal auto insurance is primary, and WCIA's liability coverage is excess.** Employees who use a personal vehicle for approved business purposes will receive a mileage allowance equal to the Internal Revenue Service optional mileage allowance. This allowance is to compensate for the cost of gasoline, oil, depreciation, and insurance. Therefore, employees who operate personal vehicles for City business should obtain and maintain auto liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage and any other required coverage determined by the employee's personal auto insurance agent or broker. Proof of insurance must be provided to Human Resources prior to an employee utilizing a personal vehicle for business purpose.
12. Employees who are on-call and allowed to take a City vehicle home, are to provide written acknowledgment that they fully understand that the vehicle should only be used as part of an on-call response for the City. The acknowledgements will be kept on file in Human Resources.
13. Smoking, including vaping, is not allowed in City vehicles.
14. Employees are personally responsible for all tickets, citations, or infractions issued for moving violations or parking violations while using a City vehicle or a personal vehicle for City business. With the exception of parking violations, employees should advise their supervisor of any such tickets, citations, or infractions received.

15. Employees should obey all safety laws and regulations while operating a City vehicle or a personal vehicle on City business. This would include, but is not limited to, the proper use of seat belt, the prohibition on using cell phones without a proper hands free device, and obeying applicable traffic laws.

ACCIDENT REPORTING:

1. Every City vehicle should have
 - a. an accident report form and WCIA proof of coverage card in the glove box.
 - b. Emergency Equipment
 - c. Accident Scene Protocol and reporting procedures
2. All vehicle accidents involving City vehicles must be reported to the local police department immediately following the accident. Employees must report any accident, theft, or damage involving a City vehicle to their supervisor, Fleet Manager, Legal Department and the Human Resources Department, regardless of the extent of damage or lack of injuries. Such reports must be made as soon as possible but no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the incident.

At scene of accident:

1. Stop at once. Be aware of personal safety and others at the accident scene first. Do not exit the vehicle unless it is safe to do so.
2. Check for injuries to the involved parties. Do not move an injured party unless it is for his or her protection. Call 911 immediately if anyone is in need of medical attention. Stay with the injured party until help arrives. Ask for assistance from bystanders, if applicable.
3. Protect the scene. Set emergency warning devices to prevent further injury or damage. Secure the vehicle (if possible) and its contents from theft.
4. **Do not admit liability, make any promises, or state that the member will take care of the damage or medical bills. All questions should be referred to the City's claims contact person in the City Attorney's office or to WCIA**
5. **Do not discuss the incident with anyone other than a member supervisor or other authorized personnel, such as law enforcement. Every incident is a potential claim and statements made could result in the member having to assume liability even if not warranted.**
6. Notify your supervisor. In the event of an incident involving a serious injury, a fatality or large property loss occurring AFTER regular working hours, call Evergreen Adjustment at **(800) 933-4235**.
7. Contact local law enforcement regardless of the severity of the accident. Record names, badge numbers and jurisdiction of the responding officers.
8. Complete the WCIA Accident Report Form and forward to the City Attorney's claims contact person as soon as possible.

- a. Record all details of the incident, including names, times and exact location. Be observant and accurate.
- b. Take pictures from different angles if possible; including pictures of all vehicles involved, damage sustained, and accident scene.
- c. Reports should be factual not opinion based (i.e. “poor lighting” is an opinion “it was dark” is a fact). At times, the cause of an accident may not be immediately evident. It is therefore not typically appropriate to render conclusions about why the accident occurred.
- d. Identify all of the vehicles involved, including make/model/year/color/license plate number, and location of damage.
- e. Obtain complete names and addresses of all involved, including witnesses. Identify each person’s role and location in the accident, such as driver of vehicle number two, passenger in vehicle number one, passenger in back seat of vehicle two, or witness.
- f. Record the time, day of week, and date of the accident. Also note the weather condition at the time of the accident (i.e. heavy rain, mist, foggy, or sunny).
- g. Identify the exact location of the accident site (i.e. street names, street address, or mileage marker).
- h. Diagram the accident including, but not limited to: direction of travel of the vehicles involved; location of vehicles on the roadway, traffic signals/signs, obstacles and other pertinent objects. Include point(s)-of-impact and final resting place(s) for all vehicles involved. Ideally the diagram should show what happened and where it happened.
- i. Carefully preserve all documentation of the accident, such as reports, witness cards, photographs, physical evidence, etc.

10.2 EMPLOYEE SAFETY & ACCIDENT REPORTING

It is the City’s intent to provide safe working conditions for its employees. Every employee is responsible for maintaining a safe work environment and following the City’s safety rules. Copies of the City’s Accident Prevention Plan, provided by the City of Mount Vernon Safety Committee, are available on the City’s electronic shared drive and also available in Human Resources and in each City Department. Employees shall promptly report all unsafe or potentially hazardous conditions to their department director. The City will make every effort to remedy problems as quickly as possible.

The City encourages the promotion of accident prevention and safety education at regular department/division safety meetings. Employees in certain jobs or when performing certain tasks, operating equipment or as otherwise instructed are required to use appropriate personal protective equipment provided by the City, such as safety vests/glasses, hearing protection, gloves and/or hard hats. Employees are prohibited from removing guards or other protective devices from machinery and equipment or in

any way tampering with or disabling safety measures. Violations of safety requirements may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

In case of an accident involving personal injury or damage to property regardless of how minor or if a motor vehicle is involved in a collision of any kind, any involved employees shall immediately notify their supervisor or department director or designee. In any accident that results in serious property loss or bodily injury, it is the City's policy to test the employee for drugs or alcohol use, to confirm that the use of drugs or alcohol was not a factor in the accident. In addition, no City employee is permitted to engage in conduct after an accident or injury occurs, that will negatively impact the City's or law enforcement's investigation of the accident.

On the Job Employee Injuries: When an on-the-job injury occurs, employees are to report to their immediate supervisor each injury or illness regardless of the degree of severity. As soon as possible after an accident or occupational illness is discovered, the employee and Supervisor must complete the Employee Safety Incident Form and submit it to Human Resources within twenty-four (24) hours. If applicable, the employee is responsible for completing the Washington State Labor and Industries claim form. Supervisors are required to complete the supervisor portion of the accident report form. Should the injury require attention beyond basic first aid, the employee should have his or her treating physician complete the applicable portion of the Washington State Labor and Industries Claim form. Injured employees that are absent from work for more than seven (7) days are required to keep their supervisor informed of their condition, progress and intent to return to work (at least bi-weekly).

Accidents/Incidents: Employees shall report any work-related accidents involving a third party personal injury and/or damage to public/private property or equipment, regardless how minor, to their immediate supervisor, department director and Human Resources. Such report shall be made as soon as possible, but in no event later than one (1) hour following such accident. So that an accident may be timely reported, the initial report may be given verbally. Accident report forms are available from supervisors or Human Resources. A written accident report shall be completed by the employee as soon as possible, and, unless the employee is medically unable to, no later than twenty-four (24) hours following the accident, or sooner if required by the employee's department director or Human Resources.

Employees shall compile any reports requested by their supervisor, department director and/or Human Resources. In the case of a vehicular accident, the employee shall immediately notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction, which shall determine whether or not an accident investigation and/or police incident report is necessary. If required, a State Motor Vehicle Collision Report shall be completed by the employee.

10.3 RETURN TO WORK

Before being allowed to return to work, an employee who has been away from work due to an injury or illness may be required to provide a written statement from the

appropriate medical personnel certifying that the employee is able to resume his or her job duties, or specifying limitations on any duties. If restrictions or limitations are placed on the employee's ability to perform the job, the City, in cooperation with the employee and any medical personnel, will determine if there are any reasonable accommodations that it can make to enable the employee to return to work and perform the essential functions of his or her job. The City may require a physical examination at City expense, performed by a physician or physicians of its choice, to determine when the employee can return to work and if he/she is capable of performing the duties of the position. This requirement applies to all employees who have been unable to perform their duties for an extended period of time, whether their injury was initially work-related or not.

10.4 CITY EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY – See Appendix D

10.5 FIREARMS AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS

In order to facilitate a safe work environment, employees are prohibited from bringing, carrying, exhibiting or using any dangerous weapon in the workplace or into a City facility. This includes, but is not limited to, a weapon for which employees have a valid permit. "City facility" means all areas within the ownership and/or control of the City, and includes, but is not limited to, offices, buildings, city vehicles, desks, cabinets, lockers, or storage areas. The term "dangerous weapon" includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Any firearm, rifle or handgun, whether such person has a license or permit to carry such firearm or not, and whether such firearm is concealed or not.
- B. Any knife, sword, dagger, or other cutting or stabbing instrument, with a blade of a length of three inches or more, or any razor with an unguarded blade, whether such weapon or instrument is concealed or not.
- C. Any instrument or weapon of the kind usually known as a slingshot, taser, throwing star, bow, sand club, blackjack, metal knuckles, or any stick, chain, metal pipe, bar, club or combination thereof including a device known as numchuk sticks, or any device having the same or similar components or parts, whether or not connected by a rope, chain or other device, or any explosive or poison or injurious gas (excluding those normally used in the course of one's employment duty), or any other instrument capable of producing bodily harm, whether such instrument or weapon is concealed or not.
- D. Carrying, exhibiting, displaying or drawing any firearm, dagger, sword, knife or any explosive device, cutting or stabbing instrument, club or any other object capable of producing bodily harm where held or used, in a manner, under circumstances, and at a time and place that either manifests an intent to intimidate another or that warrants alarm for the safety of another person or persons.

This policy does not apply to or affect the following:

- A. Any person who is vested by law with a duty to preserve public safety, maintain public order, or to make arrests for offenses, for which the job requires possession of the dangerous weapon in question, while in the performance of such duty.
- B. Any person making or assisting in making a lawful arrest for the commission of a felony.
- C. Any situation where an employee's job duties require the carrying or use of explosives, poisons or other potentially dangerous chemicals or devices, while in the performance of those duties and only as it relates to those items.
- D. Other exceptions as may be authorized in writing by the Mayor.

Any employee violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

CHAPTER 11 DISCIPLINE AND TERMINATIONS

11.1 ACTIONS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Our success in providing excellent service to our citizens and maintaining good relationships with the community depends on our employees. We have therefore provided for your guidance certain conduct which, if engaged in, would be detrimental to our objective and could lead to disciplinary action including discharge. The following specified conduct is illustrative and not comprehensive:

- A. Misrepresentation or withholding of pertinent facts in securing employment.
- B. Unauthorized use of/or possession of City facilities/property. Unauthorized use of position with the City for personal gain or advantage. Accepting unlawful gratuities or bribes. Lying.
- C. Smoking in any unauthorized posted area or creating of fire hazards in any area.
- D. Violation of dress standards.
- E. Violation of the City's telephone use or electronic media policy.
- F. Failure to report an occurrence causing damage to City, customer, or public property. Failure to properly secure the City's facilities or property.
- G. Loitering after completing day's work which results in the disruption of the City's business or the work effort of other employees. Vending, soliciting, or collecting contributions for any purpose whatsoever during working time on the premises without the permission of the supervisor.
- H. Unauthorized recording of another employee's time record. Both employees can be subject to disciplinary action.
- I. Habitual lateness for work. Absence without proper notification to immediate supervisor, excessive absenteeism, or insufficient reasons for absenteeism. Loitering, goofing off, failing to assist others in a work situation.
- J. Making malicious, false or derogatory statements that are intended or could reasonably be expected to damage the integrity or reputation of the City or our employees, on or off premises. Disorderly conduct on the premises. Rudeness, discrimination, intimidation, coercion, use of obscene language, gesture or lack of courtesy to the public or fellow employees. Immoral

conduct while on duty.

- K. Intentional falsification of records/paperwork required in the transaction of the City business.
- L. Inability, inefficiency, negligence, or insubordination, including a refusal or failure to perform assigned work. Concealing defective work.
- M. Failure to observe safety practices, rules, regulations, and instructions. Negligence that results in injury to others. Failure to wear required safety clothing and equipment.
- N. Failure to promptly report to your immediate supervisor an on-the-job injury or accident involving an employee, equipment, property or visitor.
- O. Dishonesty or theft, including deliberate destruction, damage, or removal of the City's or other's property from the premises, or any job site.
- P. Possession, use, sale, or being under the influence of alcohol and controlled substances while on City business. The only exception to this rule shall be for an employee using or possessing a controlled substance prescribed by a doctor if such employee has given his/her supervisor prior notice of such use and/or possession and such use does not impair safe and/or efficient work performance.
- Q. Possession of explosives or weapons on the premises or at any job site.
- R. Engaging in criminal conduct, acts of violence, or making threats of violence toward anyone on the City premises; fighting or provoking a fight on City property. Threatening, intimidating or coercing fellow employees on or off the premises, at any time, for any purpose.

11.2 DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Under many circumstances, the City of Mount Vernon utilizes a policy of progressive discipline as noted below; however, the City does retain the right and discretion to administer discipline in any manner it sees fit, and to terminate "at will" employees with or without cause.

- a. Oral Warning
- b. Written Reprimand
- c. Suspension
- d. Demotion

e. Termination

The choice of what discipline to apply in any particular case is solely the City's.

11.3 PRE-DISCIPLINARY HEARING

In the case of possible suspension, demotion or termination (collectively "discipline") of an employee, other than trial employees, the City will conduct a pre-disciplinary hearing. The pre-disciplinary hearing serves as a check against mistaken decisions and as an opportunity for an employee to furnish additional facts before a final disciplinary decision is made.

In the event a department director or Mayor desires to discipline an employee, the employee shall be provided with a notice of the proposed disciplinary action. The notice will include:

- A. identification of the charges or grounds on which the proposed disciplinary action is based;
- B. a summary explanation of the City's evidence;
- C. the date, time and location of the pre-disciplinary hearing;
- D. notice of the employee's opportunity at the hearing to respond to the charges, either verbally or in writing, including a chance to explain why the City should not go ahead with discipline; and
- E. notice of the employee's right to have a representative present at the hearing.

If the employee fails or refuses to appear, the disciplinary action may proceed to be imposed. Pre-disciplinary hearings will be presided over by the Mayor or a designated representative

Although the written notice of the City's evidence should be sufficient to inform the employee of the basis for discipline, this procedure shall not be construed to limit the City at any subsequent hearing or proceeding from presenting a more detailed and complete case related to the basis for discipline, including the presentation of witnesses and documents not introduced at the pre-disciplinary hearing.

If the Mayor decides to proceed with termination, or some other disciplinary action, the City will give the employee written notice of termination or the other discipline to be imposed.

11.4 LAYOFF

The Mayor may lay off employees for lack of work, budgetary restrictions, reorganization,

elimination of a position or service, or other changes that have occurred or are expected to take place.

Temporary employees or employees who have not completed a trial period will usually be laid off before regular employees are affected.

Options such as part-time work schedules, furloughs, job sharing and voluntary time and/or pay reductions may also be explored, if, in the opinion of the Mayor, such options are feasible.

Regular employees will usually be retained on the basis of job performance and the qualifications required for remaining jobs. This may include consideration of relative qualifications, experience, past and current job performance evaluations, knowledge, abilities and skills required for the position, and the employee's ability to perform the remaining work without further training.

For a period of twelve (12) months from the date of layoff, regular employees who were laid off will be placed on the City's job announcement mailing list to assist them in applying for other job vacancies for which they are qualified.

These layoff procedures are guidelines only and shall not create any right of action in the event of deviation from the guidelines. The City retains at all times the discretion to select which individuals it will lay off and which it will retain in order to best meet its short and long-term needs.

11.5 RESIGNATION

An employee wishing to leave the City service in good standing shall file with the department head at least two (2) weeks before leaving a written statement as to the reasons for leaving setting forth the effective date, and shall participate in an exit interview. The time limit of the resignation may be waived at the discretion of the department head concerned. The department head shall forward a copy of the resignation to the Human Resources Department. Failure on the part of the employee to comply with these regulations may be grounds for denial of future employment.

11.6 EXIT INTERVIEW

The Mayor or designee shall conduct, or have conducted, an exit interview, whenever possible, with any employee leaving City employment, whether by resignation, discharge or retirement. At such interview, information shall be obtained regarding the reasons for separation from employment, any complaints or basis for dissatisfaction which may have arisen during the course of employment, and any other information which will improve or enhance the present operating procedures.

CHAPTER 12 DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

12.1 DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

THIS PROCEDURE DOES NOT APPLY TO DISCRIMINATION, RETALIATION OR WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS. Employees having complaints about workplace harassment, discrimination or retaliation should follow the anti-discrimination complaint procedure outlined in section 4.4. Employees wishing to complain about improper governmental action or retaliation for filing such a complaint should follow procedures outlined in section 12.2.

The City of Mount Vernon recognizes that sometimes situations arise in which employees feel they have not been treated fairly or in accordance with City policies. For this reason the following procedures for resolving complaints are provided:

Step 1: Employees should first try to resolve any problem or complaint with their immediate supervisor.

Step 2: When normal communication between an employee and a supervisor is not successful, or when an employee disagrees with the application of City policies and procedures, the employee should attempt to resolve the problem with the department director. The department director will respond to the employee, in writing, after meeting with him/her.

Step 3: If the employee is not satisfied with the response from the department director, he/she may submit the problem, in writing, to Human Resources for review by the Mayor. The written complaint must contain, at a minimum: a description of the problem, the specific policy or procedure which is believed to be violated or misapplied, the date of the circumstances leading to the complaint or the date when the employee first became aware of the circumstances, and the remedy sought by the employee to resolve the complaint.

The written complaint must be submitted to Human Resources within thirty (30) days of the occurrence leading to the complaint, or thirty (30) days after the employee becomes aware of the circumstances, whichever date last occurs.

The Mayor may meet with the parties, either individually or together, and will usually respond in writing to the aggrieved employee within ten (10) working days of the meeting. A longer period for response may be required when the situation warrants. The Mayor's response and decision shall be final and binding.

Certain employees may have more than one source of dispute resolution procedure, i.e., the City's Civil Service rules, a collective bargaining agreement, if any, and this complaint process. Employees represented by a bargaining unit or who are covered under civil service rules must follow grievance procedures set out in the respective labor contracts or civil service rules, where applicable. Under no circumstances shall an employee have the right to utilize more than one complaint or appeal procedure

available to employees.

12.2 REPORTING IMPROPER GOVERNMENTAL ACTION - WHISTLEBLOWER

In compliance with the Local Government Employee Whistleblower Protection Act, RCW 42.41.050, the City of Mount Vernon encourages employees to disclose any improper governmental action taken by City officials or employees without fear of retaliation. This policy also safeguards legitimate employer interests by encouraging complaints to be made first to the City, with a process provided for speedy dispute resolution.

Key Definitions:

Improper Governmental Action: any action by a municipal official or employee that is:

- A. Undertaken in the performance of the official's or employee's official City duties, whether or not the action is within the scope of the employee's employment, and
- B. In violation of any federal, state or local law or rule; an abuse of authority, of substantial and specific danger to the public health or safety; or a gross waste of public funds.

"Improper governmental action" does not include personnel actions including employee grievances, complaints, appointments, promotions, transfers, assignments, reassignments, reinstatements, restorations, re-employments, performance evaluations, reductions in pay, dismissals, suspensions, demotions, violations of collective bargaining or civil service laws, alleged violations of labor agreements or reprimands. In addition, employees are not free to disclose matters which would affect a person's right to legally-protected confidential communications, such as attorney-client privilege or executive session communications.

Retaliatory Action: any material adverse change in the terms and conditions of an employee's employment as defined in RCW 42.41.020(3), that is substantially motivated by the employee's decision to prepare or participate in a whistleblower complaint.

Emergency: a circumstance that if not immediately changed may cause damage to persons or property.

Procedure for Reporting Improper Government Action: City employees who become aware of improper governmental action should follow this procedure:

- A. Bring the matter to the attention of his/her supervisor, if the supervisor is not involved in the matter, in writing, stating in detail the basis for the employee's belief that an improper action has occurred. This should be

done as soon as the employee becomes aware of the improper action.

- B. Where the employee believes the improper action involves the supervisor, the employee may raise the issue directly with the Mayor or City Attorney. The complaint should be in writing, stating in detail the basis for the employee's belief that an improper action has occurred.
- C. In the case of an emergency, where the employee believes that damage to persons' property may result if action is not taken immediately, the employee may report the improper governmental action directly to the appropriate government agency responsible for investigating the improper action, or the Skagit County Prosecutor.
- D. After an investigation is completed (usually within thirty (30) days of the employee's report), the employee will normally be advised of the results of the investigation; however, personnel actions taken as a result of the investigation may be kept confidential.

Employees involved in reporting improper governmental action or participating in the investigation may request that their identities be kept confidential. City officials and those involved in the investigation will honor this request to the extent possible under law, business necessity and the needs of the investigation. Confidentiality however cannot be guaranteed.

An employee who fails to make a good faith effort to follow this policy shall not be entitled to the protection of this policy against retaliation. "Good faith" includes a requirement that, except in an emergency, before an employee provides information of an improper governmental action to a person or an entity who is not a person listed above, the employee shall submit a written report to the local government. The employee is also charged with the responsibility to reasonably ascertain correctness of the information furnished and may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to termination, for knowingly furnishing false information as determined by the appointing authority.

Employees may report information about improper governmental action directly to an outside agency if the employee reasonably believes that an adequate investigation was not undertaken by the City to determine whether an improper government action occurred, or that insufficient action was taken by the City to address the improper action or that for other reasons the improper action is likely to recur. Whistleblower actions can be reported to the Washington State Auditor's Office, the Washington State Attorney General's Office, as well as other state and federal offices. The original policy on file in Human Resources has a list of agencies which can be contacted.

Protection Against Retaliation: It is unlawful for a local government to

take retaliatory action because an employee, in good faith, provided information that improper governmental action occurred. Employees who believe they have been retaliated against for reporting an improper governmental action should comply with the following procedures.

Procedure for Seeking Relief Against Retaliation:

- A. Employees must provide a written complaint to the City Council within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the alleged retaliatory action. The written charge shall specify the alleged retaliatory action and the relief requested.
- B. The City Council may use whatever appropriate means it deems necessary to facilitate an investigation of the employee's written complaint of retaliation. A written response to the charge of retaliatory action and request for relief shall be provided within thirty (30) days of receipt of the written charge, unless the City Council determines additional time is needed to determine the validity of the allegations in the complaint.
- C. After receiving the City's response, the employee may request a hearing before a state administrative law judge to establish that a retaliatory action occurred and obtain relief according to law. The employee must deliver the request for hearing to the Mayor within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the City's response to the retaliation charge.
- D. Within five (5) working days of receipt of a request for hearing, the City shall apply to the Office of Administrative Hearings for an adjudicative proceeding before an administrative law judge, at the following address:



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE Drug Free Work Place Policy		NUMBER 300-12-01
EFFECTIVE DATE 1/1/2018	SUPERSEDES All previous Drug Free Workplace Policies	PAGES 14

- Section Index:**
- 1.0 General
 - 2.0 Purpose
 - 3.0 Policy Statement
 - 4.0 Application of Policy
 - 5.0 Definitions
 - 6.0 Education and Training
 - 7.0 Prohibited Substances
 - 8.0 Prohibited Conduct
 - 9.0 Testing for Prohibited Substances
 - 10.0 Refusal to Take an Alcohol or Drug Test
 - 11.0 Securing Information from Previous Employers
 - 12.0 Confidentiality and Record Retention
 - 13.0 Consequences of Engaging in Prohibited Conduct
 - 14.0 Employee Assistance Program/Voluntary Referral
 - 15.0 Administration

1.0 General

- 1.1 This policy established guidelines to maintain a drug and alcohol free workplace in compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, and the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.
- 1.2 All sections of this policy apply to employees who drive commercial vehicles for the City. Those sections not designated “Commercial Drivers Only” applies to all full time and part time employees, contractors and interns or volunteers.
- 1.3 This policy is initiated by City Administration.

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

2.0 Purpose

This policy is intended to comply with all applicable federal regulations governing workplace anti-drug and alcohol programs in the motor carrier industry. Specifically, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation has published 49 CFR Part 382, as amended, that mandates urine drug testing and breath alcohol testing for safety-sensitive positions, and prohibits performance of safety-sensitive functions when there is a positive test result. The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has also published 49 CFR Part 40, as amended, which sets standards for the collection and testing of urine and breath specimens.

This policy sets forth the City of Mount Vernon alcohol and drug testing program and the testing and reporting requirements as required by those regulations.

3.0 Policy Statement

The City of Mount Vernon is dedicated to providing quality, dependable and economical municipal services to our residents. Part of our mission is to ensure that the services are delivered safely, efficiently, and effectively by establishing a drug and alcohol-free work environment. In keeping with this mission, it is the City's Policy to:

- A) Create a workplace free from the adverse effects of drugs and/or alcohol abuse or misuse in order to promote the health and safety of employees and the general public;
- B) Prohibit the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of controlled substances or misuse of alcohol for all employees;
- C) Encourage employees to seek professional assistance any time personal problems, including alcohol and/or drug dependency, adversely affect their ability to perform their assigned duties.

4.0 Application of Policy

All sections of this policy apply to employees who drive Commercial Vehicles for the City. Those sections **not** designated "**Commercial Drivers Only**" apply to all **covered employees**. **Covered employees** are defined as all full time and part time employees, contractors, interns and/or volunteers of the City of Mount Vernon.

Employee Responsibilities:

- A) Any employee, who is arrested and/or convicted under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the work place, shall notify his or

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

her department head before their next scheduled work shift.

- B) A City employee who reports to work while taking a lawfully prescribed, controlled substance shall have obtained a recommendation from their health care provider as to whether the employee may perform the duties of their job in a safe manner. Such recommendation must be in writing if the employee is performing a job which involves driving of motor vehicles, operation of equipment, or other tasks the safe performance of which may be compromised by the use of controlled substances.
- C) Employees are encouraged to report to a supervisor any knowledge that a fellow employee may be in a condition that impairs his/her ability to perform job duties or which could pose a hazard to the safety and welfare of others.

Supervisor/Manager Responsibilities:

The City of Mount Vernon 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.

- A) To notify the Human Resource Director as soon as possible after being notified by an employee of a drug conviction resulting from an incident which occurred in the work place;
- B) Take appropriate disciplinary action and/or require the employee to participate satisfactorily in drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a federal, state, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency. If so required, satisfactory participation in such a program shall be a condition of continued City employment;
- C) Report any such convictions, disciplinary actions, and rehabilitation requirements to any federal agency from which the Department receives funding either directly or through a state agency;
- D) Conduct an investigation upon receiving a report that an employee's job performance may be impaired by drugs and/or alcohol;
- E) Prohibit any employee from remaining on duty after having engaged in any of the prohibited conduct of this policy until the appropriate follow

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

through is achieved as prescribed in section XII of this policy, department policy, city personnel plan or collective bargaining agreement which ever is applicable to the position.

5.0 Definitions

Accident - An occurrence involving a city vehicle on a public road or involvement in a work-related incident which results in (1) a fatality; (2) bodily injury to a person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; (3) one or more motor vehicles incurring disabling damage (see definition below) requiring the vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle or (4) property damage of \$50,000 or greater.

Commercial Driver - This term includes all employees whose positions may involve driving a commercial vehicle and that require the possession of a Commercial Driver's License. This includes but is not limited to: Full time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or occasional drivers.

Commercial Vehicle - A commercial vehicle is one that either: 1) has a gross vehicle weight of over 26,000 pounds (including combined weight if towed unit weighs over 10,000 pounds); 2) is designed to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver; or 3) is used to transport hazardous materials, as provided under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act and which require the motor vehicle to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials Regulations.

Disabling Damage- Means damage that precludes departure of a motor vehicle from the scene of the accident in its usual manner in daylight after simple repairs.

- 1) Inclusion. Damage to a motor vehicle, where the vehicle could have been driven, but would have been further damaged if so driven.
- 2) Exclusions.
 - a. Damage that can be remedied temporarily at the scene of the accident without special tools or parts.
 - b. Tire disablement without other damage even if no spare tire is available.
 - c. Headlamp or tail light damage.
 - d. Damage to turn signals, horn, or windshield wipers, which make the vehicle inoperable.

Drugs/Controlled Substances – Refers to the following five substances listed in the DOT regulations: Marijuana (THC), Cocaine, Opiates, Phencyclidine (PCP), and Amphetamines.

Legally Prescribed Drug – A prescription or other written approval from a physician for the use of a drug in the course of medical treatment. It must include the patient's

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

name, the name of the substance, quantity/amount to be taken, and the period of authorization.

Medical Review Officer (MRO) - The Medical Review Officer is the licensed physician responsible for receiving and interpreting laboratory results from the urine drug tests.

Safety Sensitive Position – As expressed by the Supreme Court, this is a position in which the duties involve “such a great risk of injury to others that even a momentary lapse of attention can have disastrous consequences.” Hence the courts have considered armed law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians and other health care professionals responsible for direct patient care, people who operate, repair, and maintain passenger-carrying motor vehicles, drivers of sanitation trucks and employees with access to chemical weapons and their components.

Performing (a Safety Sensitive Function) -- An employee is considered to performing a safety-sensitive function during any period in which he or she is actually performing, ready to perform, or immediately available to perform any safety sensitive function.

Safety Sensitive Function – means all the time from the time an employee begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time he or she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work.

Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) - A Substance Abuse Professional is a licensed physician, or a 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 alcohol and drug-related disorders.

6.0 Education and Training

As part of the program to implement this policy, the City of Mount Vernon will make available training and education programs and educational materials to all employees regarding this policy and the effects and consequences of misuse of controlled substances and alcohol. All covered employees must receive training on the effects and consequences of prohibited drug use on personal health, safety and the work environment and on the signs and symptoms, which may indicate, prohibited drug use. The City will also provide a copy of this policy and other information as may be required by the federal regulations. Each covered employee shall sign an acknowledgement of receipt of the above information.

DRUG FREE WORK PLACE POLICY

All supervisory personnel who are in a position to determine an employee's fitness for duty will receive 60 minutes of reasonable suspicion training on the physical, behavioral, and performance indicators of probable drug use and 60 minutes of additional reasonable suspicion training on the physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable alcohol misuse.

7.0 Prohibited Substances

Prohibited substances addressed by this policy include the following:

- A) Illegally Used Controlled Substances 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), and as further defined by 21 CFR 1300.11 through 1300.15 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. Also, the medical use of marijuana, or the use of hemp-related products, as which cause drug or drug metabolites to be present in the body above the minimum thresholds is a violation of this policy.

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration drug testing regulations (49 CFR Part 382) require that all covered employees be tested for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates, and phencyclidine as described in Section VIII of this policy. 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.

- B) Legal Drugs: The appropriate use of legally prescribed drugs and non-prescription medications is not prohibited. However, the use of any substance which carries a warning label that indicates mental functioning, motor skills, or judgment may be adversely affected must be reported to the designated supervisor and the employee is required to provide a written release from his/her doctor or pharmacist indicating that the employee can perform his/her safety-sensitive functions. The misuse or abuse of legal drugs while performing City business is prohibited.

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- C) Alcohol: The use of beverages containing alcohol (including any mouthwash, medication, food or candy) or any other substances such that alcohol is present in the body while performing safety-sensitive job functions is prohibited. An alcohol test can be performed on a covered employee under 49 CFR Part 382 just before, during, or just after the performance of safety-sensitive job functions.

8.0 Prohibited Conduct

The following conduct regarding alcohol and drug use or abuse is prohibited:

- A) All covered 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, as amended.
- B) Each covered employee is prohibited from consuming alcohol while performing job functions or while on-call to perform job functions. 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 covered employee will subsequently be relieved of his/her on-call responsibilities and subject to discipline.
- C) The City of Mount Vernon shall not permit any covered employee to perform or continue to perform job functions if it has actual knowledge that the employee is using alcohol.
- D) Each covered employee is prohibited from reporting to work or remaining on duty requiring the performance of job functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater regardless of when the alcohol was consumed.
- E) No covered employee shall consume alcohol for eight (8) hours following involvement in an accident or until he/she submits to the post-accident drug/alcohol test, whichever occurs first.
- F) No covered employee shall consume alcohol within four (4) hours prior to the performance of job functions.
- G) Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, all City of Mount Vernon employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of prohibited substances in the workplace including City premises, vehicles, while in uniform, or while on city business.

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- H) A positive test for a drug or drugs.
- I) Results from an alcohol test indicate a breath alcohol level of 0.02 or greater.

9.0 Testing for Prohibited Substances

All covered employees shall be subject to the following testing, as defined below, and as described in the Drug & Alcohol Testing Procedures:

A) Pre-employment Drug Testing

All employees who perform safety-sensitive job functions are covered by this policy and must pass a drug test as a post-offer condition of employment. Additionally, an employee shall not be placed, transferred or promoted into a safety-sensitive position until the employee takes a drug test with verified negative results. Commercial drivers 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.

B) Reasonable Suspicion Testing

All employees subject to this policy shall submit to a drug and/or alcohol test when the City reasonably suspects that this policy (except the prohibitions against possession, transfer or sale of alcohol) may have been or is presently being violated. Reasonable suspicion testing shall be required when a trained supervisor can articulate and substantiate physical, behavioral and performance indicators of probable drug use or alcohol misuse by observing the appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors of the covered employee. Criteria that courts have found constitutional include the following:

- i. Direct observation of drug use or possession.
- ii. Direct observation of the physical symptoms of being under the influence of a drug, such as impairment of motor functions or speech.
- iii. A pattern of abnormal conduct or erratic behavior. Any such observation must be made by a supervisor (or preferable two supervisors) trained to recognize the signs of drug use.
- iv. Arrest or conviction for a drug-related offense, or the identification of an employee as the focus of a criminal investigation into illegal drug possession, use or distribution.
- v. Information that is provided by reliable and credible sources or that can be independently corroborated.
- vi. Newly discovered evidence that the employee tampered with a previous drug test.

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If removed from duty based on reasonable suspicion of alcohol use and an alcohol test is not administered within eight hours, the employee will not be allowed to perform or continue to perform covered functions until:

- 1) An alcohol test is administered and the driver's breath alcohol concentration measures less than 0.02; or
- 2) 24 hours have elapsed following the determination that there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the employee has violated this policy concerning the use of alcohol.

C) Post-Accident Testing

All commercial drivers and employees in safety sensitive positions performing safety sensitive functions are required to submit to alcohol and drug tests when a fatality occurs as a result of the accident or when the driver receives a citation under state or local law for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident. Testing shall occur as soon as possible, but may not exceed eight hours after the accident for alcohol testing and 32 hours after the accident for drug testing. If the test required by this section is not administered within the minimum time stated, the employer shall cease attempts to administer the test and shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not properly administered.

Employees in a non-safety-sensitive position, will only be required to submit to alcohol and drug testing if the accident results in a fatality; bodily injury to a person who, as a result of the injury, immediately receives medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or property damage of \$50,000 or greater. Involvement in lesser types of accidents is subject to Fourth Amendment protection and the employee must grant permission in advance of any testing. However, if an accident becomes a police issue then procedures mandated by law shall prevail.

A driver who is subject to post-accident testing must remain readily available for such testing and may not take any action to interfere with testing or the results of testing. Drivers who do not comply with post-accident testing requirements will be considered to have refused to submit to testing and will be subject to sanctions for refusal to test as provided in this policy. If an employee requests Union representation prior to testing for reasonable suspicion, the supervisor will notify the employee's Union Representative of the City's intent to conduct tests. The testing will not be delayed if Union representation is not available within a reasonable time.

D) Random Testing – **Commercial Drivers Only**

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All employees, whose positions require a CDL will be subject to random, unannounced alcohol and drug testing, spread throughout the calendar year. Employees that have not completed the CDL training are exempt. The selection of employees for random drug and alcohol testing will be made using a scientifically valid method that ensures each covered employee that they will have an equal chance of being selected each time selections are made. The random test will be unannounced and after notification, the employee shall report immediately to the collection site. All testing shall utilize the split sample method. Split sampling is an additional safeguard for employees.

Breath alcohol testing may only be conducted just before, during or just after the employee performs a safety sensitive function. Urine drug testing may be performed anytime an employee is on duty.

E) Return to Duty Testing

Employees who have violated this policy, including those who have tested positive on a drug or alcohol test, and who under the discipline policy are allowed to return to work, must test negative prior to being released for duty. A return to duty test following alcohol misuse may not exceed an alcohol concentration of 0.02.

F) Follow-up Testing

An employee who is referred for assistance related to alcohol misuse and/or use of drugs is subject to unannounced follow-up testing for a period not to exceed 60 months as directed by a Substance Abuse Professional and the City representative. The number and frequency of follow-up testing will be determined by the Substance Abuse Professional and the City representative but will not be less than six tests in the first 12 months following the employee's return to duty. After the first year, the substance abuse professional may terminate this requirement or continue follow-up testing for another 4 years. Follow up random testing will be done at the expense of the employee.

G) Split Sample Testing

Employees who test positive for drugs may request a second test of the remaining portion of the split sample within 72 hours of notification of a positive test result by the Medical Review Officer. The employee must notify the HR Director/MRO that he/she wishes to challenge the test. Under City policy, all costs for such testing are paid by the employee unless the second test invalidates the original test.

H) Retest for Dilute Test Results

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Employees who render a dilute test that is positive for drugs will be treated as a verified test positive. If a drug test is reported as a negative dilute, the applicant/employee must take another drug test immediately. This second test is not under direct observation unless there is a reason other than the test was dilute to require observation testing. Should the second specimen test also be negative and dilute, the City will not require the applicant/employee to take any additional drug test.

10.0 Refusal to Take an Alcohol or Drug Test

Refusal to submit to an alcohol or drug test after the employee has received notice of the requirement for breath testing in accordance with the procedures manual will result in the test being considered the same as a positive test result. A refusal to submit shall include, but is not limited to:

- A) Failure to provide adequate breath for testing without a valid medical explanation;
- B) Failure to provide adequate urine for drug testing without a valid medical explanation;
- C) Engaging in conduct that obstructs the testing process, this may include but is not limited to the following:
 - 1) The employee does not arrive in a timely manner to the collection site, or does not remain at the testing site until a test is complete
 - 2) Providing false information in connection with a test
 - 3) Failure to cooperate with any part of the testing process
 - 4) Attempting to falsify test results through tampering, contamination or adulteration, or substituting urine
 - 5) Verbal or written declaration, refusal to sign the certification of the DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing Forms, obstructive behavior, or physical absence resulting in the inability to conduct the test
 - 6) Failure to remain readily available for testing when told to do so following an accident
 - 7) Failure to permit monitoring or direct observation
 - 8) Failure to take a second test as directed by the collector or the City's representative
 - 9) Failure to undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the Medical Review Officer as part of the test verification process, or as directed by the Designated Employer Representative. CFR Part 40 requires medical examination in the event of "shy bladder", and/or upon the failure to provide an adequate breath specimen, without adequate medical explanation

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11.0 Securing Information from Previous Employers - Commercial Drivers Only

If a person is to be hired into a position subject to this policy and during the previous two years has worked as a driver of a commercial vehicle, that person must authorize a request of all employers of the driver within the past two years to release information on the following:

- A) Positive alcohol or drug tests
- B) Refusal to be tested

The City will make a good faith effort to obtain and review the information from prior employers within 30 days of the person performing safety sensitive duties for the first time.

If the information obtained from previous employer indicates either a positive test or that a refusal to be tested occurred within the past two years, that person would not be permitted to drive commercial vehicles unless subsequent information indicates that an evaluation by a Substance Abuse Professional was made and return to duty testing was administered.

12.0 Confidentiality and Record Retention

All records related to drug and alcohol testing will be maintained in a secure location with controlled access. These records will be kept separate from records pertaining to all other employees. As outlined in Part 382.401, the following records shall be maintained for a minimum of:

- A) Five Years:
 - 1. Records of alcohol test results with results indicating an alcohol concentration of .02 or greater;
 - 2. Records of verified positive drug test results;
 - 3. Documentation of refusals to take required alcohol and/or drug tests;
 - 4. Calibration documentation;
 - 5. Evaluations and referrals.
 - 6. A copy of each annual calendar year summary.
- B) Two Years: Records related to alcohol and drug collection process.
- C) One Year: Records of negative and canceled drug test results and alcohol test results with a concentration of less than .02.
- D) Indefinite Period: Records related to the education and training of supervisors and drivers while the individual performs the functions which require the training and for two years after ceasing to those functions.

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- D) The city shall provide copies of these records to other employers when former City employees have applied for employment with those employers and have signed the appropriate authorization form.

13.0 Consequences of Engaging in Prohibited Conduct

The following provisions apply to those employees who are not terminated for their policy violations:

Disciplinary Action

- A) An employee who tests .04 or greater on a breath alcohol test or tests positive for drugs shall be immediately removed from duty without pay and shall remain suspended without pay until he/she:
 - 1. Has been evaluated, at the employee's expense, by a qualified substance abuse professional from a list of names provided by the Drug and Alcohol Program Manager or the City's medical review officer; and,
 - 2. If recommended by a substance abuse counselor, has properly followed any treatment prescribed. (The employee health care plan covers a portion of the treatment. The employee is responsible for any expense not covered by the plan.); and,
 - 3. Has a verified negative result on a return-to-duty breath alcohol test (<.02) and/or drug test (depending upon which was failed). Return-to-duty testing shall be at the expense of the employee.
- B) Upon successful completion of a recommended rehabilitation program and successful return to work, an employee will be subject to follow-up random testing as outlined in Section VIII (F).
- C) If an employee tests at least .02 but less than .04, on the breath alcohol test the employee shall be removed from performing job functions for at least 24 hours following administration of the alcohol test. The employee may be suspended from work for one day without pay for the first and second incident. Upon the third incident the employee will be terminated
- D) An employee who, for the second time during his or her entire course of employment, tests .04 or greater on a breath alcohol test or tests positive for a controlled substance shall be terminated.

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- E) Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit or restrict the City's right to impose appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination from employment for engaging in prohibited behaviors as outlined in section VII.

14.0 Employee Assistance Program/Voluntary Referral

The City supports employees who volunteer for treatment of alcohol or drug abuse. Employees are encouraged to seek treatment voluntarily and to utilize the Employee Assistance Program, if available. Any employee who comes forth and notifies his/her Supervisor or HR Director of alcohol or drug abuse problems will be given the assistance extended to employees with any other illness.

Any such program, however, may not interfere with the tests required by these rules. For example, a driver may not identify himself/herself as unfit to drive after having been notified of a random or reasonable suspicion test and expect to avoid the consequences for a positive test or a refusal to test. In addition, voluntarily seeking assistance does not excuse any failure to comply with all of the provisions of this policy or other policies of the city.

Sick leave, vacation leave or leave of absence without pay may be granted for treatment and rehabilitation as in other illnesses. Insurance coverage for treatment will be provided to the extent of individual coverage. Confidentiality of information will be maintained as much as possible at all times.

15.0 Administration

- A) The Human Resource Director or designee shall be responsible for administering this policy.
- B) A procedures manual shall be developed and maintained by the Human Resources Director to administer the Drug and Alcohol Testing Program according to the procedures of the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other agencies whose regulations may be applicable to City employees. The procedures manual may be modified depending on the operational needs of the City or its contractors.

Approved by: _____
Kandy Bartlett, Human Resources Director

Approved by: _____
Jill Boudreau, Mayor



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE Computer & Electronic Media Acceptable Use Policy		NUMBER 100-12-01
EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2012	SUPERSEDES All Previous Computer Usage Policies	PAGES 9

Section Index:

- 1.0 General**
- 2.0 References**
- 3.0 Definitions**
- 4.0 Policy**
- 5.0 Procedures**

1.0 General

- 1.1 This policy establishes guidelines, standards and instructions for the use of City computers and electronic media by City officials and employees.
- 1.2 This policy is applicable to all City officials and employees.
- 1.3 This policy is initiated by Mayor and the Information Technology Department.

2.0 Reference

- RCW 42.56 – Public Records Act
- RCW 41.17A – Campaign Disclosure and Contribution
- RCW 42.30 – Open Public Meetings Act
- RCW 40.14 – Preservation and Destruction of Public Records
- City of Mount Vernon Social Media Policy – Complete Policy and Guidelines on Social Media

3.0 Definitions

MVCITYNet: The name of the local area network connecting employees to employees, and employees to the public for the City of Mount Vernon. This includes; electronic mail, network applications, and access to the Internet. The term "MVCITYNet" as used in these policies and procedures shall include all of these functions and services, as well as PCs, lap top, portable computers and

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any work stations throughout the City, whether or not connected to the local area network.

Social Media: The use of third party hosted online technologies that facilitate social interaction and dialogue and provides alternative ways for the City to share information with a broader audience. Examples include: forums; weblogs; wikis, social networking, communication and bookmarking sites; podcasts; photo or video sharing sites; and real-timed web communications sites/systems.

4.0 Policy

4.1 Overall Policy for Use of City Computers & Electronic Resources

The use of the City computers, internet, and other electronic communication resources/equipment provided during the course of employment to City employees is intended for business purposes and limited personal use. Employees are entrusted with public facilities and equipment and are expected to exercise good sound judgment in use of the same. The guidelines below will provide more detail on the usage of individual electronic communication resources.

4.2 General Guidelines for Use of MVCITYNET

- i. Use of MVCITYNet shall be for official purposes and the purpose of facilitating the exchange of information in furtherance of official business. Such use must be consistent with the purposes, objectives, goals and missions of the City.
- ii. MVCITYNet shall not be used to transmit any communication in any form (e.g. text, images, sound) where the content and/or meaning of the message or its transmission or distribution would violate any applicable law or regulation.
- iii. MVCITYNet shall be used for official activities carried out in a professional and ethical manner in the normal course of business. It shall not be used to transmit any communication, in any form, where the content and/or meaning of the message, or its transmission or distribution, could be deemed obscene, abusive, or offensive to intended or unintended recipients.
- iv. Users of MVCITYNet shall promote efficient use of the public networks to minimize and avoid creating congestion within or upon the networks thereby interfering with the work of other users. Further, users of MVCITYNet services shall respect the rights and property of all others and shall not improperly access, misappropriate or misuse the information or files of other users.

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- v. Computer games, including internet gaming, shall not be loaded or used on any MVCITYNet computer, including any PCs, laptops, portable computers or other work station systems.
- vi. MVCITYNet shall not be used for commercial purposes with the exception of employee announcement folders. Advertising of commercial offerings is forbidden.
- vii. Licensing agreements, copyright protections and other laws protecting software, documents or other material accessed on MVCITYNet will be scrupulously followed and respected.
- viii. When using MVCITYNet for accessing sources beyond MVCITYNet itself, users shall apply the MVCITYNet Acceptable Use Policy while navigating through and making use of those networks.
- ix. To protect against importation of a computer virus into MVCITYNet, no software shall be installed on computers without direct, explicit approval from the Mayor or Information Systems Manager. In addition, employees accessing the system from their homes or other remote locations, or loading documents or other materials via disk to MVCITYNet, shall use care to avoid infecting the system with a virus.
- x. Please exercise restraint when eating any type of food, snacks or liquids around or near any City computer system.
- xi. All hardware including any hard drives and the information found within City property may be seized at any time without notice and without cause. Employees shall have no expectation of privacy within any information found within City hardware including but not limited to hard drives.

4.3 **General Guidelines for Use of Electronic Mail**

E-mail is just one of the very useful tools on our Network. It can be used to communicate with any other network user. When used properly, E-mail can increase productivity and speed communication throughout the workplace. Improperly used, however, E-mail can be the source of much controversy and even litigation. The following are two common problems we wish to clarify.

- i. **Confidentiality:** Although employees may feel they are entitled to a certain amount of privacy in regard to their E-mail communications, they are not. A federal district court in Pennsylvania recently held that an employer that had

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monitored an employee's E-mail messages did not invade the employee's privacy. No employee should have any expectation of privacy in E-mail communications or any data retained within any City hard drive. All messages should be composed with the expectation that they will be made public. By using the City Network, all users have consented that the employer, at its discretion, may inspect, use, or disclose any electronic mail or other electronic data without further notice. It is the policy of the City that all E-mail generated or received on *MVCITYNet* is public property, subject to review and monitoring by the employer.

- ii. Defamation and Harassment: Because it is so difficult to detect, it is not uncommon for one employee to use E-mail to sexually or otherwise harass another, or to transmit libelous material. The e-mail system is owned by the City, therefore it is a strong likelihood that the City would be sued for the transgressions of the employee. E-mail should be, courteous and civil. It must not be used for the expression of ill will or bias against individuals or groups, offensive material such as obscenity, vulgarity, profanity, jokes, sarcasm, pornography. Sexually explicit material, cursing and name calling are not appropriate communications. Any such use of the *MVCITYNet* will subject the offending employee to severe discipline and/or termination.
- iii. Misdelivered Messages: If an Electronic mail message is delivered to the wrong person, the recipient should stop reading as soon as he realizes the message was not meant for him, and notify the sender or system administrator immediately. It is impermissible to purposefully read electronic mail intended for another person without the express permission of that person.
- iv. Forwarding of Electronic Mail: A user, in forwarding a message which originates from someone else, may not make changes to that message without clearly disclosing the exact nature of the changes and identity of the person who made the changes. If a message has been designated by its originator as confidential or privileged, it may not be forwarded without the written consent of its originator.
- v. Use of Distribution Lists: Use of the Cities distribution lists is restricted for City purposes. The use of the "everyone" distribution lists shall be limited for those messages with a legitimate public purpose in which notification of the entire

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City staff is necessary or warranted. Personal messages should not be relayed through distribution lists. "Reply to All" to an "everyone" message is prohibited.

- vi. Spam Messages Received by City Employees: Through no fault of their own employees may be subjected to spam. The nature of this mail can range from weight loss and debt elimination information to pornography. These unwanted messages prove to be a business distraction. Employees shall delete all of these messages.
- vii. Retention of E-mails: According to the State Archivist, who is responsible for creating public record retention guidelines, individual E-mail messages may be public records with legally mandated retention requirements, or may be information with no retention value. E-mail messages are public records when they are created or received in the transaction of public business and retained as evidence of official policies, actions, decisions, or transactions. **Such messages must be identified, filed, and retained just like records in other formats.** Users must manage their e-mail accounts in accordance with the City's record retention policies and procedures.
- viii. Users Responsibility for Security: It is the policy of the City that the user is responsible for the security of their electronic mail account password and any electronic mail that is sent via their account.
- ix. Consent Waiver Form: Only those employees who have signed and submitted a copy of a consent waiver form should be authorized to use the Member's electronic mail system. The consent waiver form acknowledges that an employee has read and understands the electronic mail policies and the employee consents to the employer being able to access and/or utilize his or her electronic mail. Please see City's Consent and Privacy Waiver.

4.4 General Guidelines for Use of Internet Access

Rules applicable to E-mail as stated above, are also applicable to any other communications over the Internet. Like E-mail, employees that access Internet via *MVCITYNet* may be monitored, and no employee should have any expectation of privacy in the use of the Internet. You're not to use the Internet access for radio, Social Media, You Tube non-city related videos, internet TV, movies, on-line music or any non-city related downloads, webshots, constant weather updates, etc... and also not make any work related or non work related downloads without the consent of the IS department.

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Downloads

Permitted Uses: The *MVCITYNet* electronic mail and internet system is provided for the conduct of City business. It may not be used for commercial activities (with the exception of permitted uses through the employee announcement folders as defined in item 4.6), religious causes, charitable solicitations, political activities, and support for outside organizations. This rule applies to both internal electronic mail communications and electronic mail to or from persons outside the employer. Personal use of City e-mail and internet systems is permitted within the following guidelines:

- The use is of reasonable duration and frequency during approved breaks or lunch periods.
- The City incurs no additional costs, such as long distance telephone charges.
- The use is not related to any illegal activity or the conduct of an outside business
- The use must not adversely affect the City or its public image
- The use does not interfere with the performance of City business, the employee's assigned duties, or the assigned duties of other employees and does not adversely affect the performance of the employee or the employee's organization.
- Employees should ensure that no personal correspondence appears to be an official communication of the City of Mount Vernon since employees may be perceived as representatives of the City of Mount Vernon and, therefore, damage or create liability for the City of Mount Vernon. All outgoing messages, whether by mail, facsimile, e-mail, Internet transmission, or any other means, must be accurate and appropriate.

4.5 **General Guidelines for Use of Social Media**

Social media sites are only allowed for official City business. Departments and employees must have proper authorization prior to creating a social media site or accessing a non-city social media site for City business.

See the Social Media Policy _ Employee Usage for complete guidelines on the use of Social Media communications.

4.6 **General Guidelines for Posting Information in Employee Announcement Folders**

- I. "Employee Announcement Folders" are to be used as an informational site for employees of the City. They may be used to announce up-coming activities, share information and provide employees with a venue to advertise personal items for sale within

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certain perimeters. It is not meant to provide any type of commercial advertising for any type of business.

- II. Any employee using the Folders will be held solely responsible for the information posted by the employee. Although the City may review the announcements posted to the file, the City will not vouch for the accuracy of any information posted to the file.
- III. The following rules shall apply to the posting of announcements:
- IV. Announcements shall not be used to transmit any communication in any form (e.g. text, images, sound) where the content and/or meaning of the message or its transmission or distribution would violate any applicable law or regulation.
- V. Employees are accountable for their use of electronic communications just as they are for other conduct and communications in the workplace. Therefore, use of the shared folder is restricted as follows:
 - a. It shall not be used to transmit any communication, in any form, where the content and/or meaning of the message, or its transmission or distribution, could be deemed obscene, abusive, or offensive to intended or unintended recipients. The City will view the appropriateness of any communication based on how it would have been perceived and dealt with had it been conducted by telephone, in person or on paper.
 - b. It shall not be used to transmit any communication, in any form, where the content and/or meaning of the message, or its transmission or distribution, could be deemed a breach of confidentiality.
 - c. It shall not be used to transmit any communication, in any form, where the content and/or meaning of the message, or its transmission or distribution, could be deemed as being insubordinate.
 - d. The use of aliases while using the shared folders is prohibited. Anonymous messages are not allowed.
- VI. Announcements shall not be used for commercial purposes except as allowed under item seven. Advertising of commercial offerings is forbidden.
- VII. State law precludes the City from using its facilities for any political purpose. As such, any announcements of a political nature are not allowed as in accordance with the Personnel Handbook.

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- VIII. Digital pictures may be posted as long as guidelines below are followed.
- IX. An employee will be responsible for entering and removing the announcement from the system. **All announcements must be removed within two weeks of being posted.** Consistent failure on the part of an employee to remove an announcement will be deemed reason to bar that employee from using the Announcement Folder.
- X. Selling of items and commercial activity is strictly limited to employees listing personal items for sale so long as they are not illegal or inappropriate. Items for sale must be the personal property of the employee. The folder shall not be used for the purpose of advertising or selling property held or owned by a licensed business regardless of its formation (sole proprietorship, limited liability company, corporation etc..). The folder shall not be used in the sale of goods by a merchant otherwise defined as one who deals with goods of the kind or holds himself out to have special knowledge or expertise in the goods.
- XI. Information concerning up-coming community and service club meetings may be listed.
- XII. Charitable events may be listed.
- XIII. The City will use the Announcement Folder to list employment opportunities and training opportunities.
- XIV. An employee shall not send an e-mail to announce the posting of an announcement to the folder.
- XV. The City of Mount Vernon is the owner of all City computers, and all messages and software that are contained on those computers. **Your supervisor has the right to retrieve and examine all messages at any time.**
- XVI. Failure of employees to adhere to this policy may result in restriction or revocation of access or disciplinary action. **If you are unsure as to whether your intended use of the shared folder is permissible, consult your supervisor before continuing.**

4.7 Prohibited Sites Using City Electronic Resources

COMPUTER & ELECTRONIC MEDIA ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

- I. Unless authorized by Department Head for official City business, City employees shall not access the following site categories with City electronic resources:
- II. Gambling, on-line gaming, on-line movies, music sites, full or partial nudity sites, religious sites, cult/drug culture, blogs, chat rooms not specifically related to City business, or instant messaging.

5.0 Procedures

5.1 Access to City-Email

Department Heads must authorize employee's access to City e-mail by sending an e-mail message to the IT Department. Employees will only be granted access once they have been properly trained and have signed the Computer & Electronic Media Usage Policy Acknowledgement Form.

5.2 Remote Access to City-Email or City Network

Only exempt personnel will be granted remote access to City E-mail or City Network, unless authorized by Department Head, Human Resources Director and Information Services Director. Department Heads must authorize employee's remote access on approved Information Technology Access Form and forward to Human Resources for approval. If approved, Human Resources will route authorization form to Information Technology for approval and activation.

5.3 Spam Messages Received by Employees

When an employee receives a message he/she believes is spam, they are not to open the message, but rather forward the message to IT with a note stating "the following message may contain spam".

6.0 Enforcement

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in restriction from, or revocation of, access to City electronic equipment and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and/or significant civil and criminal penalties.

Approved by:

Kim Kleppe, Information Technology Director

Approved by:

Kandy Bartlett, Human Resources Director

Approved by:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE		POLICY
City of Mount Vernon Social Media Policy		Exec-001-2022
EFFECTIVE DATE	SUPERSEDES	PAGES
March 20, 2023	300-12-02	10

APPLICABLE TO:

All city employees, elected officials, volunteers, contractors and all other who use these resources on the City’s behalf.

OVERVIEW

The City of Mount Vernon uses various tools to share information and communicate with the public, stakeholders, partners and the media. Social media platforms offer a way to deliver public information and customer service to constituents. The addition of social media tools gives citizens another means to interact with their government. The City encourages the use of social media when it furthers the goals of the City and the missions of its departments when appropriate.

POLICY STATEMENT:

This policy establishes guidelines for the use of social media in the performance of City business. It also provides guidelines for conduct by City employees who use social media to engage with the public on behalf of the City. This policy is not intended to address employee’s personal use of social media sites; refer to the City Employee Handbook, Appendix C “Social Media Policy Employee Usage,” and Appendix B “Computer and Electronic Media Acceptable Use Policy.”

DEFINITIONS

- A. Special Projects Manager (Mayor’s Office): Will be responsible for administering the City’s communication tools including social media sites; and coordinating the communication policies and standards for the City of Mount Vernon.
- B. Confidential Information: Information for which access or disclosure may be assigned some degree of sensitivity, and therefore, for which some degree of protection or access restriction may be warranted.
- C. Social Media: Online technologies, tools and practices that facilitate social interaction, dialogue, emergency notifications and business. Social media can take many different forms including text, images, audio and video. These sites are typically third-party hosted online technologies that facilitate social interaction and dialogue via blogs, message boards, podcasts, wikis, and video logs.
- D. Topic Administrator: Appointed staff from each respective City department responsible for posting, editing, retaining, and monitoring program-specific social media site content.

- E. Information Services Department (I.S.): Manages the City's web technology resources and assets including external websites providing on-going support to the web technology resources to ensure the web services are operational and meet local government best practices.

POLICY

- A. All City departments may use the City's social media tools as outlined in this policy. Social Media is a communication channel for distributing information to the public. It is used in addition to existing communication channels such as City newsletters, website, press releases, official documents, etc. The City encourages the use of social media sites and tools when it furthers the goals and vision of the City and the missions of its departments where appropriate. The use of social media is optional and not required. The most appropriate uses of City social media sites are: (1) for time-sensitive and emergency information; (2) as a communication tool for citizen engagement, promotions and marketing; and (3) as a tool to direct citizens and site users to the City's official website.
- B. Responsibilities: The Special Projects Manager, or designee, is responsible for all social media as outlined in this policy. All questions relating to this policy should be directed to the Special Projects Manager. Employees responsibilities under this policy is as follows:
 - 1. Supervisors: Responsible for assuring their employees understand and comply with the policy.
 - 2. Employees: Responsible for understanding and complying with the policy and will be subject to disciplinary action up to termination depending on the infraction of the policy.
 - 3. Directors: Responsible for the oversight and appropriate use of the social media. Each department director is responsible to enforce this policy in consultation with the Human Resources Director and the Special Projects Manager.
- C. The City may establish and maintain primary citywide social media accounts (sites) for disseminating City information under the direction of the Special Projects Manager. Content for these sites will be provided by City departments.
- D. Public Records and Retention: All information posted, and other activity conducted on social media sites, is subject to the Public Records Act and Office of the Secretary of State Records Management Guidelines and Retention Schedules.
 - 1. All City social media sites shall contain a statement that all content submitted by users is potentially subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW. Where appropriate, users and visitors to the City's social media sites should be directed to submit public records requests to the City Clerk.
 - 2. All information and content on a City social media site that is required to be retained under state and local retention policies and guidelines shall be maintained for the required retention period on a City server in a format that preserves the metadata of the original record. Prior approval of the retention

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format and procedures for each City social media tool being used shall be received from the City Clerk. See the Procedures below, for additional procedures related to retention of information and content of social media sites.

- E. All laws governing copyright and fair use, or fair dealing, of copyrighted material owned by others, including City of Mount Vernon's own copyrights and brands, shall be followed on social media sites.
- F. Employees not authorized to use social media tools are not allowed to publish or comment as a representative of the City via social media. All employee uses of social media shall follow the ethical standards required by the City of Mount Vernon.
- G. Employees are expressly forbidden to misuse any social media access privileges in any way. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Using social media accounts for unlawful activities, including violations of copyright law, or for activities that are malicious or have the effect of harassing other users;
 - 2. Misrepresenting the City's programs or policies in their communications;
 - 3. Publishing confidential information. Examples of confidential information may include unpublished details about projects, private customer data, protected health information, unreleased bid or financial information, private personnel information and other sensitive or classified information. Determination of confidential-natured content is the responsibility of the site topic administrator and their department director; and
 - 4. Any use that is inconsistent with Procedure F.2. below.
- H. Open Public Meetings Act: City Council Members, Commissioners and Board Members should not comment, or otherwise communicate, on the City's social media sites unless the form of communication is approved by the Special Projects Manager (such as a newsletter article). Participating in online discussions may constitute a meeting under the Open Public Meetings Act in some situations. The Special Projects Manager or a Topic Administrator may post secondary copies of materials developed by Council Members, Commissioners, or Board Members.
- I. Prohibited Use of Public Facilities or Public Office: City officials and employees are prohibited from using or authorize the use of any of the City's social media sites directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition unless an exemption applies under state law. RCW 42.17A.555. Content includes but is not limited to posts when done for the purpose of assisting a campaign for election of any person to any office or for the promotion of or opposition to any ballot proposition is not allowed. In the event there are questions regarding this restriction, employees shall contact the Special Project Administrator for a decision to approve or remove content. The Washington State Public Disclose Commission may be contacted by the appropriate official with questions in advance of a proposed activity that may involve the use of the City's Social Media Sites.

PROCEDURE

- A. The Special Projects Manager will:
 - 1. Oversee and confirm decisions regarding social media sites including authorization of sites;
 - 2. Evaluate requests for usage;
 - 3. Have final authority to edit or remove content within the legal constraints per the public records requirements and this policy; and
 - 4. Verify staff being authorized to use social media tools.

- B. The Information Services Department will:
 - 1. Oversee department social media sites for account set-up and to assure compliance with applicable brand standards maintenance, monitoring, and records management requirements;
 - 2. Maintain a master list of all approved social media tools and websites;
 - 3. Develop and maintain a web page on the City website that lists all authorized social activity;
 - 4. Maintain a list of City social media accounts, associated pages that are operating, URLs, associated records retentions locations, account logins and passwords, and authorized agent contact information; and
 - 5. Ensure that account security is maintained if authorized agent is removed as an administrator.

- C. Topic Administrators will:
 - 1. Maintain program-specific sites;
 - 2. Assure regular posting of information;
 - 3. Monitor comments;
 - 4. Remove prohibited content; and
 - 5. Save content required under records retention schedule guidelines.

- D. A link to the City's official website shall be included on all Social Media sites to properly identify the social media tool as an official city resource, directing users back to the City of Mount Vernon website for in-depth information on the posted content. A link or links may also be provided to a department or program specific website resources.

- E. Retention of Posted Information.
 - 1. Information posted on the City's social media sites is subject to the Public Records Act and Office of the Secretary of State Records Management Guidelines and Retention Schedules. In order to ensure appropriate retention of public records, content posted by City personnel on City social media sites should not be original source content (content that has not been created anywhere else and only exists on the social media site), but rather a secondary

copy of information that is posted on the City website or contained in an electronic copy or a hard copy. If original content is posted on a social media site, that information shall be retained in accordance with the City's records retention policies and other applicable laws, for at least the minimum retention period listed for those records beginning the date of posting. Copies of records the City already retains elsewhere will be considered secondary copies and shall be retained accordingly.

2. Department staff are responsible for ensuring retention of the original-source content in an organized, searchable electronic format. The records should be retained in such a manner that it can be deleted after meeting the required retention periods per the Secretary of State's Records Retention Schedule [https://www2.sos.wa.gov/assets/archives/recordsmanagement/local-government-common-records-retention-schedule-core-v.4.2-\(august-2021\).pdf](https://www2.sos.wa.gov/assets/archives/recordsmanagement/local-government-common-records-retention-schedule-core-v.4.2-(august-2021).pdf).
3. All edits made to posted content and comments posted by outside users on City social media sites, including those that are inappropriate and removed by staff, shall be retained as outlined by the governance for each social media tool. When staff edits their posted content or removes inappropriate content, a record of that staff name, date, and time the content was edited or removed shall be retained in an organized, searchable electronic format. The records should be retained in such a manner that it can be deleted after meeting the required retention periods.
4. Any information scheduled to be deleted that is the subject to a pending records request or a request to preserve from the City's legal counsel shall not be deleted until permission is given by the appropriate City Official.

F. Information Posted by Outside Individuals.

1. For all City social media sites that allow user-generated content (non city-published content), those sites are limited public forums, moderated by City of Mount Vernon staff to ensure content posted by outside users is appropriate. A Comment Policy Notice (Attachment 1, Section D) shall be displayed or linked to on all social media sites in a manner that is clearly conspicuous to a user that allow user-generated material to be posted, indicating the site is moderated and inappropriate content will be removed. The City's Social Media Policy shall be linked to the notice.
2. Inappropriate and prohibited content subject to immediate removal from the site includes content that:
 - a. Violates the social media tool's terms of use;
 - b. Is not topically related to the particular content being commented upon;
 - c. Promotes or advertises commercial services, entities or products;
 - d. Supports or opposes any political candidate to any office or any ballot propositions. Such content may constitute a violation of state campaign laws.

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- e. Is obscene, profane or vulgar;
 - f. Discusses, encourages or constitutes illegal activity;
 - g. Promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, socioeconomic status, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation;
 - h. Provides information that compromises the safety or security of the public or public systems, or includes threatening, harassing, or personal attacks against any individual or entity; and/or
 - i. Violates a legal ownership.
3. Inappropriate content shall be retained as required under the Public Records Act and records retention requirements by the designated Topic Administrator and then removed immediately.
 4. Comments and other material from children under the age of thirteen cannot be posted on the City's social media sites, in order to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. By posting on a City social media site, users represent and acknowledge that they are at least thirteen years old. Children that are age twelve and younger may e-mail the City with information or comments.
- G. Establishing Department or Program-Specific Sites.
1. Departments may establish independent social media sites with the approval of the Special Projects Manager. Departments wishing to create a social media site will make application (Attachment 2) to the Special Projects Manager.
 2. Once approval is received, the department shall work with the Information Services Department to create new accounts, establish site pages and records retention locations. The social media site format and guidelines shall be approved by the Information Services Department.
 3. Independent department sites shall have a specific staff member(s) appointed by the Department Director to be responsible for management, maintenance, and monitoring of each social media account the department creates. The appointed employee shall regularly monitor, update, and keep public records of the social media site(s) maintained by their department. Directors are responsible for ensuring their staff follows the procedures set forth in this policy and subsequent (or related) operating procedures and policies that govern their use. Departments shall inform the Special Projects Manager if they intend to stop operating their social media account(s).
 4. The appointed staff member(s) is responsible for identifying and forwarding public record requests to the City Clerk's office according to City of Mount Vernon and Washington State public record request requirements.
 5. Topic Administrators shall maintain accurate information on social media sites by

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frequently reviewing and updating as necessary and appropriate and in compliance with this policy.



ATTACHMENT ONE MOUNT VERNON SOCIAL MEDIA DISCLAIMERS

A. Privacy Policy and Disclaimers

All comments or other content posted to this site may be considered public records and be subject to public disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act (RCW 42.56). Any individual accessing, browsing and using a City of Mount Vernon Social Media site accepts without limitation or qualification, the City's Social Media Policies (hereafter "Policies"). These terms and conditions apply only to the Social Media sites (defined here as third party hosted online technologies that facilitate social interaction and dialogue such as Facebook, Twitter, NextDoor, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube) that are managed by the City of Mount Vernon. The City of Mount Vernon maintains the right to modify these policies without notice. Any modification is effective immediately upon posting the modification on the Social Media Policy page unless otherwise stated. Continued use of a City of Mount Vernon Social Media site following the posting of any modification signifies acceptance of such modification. All users of a City of Mount Vernon Media site are also subject to the site's own Privacy Policy. The City of Mount Vernon has no control over a site's privacy policy or their modifications to it. The City of Mount Vernon also has no control over content, commercial advertisements, or other postings produced by the Social Media site that appear on the City of Mount Vernon Social Media site as part of the site's environment. The City of Mount Vernon operates and maintains its Social Media sites as a public service to provide information about City programs, services, projects, issues, events and activities. The City of Mount Vernon assumes no liability for any inaccuracies these Social Media sites may contain and does not guarantee that the Social Media sites will be uninterrupted or error-free.

B. Links Policy

1. Links to other Social Media Sites and External Websites Provided on City of Mount Vernon Social Media Sites

The City of Mount Vernon may select links to other Social Media sites and outside websites that offer helpful resources for users. Once an individual links to another page or site, the City's Policies no longer apply and you become subject to the policies of that page or site. The City of Mount Vernon's Social Media sites are intended specifically to share information about City programs, events and services. The City of Mount Vernon is not responsible for the content that appears on these outside links and provides these links as a convenience only. The City is not responsible for transmissions users receive from external websites. Users should be aware that these external pages and sites and the information found on those pages and sites are not controlled by, provided by, or endorsed by the City of Mount Vernon. The City reserves the right to delete links

posted by outside individuals that violate the City's Posts Policy at any time without notice.

2. Links by Other Entities to City of Mount Vernon Social Media Sites

It is not necessary to get advance permission to link to City of Mount Vernon Social Media sites; however, entities and individuals linking to City of Mount Vernon Social Media sites may not capture any of the City's Social Media sites within frames, present City of Mount Vernon content as their own or otherwise misrepresent any of the City's Social Media site content. Furthermore, they shall not misinform users about the origin or ownership of City of Mount Vernon Social Media site content. Links to City of Mount Vernon Social Media sites should not in any way suggest that the City of Mount Vernon has any relationship or affiliation with that organization or that the City endorses, sponsors or recommends the information, products or services of that site.

C. Copyright Policy

All information and materials generated by the City of Mount Vernon and provided on City of Mount Vernon Social Media sites are the property of the City of Mount Vernon. The City retains copyright on all text, graphic images and other content that was produced by the City of Mount Vernon and found on the page. You may print copies of information and material for your own non-commercial use, provided that you retain the copyright symbol or other such proprietary notice intact on any copyrighted materials you copy. Please include a credit line reading: "credit: City of Mount Vernon Facebook (or Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, etc) Page" or "Courtesy of City of Mount Vernon."

Commercial use of text, City logos, photos and other graphics is prohibited without the express written permission of the City of Mount Vernon. Use of the City logo is prohibited for any non-governmental purpose. Any person reproducing or redistributing a third-party copyright must adhere to the terms and conditions of the third-party copyright holder. If you are a copyright holder and you feel that the City of Mount Vernon did not use an appropriate credit line please notify the City's Information Services Director with detailed information about the circumstances, so that the copyright information can be added or the material in question can be removed.

D. Posting/Discussion Policy and Disclaimer

Commenting: Comments posted to this page will be monitored for compliance under the City of Mount Vernon Social Media policy. Although the City encourages posts and comments on pages in which such posts are allowed and managed by the City, pages are limited public forums and are moderated by City staff. All posted content (comments, photos, links, etc.) must be related to the topic at hand. The following types of posts and comments are prohibited and are subject to removal:

Inappropriate and prohibited content subject to immediate removal from the page,

includes content that:

- Is not topically related to the particular article being commented upon.
- Promotes or advertises commercial services, entities or products.
- Supports or opposes any political candidate to any office or any ballot propositions. Such content may constitute a violation of state campaign laws.;
- Is obscene.
- Calls for or encourages illegal activity.
- Promotes, fosters or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of creed, color, age, religion, gender, genetics, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation.
- Provides information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems.
- Violates a legal ownership.
- Promotes illegal activity or encouragement of illegal activity; information that may tend to compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems.
- Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party; or anonymous posts.
- Contains vulgar, offensive, threatening, harassing, or profane language or content.
- Personal attacks of any kind.
- Offensive comments that target or disparage any ethnic, racial, or religious group.
- Sexual content.
- Obscene materials.
- Personal information of a child under the age of 13. Such information includes individually identifiable information about an individual such as: (A) a first and last name; (B) a home or other physical address including street name and name of a city or town; (C) an e-mail address; (D) a telephone number; (E) a Social Security number; (F) any other identifier that permits the physical or online contacting of a specific individual; or (G) information concerning the child or the parents of that child collected online from the child and combines with an identifier described in this paragraph.

The City of Mount Vernon reserves the right to remove posted content that does not comply with these Policies. All posts and comments uploaded to the City of Mount Vernon pages will be periodically reviewed. All posts and comments are public records subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act.



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE Communication Systems- Cell Phone Policy		NUMBER 100-12-03
Revision Date January 1, 2018		PAGES 9

**Section Index: 1.0 General
2.0 Policy**

1.0 General

- 1.1 This policy establishes guidelines, standards and instructions for acquisition and use of City cellular phones.
- 1.2 This policy is applicable to all City employees.
- 1.3 This policy is initiated by Mayor and the Information Technology Department.

2.0 Policy

City provided mobile phones and mobile phone services must be acquired following the City’s purchasing policies and procedures. All City-provided mobile phone services and equipment are subject to the approval of the Mayor and Department Director. Mobile phone systems, equipment, and services are provided by the City of Mount Vernon to facilitate the performance of City work. Personal use of City provided phones is discouraged. All communication systems must be used in compliance with applicable statutes, regulations, and the City’s policies including those that require a work environment free from discrimination and harassment. Employees are expected to use common sense and sound judgment to avoid any communication which is disrespectful, offensive, or illegal.

All City of Mount Vernon communication services and equipment, including mobile phones and the messages transmitted or stored by them, are the sole property of the City of Mount Vernon. Department Heads or designated Division Managers may access and monitor employee communications and files. Communication services and equipment include, among other things mail, electronic mail (“e-mail”), instant text messaging, courier services, facsimiles,

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telephone systems, personal computers, computer networks, on-line services, internet connections, intranets, computer files, video equipment and tapes, tape recorders and recordings, pagers, cellular phones, voice mail, and bulletin boards.

The City reserves the right to monitor the use of all City-owned cell phones. Cell phone use in violation of any local, state, or federal law is prohibited. Cell phone use in violation of department work policies or for the purpose of personal financial gain is prohibited. Upon resignation or termination of employment, or at any time upon request, the employee may be asked to produce the cell phone for return or inspection. Employees unable to present the phone in good working condition within the time period requested may be expected to bear the cost of replacement.

2.1 Acquisition

Wireless communication devices and services are paid for by department funds. The Information Technology Department may be consulted for cellular telephone purchases and shall be consulted for all plans that require data access to City servers, such as blackberry, i-phone or droid data plans. In some cases, there may be a charge for acquiring licenses to allow access to City data applications. The Information Technology Department shall periodically review each plan assignment to verify that it continues to be the most cost effective program for the City. During the annual plan review, personal usage is not to be included in analysis of the correct rate plan. The Information Technology Department sets, reviews and revises, and documents standards for wireless communication devices.

2.2 Usage Policy

The City of Mount Vernon may review and access all City-provided mobile phone services (voice minutes used, text messages sent/received, and data service use) which include a review of the monthly billing by the Mayor, department director, or department designee.

Most wireless transmissions are not secure. Therefore, individuals using wireless services should use discretion in relaying confidential information. Reasonable precautions should be made to prevent equipment theft and vandalism to City issued mobile phones.

2.3 Personal Use of City-Provided Mobile Phones

The City of Mount Vernon issues mobile phones to allow efficient and cost effective execution of City business.

Only incidental personal use of City-provided mobile phone lines is permitted. Incidental personal use is secondary use that should not interfere or conflict with business use or job performance. Incidental

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personal use is defined as use that is infrequent and insubstantial. Incidental personal use of phone calls are to be made at times that do not adversely affect the performance of official duties and are brief in duration and frequency. Whenever possible, incidental personal calls are to be made during breaks. Employees should use good judgment when making personal calls and should recognize that the City incurs costs for use of airtime.

The employee shall be responsible for reimbursing additional costs incurred by the City as a result of incidental personal use. The employee placing or receiving the personal call will be responsible for full reimbursement to the City for all additional charges. If the employee or his/her family has an emergency, and if such emergency necessitates use of a City phone to communicate, the City may at its discretion waive reimbursement to the City. Examples of an emergency include, but are not limited to:

- Illness or injury of a family member, or employee.
- Unanticipated work requirement where the employee needs to inform home that he/she will arrive later than expected.

Use of a City-owned cell phone for other than City business or personal incidental use will result in the employees reimbursement to the City as follows:

- A. Where non-incidental personal phone usage occurs under a rate plan in which minutes are pooled between a group of City users, the employee shall reimburse 100% of the total monthly phone costs
- B. Where non-incidental personal phone usage occurs under all other rate plans, if the total monthly bill exceeds the rate plan minutes assigned for mobile phone device assigned, or the device is charged for each minute or increment of data, employees must reimburse the City for all personal calls up to the number of minutes the bill exceeded the "plan." All applicable long-distance, roaming charges and taxes must be included in personal call reimbursements. The employee is responsible for including air-time charges in his/her payment or reimbursement calculations. The employee must fully reimburse the City for all non-business cellular calls by documenting them to the Finance Department on approved forms and either attaching the corresponding payment or by agreeing to a payroll deduction.

2.4 Vehicle-Installed City-Provided Mobile phones

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Where a City-provided mobile phone is assigned to more than one individual or is installed in a City vehicle, all individuals who make or receive personal calls on such phones shall be responsible for all additional costs according to paragraph 1.3 above.

2.5 Driving with Cell Phones

Employees who are issued a cell phone for business use are expected to refrain from using their phone while driving, except with the use of a hands-free device and in accordance with applicable laws. Every effort should be made to pull to the side of the road to a safe location prior to answering or initiating cell phone calls. In situations where job responsibilities include regular driving and accepting of business calls, the City will provide hands-free equipment. This rule also applies to use of privately-owned cell phones during business hours.

2.6 City business text messages must be retained in accordance with State Law

City business conducted through the use of cellular telephones is a public record and must be retained according to state retention requirements and is subject to disclosure. Care must be taken to ensure that records created are maintained and can be provided if requested. Employees must know their device's capabilities. Employees should refrain from text messaging to conduct City business unless there is a valid business reason for texting that cannot be addressed with other technology. If a City business text is created, then the text message must be retained pursuant to state law.

2.7 Texting to make administrative arrangements

Current state archivist guidance provides that records relating to the administrative arrangements of meetings held by or on behalf of the local government agency may be retained until no longer needed for agency business and then destroyed. Such records include, but are not limited to: meeting date and place scheduling records, agenda requests, arrangement of catering, facilities and equipment. *See Local Government Common Records Retention Schedule (CORE) Version 2.2 (December 2011) DAN GS2011-176 Rev. 0.*

2.8 Audit and Records

All City communication device accounts and communications made by the employee through City communication device accounts including mobile phone accounts may be audited by the State Auditor's Office and audited and monitored by the City. Employees must be aware that e-mail and text messaging are not private and their source is clearly identifiable. E-mail, text messages, and use of data services including the meta-data created may remain part of City business records long after they have been deleted. All electronic records, including e-mail, text messages, and use of data services including the meta-data created may be public records

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subject to Washington State's Public Disclosure Records Act, and will be disclosed upon request unless an exemption to disclosure is found to apply. In general, e-mail is subject to discovery in civil lawsuits. Employee shall acknowledge by signing this policy that they have no reasonable expectation of privacy in any electronic communication including e-mails, text messages, and use of data services through use of any City or personally owned communication device used to conduct City business including use of City mobile phones and services or personal phones used to conduct City business.

Detailed phone call billing statements, records, and recordings of any form of communication containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained by the City regardless of physical form or characteristics may be considered public records subject to public records requests and retention schedules regardless of whether such records were created through use of City phones or use of personal phones.

2.9 Enforcement and Discipline

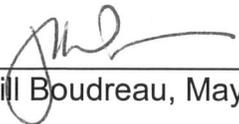
Personal usage that is not reimbursed according to this policy, repeated violations regarding personal use, or other violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action including withdrawal of wireless communication device privileges.

Approved by: 

Kim Kleppe, Information Services Director

Approved by: 

Kandy Bartlett, Human Resources Director

Approved by: 

Jill Boudreau, Mayor



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE Employee Safety & Health Policy		NUMBER 300-12-01
EFFECTIVE DATE May 1, 2012	SUPERSEDES 300-09-01	PAGES 10

- Section Index:**
- 1.0 General**
 - 2.0 References**
 - 3.0 Policy**
 - 4.0 Definitions**
 - 5.0 Procedures**

1.0 General

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish, supervise and enforce an accident prevention program that is effective in practice. Accident prevention programs must be outlined in writing and tailored to the needs of City of Mount Vernon departments and operations. Training programs that improve the skill, awareness, and competency of all employees' occupational safety and health are also covered by this policy.

1.2 This policy is applicable to all City employees.

1.3 This policy is initiated by City Administration.

2.0 Reference

Washington Industrial Safety & Health Administration Core Rules
Accident Prevention Program WAC 296-800

3.0 Policy

In order to provide a safe workplace for all employees, the City of Mount Vernon maintains a Safety and Health program that includes employees tasked specifically with safety management, training programs, worker's compensation and accident prevention.

As part of the City's safety efforts, a written Accident Prevention Program must be developed that is tailored to the specific needs and hazards of each

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workgroup. It is the responsibility of the Department Director to assure that this program is accurate, understood and effective in practice.

Employees are expected to abide by all safety procedures and rules. Each employee is accountable for his/her own safety and shares responsibility for the safety of other employees. When any employee willfully fails to comply with safety rules, the City may utilize disciplinary procedures.

Employees who feel safety concerns are not being adequately addressed through the normal chain of command have additional resources. These include:

- Department Head
- Human Resources Director
- Union Representation

Under no circumstance should an employee's safety concern be left unaddressed.

3.1 Department Safety Division Responsibilities

Department directors are responsible to provide professional occupational safety and health assistance to all their employees. This includes:

- Knowledge of current safety & health regulations, interpretations and control measures.
- Assessment of departmental hazards and appropriate corrective measures.
- Facilitation of safety training, program writing & task-analysis
- Accident and compliance activity investigation.
- Coordination of resources to resolve safety-related concerns.

3.2 Supervisor Responsibilities

- Follow all safe work practices and provide a positive example.
- Employees must be trained and knowledgeable in safe work practices for tasks prior to assignment.
- Reports of unsafe conditions or equipment must be investigated and acted upon promptly.
- Employee safety must be considered in equipment selection, daily operations, and design specification.
- Budgets, schedules and programs must provide adequate resources to comply with safety regulations and safe work practices.
- Accurate documentation is maintained in compliance with Federal, State, and local requirements.

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3.3 Employee Responsibilities

All employees are responsible to know and follow safe work practices, cooperate with efforts to eliminate occupational illness and injury, use and care for personal protective equipment properly and apply principles of accident prevention in their daily work.

- Follow established safe practices.
- Apply the principles of accident prevention to daily work and use safety devices and protective equipment as required.
- Promptly report any work-related injury, vehicle accident, property damage or occupational illness.
- Do not remove or destroy any safeguard or warning provided to make the workplace safe.
- Participate in efforts to create a safe workplace for all employees.
- Identify, report and/or correct unsafe conditions and practices as soon as possible. Unsafe conditions should be effectively guarded until they can be corrected.
- Communicate ideas for improvements in employee safety.

4.0 Definitions

DOSH – The Washington State Labor and Industry Department’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) administrates the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) law by developing and enforcing rules that protect workers from hazardous jobs.

Employee - Any person working for the City of Mount Vernon including full time employees, part-time employees, seasonal employees and temporary employees.

Hazard Assessment – Documented assessment of personal protection requirements for specific hazards.

Policy – An administrative document that establishes the basis and implementation methods for various programs. A policy must be signed by various administration members.

Program – Department-specific documentation of the steps to comply with DOSH rules, such as Accident Prevention, Confined Space and Hazard Communication programs. These are updated as rules, best practices and departments change.

Safe Work Procedure – Description of personal protective equipment, training, forms and steps to perform a task safely. These are developed

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and revised continually by the department and the safety division. These are kept as an appendix to the department Accident Prevention Program.

Supervisor – Any employee who is acting to direct work and has the knowledge and authority to maintain a safe workplace.

Vehicle - Any car, truck, bus, or piece of equipment owned or leased by the City of Mount Vernon or private vehicles used on approved city business.

5.0 Procedures

At a minimum, the Departmental Accident Prevention Program will address the following elements.

5.1 Accident Reporting and Investigation

Whenever a work-related incident has the potential to cause injury or illness to a City of Mount Vernon employee, specific actions must be taken. Prompt and accurate reporting is essential, with the goals of preventing recurrence and providing medical care. Urgent medical care should not be postponed, but reporting should occur as soon as possible.

A. Fatalities and Hospitalizations

DOSH must be notified within 8 hours of the City of Mount Vernon learning of the death, likely death or in-patient hospitalization of an employee. Fatalities and hospitalizations that occur within 30 days of the incident must also be reported to DOSH. This notification should be made by the Department Director or Human Resources Director whenever possible. Notification calls should be made to 1-800-423-7233 (1-800-4BE-SAFE).

B. All Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses

Whenever an employee believes they have a work-related injury or illness, it should be reported as soon as possible to a supervisor. The supervisor is responsible to initiate appropriate care and an investigation. In all cases, a Safety Investigation must be done.

C. Notice to Employees—If a Job Injury Occurs

All safety bulletin boards must have DOSH poster F242-191-909 clearly posted and completed with the required information. This poster provides employees with contact, benefits and procedural information. The Human Resources Department provides completed versions for posting.

5.2 Safety Orientation

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

- A. Description of this City of Mount Vernon Employee Safety & Health Policy.
- B. On-the-job orientation showing employees what they need to know to perform their initial job assignments safely. Department Safe Work Procedures shall be used as a training tool.
- C. How & when to report on-the-job injuries, vehicle accidents, regulatory inspections, unsafe conditions and practices.
- D. Instruction about the location of first-aid facilities, first aid training and local emergency medical services.
- E. The correct selection, use & care of required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- F. What should be done in an emergency, including how to exit the workplace.
- G. Identification of hazardous gases, chemicals, or materials used on-the-job and instruction about the safe use and emergency action to take after accidental exposure.

5.3 Safety Committees and Meetings

- A. Central Safety Committee
The Central Safety Committee is comprised of employee elected and management appointed representatives representing the major work groups within the City. The Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month to discuss safety items of concern to the entire City. The Human Resources Director is responsible for the coordination of the Central Safety Committee.
- B. Departmental Safety Committees
Some departments are also served by a Departmental Safety Committee. Members of the Departmental Safety Committee may be elected by their work groups or appointed by the department director. Meetings will be held at a time and place as agreed upon by the committee, not less than quarterly.
- C. Department or Crew Safety Meetings
Departments or divisions engaged in construction or maintenance work under DOSH definitions will conduct weekly crew safety meetings. These meetings will address the hazards of the jobs currently under

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

way and provide ongoing training on relevant safety topics. The department or division will maintain records of these meetings.

Departments without safety committees should discuss city and department safety issues at scheduled staff meetings accessible to all employees. Information can be distributed electronically, on bulletin boards or using printed material when appropriate.

5.4 Training

Appropriate safety and health training is required prior to assignment. It is the Department Director's responsibility, with assistance from the Human Resources Director, to assure adequate training is provided to affected employees. Safe Work Practices are part of the departmental safety training

Appendix A lists the City's Safety & Health basic training requirements.

5.5 Other Program Requirements

Depending on the nature of the work, departments may need to develop additional program elements. Additional requirements are listed in Appendix B.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

Attachment A

Safety Training Requirements

Training requirements depend on job title and assignment

Training Title	WAC Reference	Frequency
Asbestos Worker	296-62-077	Varies
Biological Agents (BBP)	296-823	Annual
Building Evacuation Drill	296-800-310 296-24-567	Annual
Crane Operations	296-24-215	At assignment
Elevating Work Platforms	296-869	4 years
Emergency Response to Hazardous Substance Release	296-824	Annual
Excavation, Trenching & Shoring Competent Person	296-155-650	3 years
Fall Restraint & Arrest	296-155-245	At assignment
First Aid/CPR/AED	296-800-150	2 years
Forklift Operations	296-863	3 years
Hazard Communication	296-800-170	At assignment
Hearing Loss Prevention	296-817	Annual
Ladders (portable/fixed)	296-876	At assignment
Lockout/Tagout	296-803	3 years
Permit-Required Confined Space	296-809	3 years
Portable Fire Extinguishers	296-800-300	Annual
Respiratory Protection	296-842	Annual
Safe Boating	352-65	At assignment
Safety Orientation	296-800-140	At assignment
Workplace Violence	296-800-110	18 months

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

Attachment B

Additional Requirements Table

This table will assist your Department in determining if any additional chapters are required in your Department Accident Prevention Program.

To use this table:

1. Determine if any of the activities, hazards or situations listed in the first column applies to your department activities.
2. The second column lists additional steps or written programs.
3. Request assistance and standard or sample program that is identified in the third column from the Safety Division.

If individuals in your workplace:	Then you may need to:	See:
Are exposed to hazards	Determine personal protective equipment (PPE) required based on a mandatory job hazard assessment. Written certification is also mandatory.	WAC 296-800-160
Work around hazardous chemicals	Establish a written chemical hazard communication program	WAC 296-800-170
Service, adjust, or maintain equipment in your workplace where people could be injured by the unexpected start-up of the machine or the release of stored energy	Establish a written energy control (lockout/tagout) program	Chapter 296-803 WAC
Work around loud noise	Establish a hearing conservation program	Chapter 296-817 WAC
Weld, cut, or do brazing	Make sure rules and instructions to operate and maintain oxygen or fuel-gas supply equipment are readily available	Chapter 296-24 WAC, Part I
Are required to use respirators or voluntarily use respirators to protect against airborne hazards	Establish a written respirator program	Chapter 296-842 WAC
May be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious material (bloodborne pathogens)	Establish a written exposure control plan	Chapter 296-823 WAC
May encounter confined spaces in your workplace	Conduct a survey to identify confined spaces. If employees are to enter confined spaces, special procedures and a written program may be required	Chapter 296-809 WAC
May be injured by an activated fire suppression system	Establish a written emergency action plan	Chapter 296-24 WAC, Part G-1

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

Are required to perform specific actions during emergency situations involving the release of hazardous substances.	Establish a written emergency response plan or, if appropriate, a written emergency action plan	Chapter 296-824 WAC and Chapter 296-24 WAC, Part G-1
Are fire fighters	Develop a risk management policy with incident strategies that can be incorporated into the incident command system	Chapter 296-305 WAC
Are exposed to substances such as asbestos, tremolite, anthophyllite, or actinolite	Establish and implement a written program to reduce employee exposure to or below the permissible limit	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part I-1
Are involved in hazardous waste operations	Develop and implement a written safety and health program for these operations	Chapter 296-843 WAC
Are involved with diving operations	Develop and maintain a written safe practices manual	Chapter 296-37 WAC
Are involved with telecommunications	Include additional elements in your accident prevention program that specifically cover this work	Chapter 296-32 WAC
May be exposed to specific air contaminants	Establish and implement a written compliance program	Chapter 296-841 WAC
Use powered platforms installed as part of a building to do building maintenance	Provide written work procedures for the operation, safe use, and inspection of the equipment	Chapter 296-24 WAC, Part J-3
Work in a laboratory using hazardous chemicals	Develop and carry out the provisions of a written chemical hygiene plan	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part Q
May be exposed to certain carcinogens (cancer causing agents) Vinyl Chloride Acrylonitrile 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) Ethylene oxide Cadmium Butadiene Methylene chloride	Implement a written program to reduce exposure to or below permissible limits	Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part G

EMPLOYEE SAFETY & HEALTH POLICY

APPENDIX C

City Safety Forms

Departments may have internal forms to improve safety, communication & recordkeeping. The following are forms developed by the Human Resources Department to comply with regulatory requirements.

Form	Use
Incident Report	Employee Injury Report Incident Report
Safety Orientation Checklist	Safety Orientation Checklist
Confined Space Permit	Permit-Required Confined Space Entry
Crew Safety Meeting Form	Minutes & Attendance at Work Group Meetings
Fall Protection Work Plan	Working at unprotected heights over 10 feet
Jobsite Safety Work-plan	Identify and abate construction hazards
Activity Prescription Form	Identify restrictions from a work-related injury

Approved by:

Kandy Bartlett, Human Resources Director

Approved by:

Jill Boudreau, Mayor



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE Purchase Card Policy		NUMBER 200 -18 - 1
Effective Date January 30, 2020		PAGES 5

- Section Index:**
- 1.0 General**
 - 2.0 Purchase Card Issuance**
 - 3.0 Departmental Purchase Card Controls**
 - 4.0 Purchase Card Usage**
 - 5.0 Purchase Card Receipts/Verification/Approval**
 - 6.0 Purchase Card Payment and Program Oversight**
 - Attachment A**

1.0 General

- 1.1 To set forth the City’s policy on use of purchase cards to transact official City business.

2.0 Purchase Card Issuance

- 2.1 Finance Department will manage the issuance of City purchase cards.
- 2.2 Upon request of Department Director, cards will be issued to individual employees in their name and in the City’s name at the discretion of the Finance Director.
- 2.3 Finance will need the individual’s full legal name: first, middle, and last.
- 2.4 Finance Department will designate a credit limit for requested cards in consultation with Department (based upon expected usage) and implement the card credit limit before issuance.
- 2.5 Before Finance releases any purchase card, assigned purchase cardholders/custodians will sign a Purchase Cardholders Agreement stating card users will abide by the purchase card policy, see Attachment A.
- 2.6 Each department must assign a purchase card custodian to manage purchase card control procedures. Upon a card custodian ending employment with the Department, Department is responsible for notifying

PURCHASE CARD POLICY

and returning the card to the Finance Department. Department will notify the Finance Department with the name of new card custodian – if applicable. Finance will then issue a new purchase card, in adherence to this policy.

- 2.7 Lost or stolen purchase cards or fraudulent purchase card usage will be immediately reported to the Finance Department. Individuals shall not contact the purchase card company directly. Finance staff will notify appropriate authorities/agencies (Police, card issuing bank, etc.). Department will surrender cancelled purchase card to Finance Department. A replacement card with a new account number will be issued.
- 2.8 Upon card expiration the card custodian will return the card to the Finance Department, Accounts Payable. New cards will be distributed by Finance.

3.0 Departmental Purchase Card Controls

- 3.1 Departments issued purchase cards will no longer be disbursed. Department's should designate a person to maintain the purchase card for their department.

4.0 Purchase Card Usage

- 4.1 Purchase cards will be used by approved employees only. Purchase card numbers will *not* be given out to other employees. Cards will be appropriately secured when not in use.
- 4.2 All charges made on purchase cards will be for official City business.
- 4.3 Card users must comply with the City's purchasing and other relevant policies and procedures when using a card.
- 4.4 Internet orders should only be placed with reputable merchants who provide a secure ordering site.
- 4.5 Card users will not use the City card on personal accounts, online or otherwise. I.e. Amazon, Haggen, Costco, etc., unless authorized by the Finance Director prior to purchase.

The following will be considered an unauthorized purchase or use of any City purchase card:

- Cash advances,
- Personal purchases of any kind,
- Donations of any kind,

If a City purchase card is used for an unauthorized purchase or use, the card user will be held responsible for payment of those transactions/fees, and payment may be withheld from the employee's pay. If proper documentation is not provided for any City purchase card transaction, the Finance Department will revoke purchase card privileges for a

PURCHASE CARD POLICY

minimum of 2 months. Additional failure to submit necessary documentation will result in removal of the privilege of using a City purchase card. Also, failure to adhere by these rules may result in disciplinary action as outlined in the employee handbook.

5.0 Purchase Card Receipts/Verification/Approval

Card user will obtain receipts for *each* purchase card transaction. The purpose of the charge and the name of the individual involved must be clearly written on the receipt. Receipts and documentation will be provided to the card custodian.

Receipts for meals must have sufficient detail to show specific items purchased and gratuity (to ensure compliance with City Personnel Handbook, Chapter 6). The receipt and receipt documentation should show where and when the meals were purchased, and why the meals were purchased (their public purpose and/or their business necessity). If the itemized meal receipt is not provided the employee may be required to reimburse the City for those charges.

The assigned purchase card holder is responsible for contacting the vendor when supplies purchased with the purchase card are not acceptable (incorrect order, damaged, etc.) and arranging for credit or exchange.

All receipts or purchase verification for on-line charges are to be saved by card custodian for the monthly reconciliation. Upon receipt of the card's monthly statement of transactions, and within the time frame provided by the Finance Department, the card custodian will:

- Verify all purchase card expenditures against the monthly statement of transactions,
- Attach all corresponding purchase card receipts and corresponding detail receipts which show exactly what was being purchased, to the monthly statement in DocStar.
- Forward all paperwork to Department Director for review and signature through DocStar.

If a mail, phone, fax or internet transaction is posted to a statement before the goods are received, note it on the Expense form and notify the Finance Department.

Department Director will approve transactions listed on the Expense form. Transactions initiated by the Department Director shall be approved by the Mayor or his/her designee.

Upon Department Director/Mayor approval and signature on Expense form, paperwork shall be forwarded to Finance Department, Accounts Payable for payment, again, through DocStar.

6.0 Purchase Card Payment and Program Oversight

- 6.1 Finance Department will review the purchase card transactions/approvals, pay the monthly statements in a timely manner and maintain all documentation.
- 6.2 Finance Department will periodically review agreement terms of the City purchase card provider.
- 6.3 Finance Department will ensure that all cards are used in accordance with this policy. Finance Department will suspend or revoke use of City purchase cards by any employee for violation or misuse of the purchase card.
- 6.4 Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in writing by the Finance Department in advance.

References: City Personnel Handbook, Chapter 6.2, RCW 43.09.2855, RCW 42.24.115

Approved by: 
Erin Keator, Human Resources Director

Approved by: 
Jill Boudreau, Mayor

Approved by: 
Douglas Volesky, Finance Director

ATTACHMENT A

City of Mount Vernon

Purchase Cardholders Agreement

Requirements for use of a Purchase Card:

1. The purchase card is to be used only to make purchases at the request of, and for the legitimate business benefit of, the City of Mount Vernon, Washington.
2. The purchase card must be used in accordance with the provisions of the Purchase Card Policy established by the City of Mount Vernon, as attached hereto.

Violations of these requirements may result in revocation of use privileges. Employees found to have inappropriately used the purchase card will be required to reimburse the City of Mount Vernon for all costs associated with such improper use through direct payment or payroll deduction. Disciplinary action may be taken per the City's Personnel Policies.

Purchase Card Account Number: _____
(last four digits only)

Received by: _____
Name (Please Print)

I acknowledge receipt of the attached Purchase Card Policy and agree to abide by said policy.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Below, For Finance Department Use Only)

Purchase Card Returned

Authorized Signature: _____

Date: _____



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE On-Call / Work-at-Home Emergency Leave		NUMBER 2020-002
EFFECTIVE DATE March 23, 2020	SUPERSEDES	PAGES 3

Section Index: **1.0 General**
 2.0 References
 3.0 Policy

1.0 General

- 1.1 To establish procedures for on and off-duty employees in the event of a pandemic.
- 1.2 This policy is applicable to all regular full-time and regular part-time employees.
- 1.3 This policy is initiated by the Mayor and Human Resources.

2.0 References

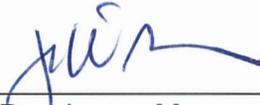
- COVID – 19 Leave Matrix
- COVIC - 19 Telecommuting Policy and Agreement.

3.0 Policy

- A. Employees who are experiencing symptoms related to the current pandemic are prohibited from coming to work. An employee should not report to work if they are feeling ill and are in doubt as to why. If the employee is in doubt, they should not report to work and are encouraged to consult their physician. Employees reporting to work who exhibit symptoms of the current pandemic will be sent home and encouraged to consult their physician. The employee shall be required to utilize accrued leave pursuant to the Personnel Policies or applicable collective bargaining agreement if they are sent home due to symptoms of the pandemic.

- If you, your spouse's/domestic partner's, or dependent's illness from the pandemic prevents you from reporting to work or on time, you are responsible for notifying your supervisor pursuant to the provisions of the Personnel Policies or applicable collective bargaining agreement. Employees must not return to work until they have been free of symptoms for at least 72 hours.
 - Employees are required to utilize their accrued sick or vacation leave, compensatory time, floating holidays, management or professional leave, or merit leave for absences when recovering from or caring for a spouse/domestic partner or dependent recovering from a pandemic illness.
- B. On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave: In preparation for, or during a pandemic, it may become necessary to compensate employees for alternative work situations that aren't covered by the City's leave policies and have arisen out of the need to protect the workforce, participate in regional efforts such as reducing traffic or the risk of exposure to an infectious disease, or reduce City operations. In that event On-call / Work-at-home Emergency leave may be authorized at the sole discretion of the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem in accordance with the following procedures:
- a) On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave will be reviewed, approved, and potentially renewed on a per payroll period basis which ends on the 15th and the last day of every month. Factors included in consideration shall include need and available financial resources.
 - b) On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave may be approved for reasons that include but are not limited to the following:
 1. Regional or state health authorities recommend employees stay at home for the purpose of reducing the spread of an infectious disease or other state of emergency.
 2. An employee who is not eligible for sick leave in accordance with City policy is quarantined to prevent exposure to an infectious disease in accordance with guidelines and recommendation of state and regional health agencies.
 - c) Employees taking paid leave per City policy are not eligible for On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave.

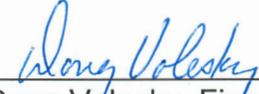
- d) All efforts shall be made to provide tasks or assignments to employees who are approved for On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave providing operational, developmental, or business-related benefits to the City. Such tasks and assignments may be different from those normally assigned to an employee during nonemergency conditions.
- e) Employees who are on On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave shall remain fit for duty and capable of performing the essential functions of their position, and must be available via telephone or email to City personnel, during their normally scheduled work hours.
- f) Employees who are on On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave must report to work when directed by their supervisor.
- g) Employees who are approved for On-call / Work-at-home Emergency Leave are eligible to have absences excused from work. They will receive full pay and benefits in accordance with City policy or the relevant collective bargaining agreement as if they were working their regular work schedule.

Approved by: 

Jill Boudreau, Mayor

Approved by: 

Erin Keator, Human Resources Director

Approved by: 

Doug Volesky, Finance Director



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE: Furlough Policy		NUMBER: 2020-004
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 25, 2020	SUPERSEDES: N/A	PAGES: 3

- Section Index:**
- 1.0 General**
 - 2.0 Definitions**
 - 3.0 Policy**

1.0 General

Due to the economic impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) or other unforeseeable events, the city may need to implement a mandatory furlough for certain positions. This policy provides general guidelines for identifying the impacted positions and the effect of a furlough on compensation and benefits.

2.0 Definitions

- 2.1 Furlough day** – Any day in which a furloughed employee is placed in a temporary status without duties and without pay due to a financial emergency necessitating budget reductions.
- 2.2 Furloughed employee** – Any employee who is placed in a temporary status without duties and without pay due to a financial emergency necessitating budget reductions.
- 2.3 Exempt employee** – An employee who is paid on a salaried basis and meets one of the overtime exemptions.
- 2.4 Non-exempt employee** – An employee who is entitled to overtime.

3.0 Policy

3.1 Applicability:

- A. Furlough eligible positions.** The city may subject certain positions to a mandatory furlough based upon the needs of the city. Furloughs for full-time employees may be in full workweek or partial workweek increments. Part-time employees will observe the mandatory furlough time on a prorated basis according to their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) status.

- B. **Length of furlough.** The city retains the discretion to implement city-wide furloughs for a defined period of time for identified positions. Alternatively, the city may allow departments to retain the flexibility of determining when employees will be furloughed. This includes implementing a different mandatory furlough schedule for the entire department or staggering delayed mandatory furlough days for furlough-eligible employees. Each department is responsible for establishing methods to ensure furlough days are observed by each furlough-eligible employee.

3.2 Pay considerations

- A. Mandatory furloughs are leave without pay. The terms and conditions describing overtime and compensatory time contained in the applicable city policies and/or collective bargaining agreements will continue to apply for time worked. Mandatory furloughs will not count as hours worked toward the overtime threshold.
- B. Overtime is not permitted for the purpose of making up mandatory furlough time. Making up mandatory furlough days does not achieve the savings expected with the implementation of this initiative.
- C. Employees may not substitute paid leave for mandatory furlough days. However, sick leave that is being used for absences related to a Worker's Compensation injury where the employee is still unable to return to work in a modified duty position will be provided by the city as paid leave for mandatory furlough days, but the employee may be required to observe alternate mandatory furlough day(s) upon return to service.
- D. In those cases where an emergency call out occurs on a mandatory furlough day or during a mandatory furlough week, employees may be called back to work. Such employees are compensated in accordance with standard compensation procedures. They may be required to be furloughed at a later pre-determined date.
- E. Employees who are on call or stand-by will be compensated in accordance with policy if they are called back to work on the day of a mandatory furlough.

3.3 Benefit considerations

- A. **Service date.** An employee's benefits service date will not be changed due to mandatory furlough days.
- B. **Probationary Period.** If an employee is furloughed for more than 30 days during his/her probationary period the city may at its discretion adjust the probationary period by the length of the furlough period.
- C. **Leave benefits.** An employee's eligibility to accrue leave benefits will not be affected by the implementation of mandatory furloughs when taken in partial weeks. For employees that are furloughed for

more than 30 days leave accruals may be suspended.

- D. **Insurance benefits.** Insurance benefits may be affected by the mandatory furloughs for those on furloughs longer than 30 days. The city will evaluate economic conditions every 30 days while employees are on long term furloughs to determine the city's ability to continue to pay its portion of the health insurance premiums. If the city is able to continue to pay its portion of health insurance premiums the employee will be responsible for their portion. If the city is unable to continue to pay its portion of health insurance premiums for long term furloughs, employees will be notified and will be offered COBRA coverage at their expense.

3.4 Recordkeeping and payroll considerations

- A. Mandatory furlough days should be recorded in full-day increments.
- B. **For full workweek furloughs.** All employees, including FLSA-exempt employees, who are furloughed, are *strictly* prohibited from working during a furlough. This includes, but is not limited to, checking email, returning telephone calls and performing any work while on furlough.
- C. **For partial workweek furloughs.**

Non-exempt: All non-exempt employees who are furloughed for a partial workweek are strictly prohibited from working during a furlough.

Exempt: Exempt employees may be placed on a partial week or full workweek furlough. If placed on a partial week furlough, exempt employees will be converted to non-exempt during the week in which the furlough occurs. *Such employees will be required to track their hours consistent with the requirements of non-exempt employees. During the period when FLSA-exempt employees are converted to non-exempt, they must comply with all recording keeping and wage and hour rules applicable to non-exempt employees (e.g., rest periods and meal periods, leave requests, pre-approval for overtime).*

Approved by:



Jill Boudreau, Mayor

Approved by:



Erin Keator, Human Resources Director

Approved by:



Doug Volesky, Finance Director



POLICY/PROCEDURE

TITLE		POLICY
Use of City Owned Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure and Electrical Outlets		Exec-001-2025
EFFECTIVE DATE	SUPERSEDES	PAGES
July 28, 2025		2

APPLICABLE TO:

This policy applies to all City of Mount Vernon employees, elected officials, volunteers, contractors, and visitors. It includes all City-owned properties, facilities, buildings, and any current or future electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

OVERVIEW

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear guidelines prohibiting the personal use of City-owned electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electrical power outlets. This policy is intended to ensure proper stewardship of public resources, prevent unauthorized use of City property, and maintain consistency across all departments and facilities.

POLICY

City Use Only

City-owned EV charging infrastructure and electrical outlets shall be used exclusively for:

- Charging City-owned vehicles and equipment
- Supporting City-authorized operations and maintenance activities

Prohibited Personal Use

The use of City-owned electric power, including, but not limited to, electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), charging stations, and exterior/interior electrical outlets, is strictly prohibited for charging personal vehicles, whether electric, plug-in hybrid, or hybrid. This includes:

- Charging personal vehicles at:
 - City Hall
 - City Library Space #13
 - Fire Station 2
 - Fleet Maintenance Center
 - Any future City-owned charging stations or facilities
- Plugging into any electrical outlets on City-owned buildings, parking lot light poles, or other fixed infrastructure for the purpose of charging personal vehicles.

Enforcement

Unauthorized use of City electricity or infrastructure for personal vehicle charging constitutes misuse of public resources and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Any violations should be reported to the employee's department director or the Human Resources Director.

Exceptions

Any exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing and approved in advance by the Mayor. Exceptions will be granted only in limited circumstances that serve a clear operational benefit to the City and comply with applicable laws and ethics requirements.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically and may be revised as necessary to reflect changes in law, technology, or City infrastructure