



**MINUTES OF THE OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, September 16, 2019- 6:00 PM  
CITY HALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Jerry D. Roseberry; Councilmembers: Jeff Wearing, George Holt, Jim Windham, Sarah Davis and Mike Ready. Staff Members Present: City Manager Matt Pepper, Deputy City Clerk Stacey Mullen, Utilities Superintendent Jody Reid, Chief Dave Harvey.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Linda Allen, Molly McGehee, Laurie & Art Vinson, Erik Oliver, David Eady, Dave Huber, Dana Payne, Melissa Madden, James & Adrienne Waddey, Cheryl Ready, Robert Bayliss, Laura Gafnea of Oxford College, and Lynn Branham Bohanan.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jerry D. Roseberry.

**Agenda Attachment A**

**1. Mayor's Announcement**

The Mayor began the meeting by announcing he spent some time at Piedmont Newton over the weekend due to complications with an Atrial Fibrillation (AFib). He noted that the AFib is under control and he is doing much better. Mayor Roseberry congratulated the Police Department on a job well done regarding a felony arrest conducted by Officer Caleb Jackson. The arrest involved two suspects who Officer Jackson attempted to stop for suspended registration on Emory Street. The suspects failed to stop, ensuing a chase into Covington (Hwy 278), at which point Georgia State Patrol assisted in their capture, just before reaching Interstate 20. The suspects were found to be in possession of several gift cards, as well as firearms and fraudulent identification cards. The Mayor thanked Officer Jackson for his professionalism during the ordeal.

**2. Little Library Attachment B**

Molly McGehee (406 Emory St), spoke to Council regarding a proposal to install a Little Free Library at Asbury Street Park. The Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that has been around for approximately 14 years. There are 90,000 registered Little Free Libraries around the world. The basic principle of the Library is to promote literacy. You can take a book from its collection, leave a book, or do both. Ms. McGehee expressed she and her husband, Daniel Parsons (Organic Farmer for Oxford College), would like to construct the library- covering all costs- including building materials, replenishing books, its sustainability and maintenance. Ms. McGehee said they would also incur the \$39 registration fee. The registration fee comes with a plaque, and an online registration, which offers map details to locate libraries in the area. Due to the Little Library's success and minimal costs, Councilmember Windham suggested that the city consider installing more than one within the city. Councilmember Mike Ready asked Ms. McGehee what she and her husband's vision was for the Library. Ms. McGehee

said she hadn't given much thought to the design, other than a basic construction. She did mention that there were several designs available and that a kit could be purchased for \$200-300 to design the Library but it would be more cost effective to construct one. This matter will be moved to the October Regular Session for approval.

### **3. Moore Street Sidewalk Project Attachment C**

Matt Pepper presented the Council with the list of bidders for the Moore Street Sidewalk Project. Of the seven bids that were received, HCS Services was the apparent low bidder at \$228,835.75; approximately \$6,000 over the budgeted amount for the project. HCS Services is the company that constructed the Asbury Street Park, as well as the completion of some trails and drainage work for the city. The second bidder was Ryde Grading, whose bid was about \$40,000 more than HCS Services. Jordan Engineering recommended accepting the bid from HCS Services. Councilmember Windham questioned whether the contract for the Moore Street Sidewalk Project would be done by the city or Jordan Engineering. Matt Pepper responded that the contract is usually done jointly. Councilmember Windham questioned whether it would be a turn-key project, due to a concern of potential add-on charges for miscellaneous items outside of the contract. Councilmember Ready questioned how retainage would be addressed in the contract. Councilmember Windham said it is usually spelled out in the contract how it will be handled. This matter will be on moved to the October Regular Session for approval.

### **4. Residential Parking Discussion Attachment D**

Chief Harvey discussed the many complaints and concerns he's received from citizens about the high volume of vehicles in the front and back yards on residential premises. During his investigation of the matter, he witnessed a house that had at least 11 vehicles on the property at one time. His assumption was that the location was being used as a parking lot during work hours, as the vehicles were not on-site in the evenings. He also observed residential lots in the same neighborhood that possessed 4-6 cars that belonged to residents who occupy the homes. Chief Harvey observed this trend more often in the Oxford Square subdivision and most recently on Longstreet Circle. To address these matters, he researched other cities' policies and presented Council with options to consider for adoption. The Mayor advised that the city's main objective is to prevent the appearance of junk yards and used car lots. This matter will be further discussed at the scheduled October work session.

### **5. Amendment to Section 34-26-Vehicle Gross Weight Attachment E**

Chief Harvey discussed an amendment of the city ordinance which prohibits through vehicles with weight in excess of 10,000 pounds. The amendment is due to an ongoing issue with residents who require use of such vehicles for financial stability. Chief Harvey advised that there were residents that were cited, who had been parking vehicles such as a tree service truck (bucket truck), an 18-wheeler and a dump truck on their residential lot for numerous (up to 30) years. Chief Harvey is requesting an amendment to provide a waiver from the requirements of this provision with subject to review and approval. Melissa Madden (103 Emory Way) expressed to Council (on behalf of her husband, Christopher) that requirements of this ordinance has caused a financial strain, having to relocate their service truck. She asked that Council take this matter into consideration. Mayor Roseberry advised the matter would require further discussion and will be scheduled for the October work session.

### **6. Shared Active Transportation Devices Discussion Attachment F**

Council discussed the use of shared active transportation devices (e.g. e-scooters) within the city limits.

Matt Pepper spoke about a trend where some cities allow private companies to provide motorized transportation, controlled by an app on your mobile phone. The concept is to pay a fee and be able to select an available motorized device (bicycle/scooter) and ride it to a location within the boundaries. Users have the convenience of leaving the motorized device at roadside (right-of-way) without having to return it to its original location. Matt Pepper advised that a lot of cities have been challenged with how to provide a safe environment for these devices to operate. He provided Council with ordinances from Smyrna & Marietta, that have regulated these devices, as recommendations for Council, should the city be faced with these issues in the future. Mayor Roseberry asked if any cities had banned the use of said devices and Matt Pepper replied Smyrna, Marietta and Lilburn. Mayor Roseberry expressed that these devices could be dangerous to pedestrians and that Council will need to further review the matter to develop an ordinance. This matter will be scheduled for a future work session.

#### **7. Small Cell Technology Model Ordinance Attachment G**

Matt Pepper presented Council with a model ordinance which would regulate the placement of small wireless facilities in the public rights-of-way for the City of Oxford. He explained that the State of Georgia passed Senate bill 66 to address the challenges of the large telecom and cable companies on properly deploying such technology within cities. GMA, along with ECG, has been developing a model ordinance for cities to adopt to help regulate the deployment, installation and construction of such devices within the city's rights-of-way. Matt Pepper advised that the model ordinance details guidelines such as the permitting process, the renewal, removal, and relocation of the devices, as well as the basic aesthetic standards like, restrictions on the placement in historic districts. He also advised that this was an across-the-board ordinance that cities were adopting, which would give the City of Oxford more authority on what happens within the city. The Mayor requested the model ordinance be sent to the City Attorney for review. The matter will be moved to the regular session meeting in October.

#### **8. Planning Commission Attachment H**

Matt Pepper discussed the Council's plan of codifying an attendance requirement for members of the Planning Commission, as well as updating the city's code of ethics for employees, and appointed and elected officials for the City of Oxford. As an overview, Matt Pepper spoke about the Council's previous discussion on requiring each Planning Commission member to attend at least 2/3 of the meetings in a calendar year. And if they are unable to do so, they would be subject to removal by the Mayor and Council. He further detailed, as far as a proposed amendment to the city's ethics code, it would essentially change from "public officials", to "all elected and appointed officials, and employees are subject to these ethics' codes of conduct." The amendment would also include an all-encompassing clause. The Mayor questioned if the Planning Commission had any recommendation in regard to attendance or quorum. Matt Pepper advised that, per his discussion with Planning Commission members, they would be in favor of the requirement, but some members would prefer changing the attendance to 3/4 of the meetings in a calendar year, with no response regarding the quorum. Mayor Roseberry had concerns that limited attendance would prevent the Planning Commission from conducting business, like the approval of development permits. His recommendation would be to reduce the quorum requirement or increase its members. This matter will be scheduled for approval on the regular session in October.

#### **9. Retirement Plan Attachment I**

Mayor Roseberry discussed the adoption of the restated pension plan that Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) requires its member employers to adopt, as mandated by the IRS. The amendment, which was made to the master plan, was reviewed by the City Attorney, as well as the Mayor and Councilmember Holt and there were no objections to its adoption. The Mayor did insist that

other members of the Council read over the documents. This matter will be moved to the October regular session for a vote.

**10. Water Fountains and Pet Sanitation Stations Attachment J**

Councilmember Windham gave his recommendation for the installation of water fountains and pet sanitation stations in locations within the city. His ideal locations would be on Watson Street and the trail, Old Church and the trail, George Street Park and the trail, Moore Street and the trail, then in between, have pet sanitation stations at E. Soule Street, and Clark street and the trail. Councilmember Windham also advised that he discussed the matter with Jody Reid and there were no objections in getting the project completed. He further explained that he would prefer to research cost to get the project completed at a lower cost than those installed at Asbury Street Park. Jody Reid advised that the project would not require contracting, providing there was no boring required for the placement of the water fountains. Councilmember Wearing suggested verifying that the city ordinance requires pet owners to clean up any pet waste. Mayor Roseberry advised that the matter will be moved to the October regular session for a vote, providing the pricing for the project has been determined.

**11. 107 W. Clark Street Renovation Project**

Councilmember Wearing reported the progress on the Yarbrough House Renovation. He explained that there was a meeting with the architects, which they are waiting for a response on the plans. Councilmember Wearing is hopeful that he will have an update by the October regular session. This matter will be placed on the regular session meeting for October.

The Regular Session meeting was adjourned at 6:43 pm.

**Executive Session**

**A motion was made by Windham-seconded- Wearing, to enter into executive session at 6:52 pm. Motion unanimous 6/0.**

Council discussed personnel matters regarding the vacancy of the city clerk position.

**Motion was made by Windham- seconded- Wearing to leave the executive session at 7:10pm. Motion unanimous 6/0.**

**Motion was made by Windham- seconded- Wearing, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. Motion unanimous 6/0.**

Respectfully submitted;

Stacey Mullen  
Deputy City Clerk

**OXFORD MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019 – 6:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL  
A G E N D A**

1. **Mayor's Announcements**
2. \* **Little Library Discussion** – Molly McGehee will present to Council her idea to install a Little Library within the city.
3. \* **Moore Street Sidewalk Project** – Council will review the bids for the Moore Street Sidewalk Project.
4. \* **Residential Parking Discussion** – Chief Harvey will present to Council two options to address concerns with residences that have a high volume of vehicles parked in a single residential lot. We have attached the two options.
5. \* **Amendment to Section 34-26 – Vehicle Gross Weight** – Chief Harvey will present to Council an amendment to the city ordinance prohibiting through vehicles with weight in excess of 10,000 pounds. We have attached the amendment.
6. \* **Shared Active Transportation Devices Discussion** – Council will discuss adopting an ordinance to regulate the use of shared active transportation devices such as e-scooters within city limits. We have attached the sample ordinances from Smyrna and Marietta.
7. \* **Small Cell Technology Model Ordinance** – Council will review the model ordinance provided by Electric Cities of Georgia to regulate small cell implementation within the city. We have attached the model ordinance.
8. \* **Planning Commission** – Council will discuss quorum requirements for the Planning Commission.
9. \* **Retirement Plan** – The Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) has restated the city's pension plan and received a favorable determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Consequently, the IRS requires that all GMEBS member employers adopt the restated plan documents. We have attached the Master Plan and Amendment 1.
10. \* **Water Fountains and Pet Sanitation Stations** – Councilmember Windham will present his recommendations on where the city can install water fountains and pet sanitation stations in the city.
11. **107 W. Clark Street Renovation Project** – The *ad hoc* Yarbrough House Renovation Committee will report on the progress of the 107 W. Clark Street renovation project.

\*\*The Mayor and Council will hold a Special Called Meeting (Executive Session) on September 16, 2019 following the Work Session at City Hall to consider personnel matters.\*\*

\*Attachments

September 16, 2019

**PROPOSAL FOR A “LITTLE FREE LIBRARY” IN OXFORD, GEORGIA**

To: Mayor Jerry Roseberry and Members of the Oxford City Council  
From: Dr. Molly McGehee

**Overview of the “Little Free Library”:**

- Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in Wisconsin that supports books exchanges.
- The first Little Free Library was built in 2005. There are now 90,000 registered Little Free Libraries in 91 countries.
- Visitors to the libraries may take a book to read or leave a book to share with others...or both!
- Registering the library costs \$39 and provides stewards with an official charter sign for the structure and an option to add the library to the world map on the Little Free Library website.
- For more info, please visit <https://littlefreelibrary.org/start/> and <https://vimeo.com/72957294>
- For examples of these libraries near us, please visit the Covington YMCA or the Newton County Theme School.

**Proposal for a Little Free Library in Oxford, Georgia:**

- **Cost/ Construction:**
  - My husband (Daniel Parson) and I would pay for the materials needed and registration of the Little Library.
  - We would invite community members (including staff, faculty, and students at Oxford College) to assist us in the construction process.
  - We do not anticipate needing any financial contributions from the City of Oxford, although we would need guidance and assistance with the installation of the Little Library on city property.
- **Sustainability:** Daniel and I will be responsible for maintaining the Little Library—both maintaining the physical structure and regularly stocking it with books.
- **Location:** We are open to suggestions for placement but believe that Asbury Park would be an ideal location. Daniel and I are also open to the possibility of eventually constructing more than one Little Free Library for the town of Oxford, with perhaps a second Little Free Library located somewhere along the Nature Trail.
- **Timeline:** We would hope to have the Little Free Library in place by March 2020, if not sooner.

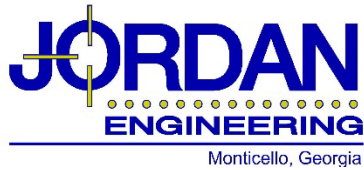
**Many thanks for your consideration of this proposal!**

Dr. Molly McGehee  
406 Emory Street  
Oxford, Georgia 30054  
Cell 404.277.1176  
[Molly.mcgehee@emory.edu](mailto:Molly.mcgehee@emory.edu)



Sample Images of Little Free Libraries





Mr. Matt Pepper, City Manager  
City of Oxford  
110 West Clark Street  
Oxford, Georgia 30054

September 13, 2019

Re: Moore Street Sidewalk contractor recommendation (2<sup>nd</sup> solicitation)

Dear Mr. Pepper:

I have reviewed the bid submitted by the low bidder, HCS Services, LLC, located at 149 Old Hwy 81, Oxford Georgia, for the Moore Street sidewalk project. I checked the math on their bid tabulation and found only an insignificant \$4.00 typo on their bid form. Both Jordan Engineering and the City of Oxford are familiar with the capabilities and quality of work provided by HCS services on recent projects completed for the City such as George Street Park Drainage, George Street Trail, and Asbury Park. In my opinion the quality of the work provided by HCS services has met or exceeded expectations for past projects. It is also my opinion that HCS Services is capable of properly completing the Moore Street Sidewalk Project.

Based on their status as low bidder, my review of their bid submittal, and my experience with their quality and capabilities, I recommend that the City of Oxford contract with HCS Services, LLC to complete the Moore Street Sidewalk Project for a total contract amount of \$228,835.75.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Engineering, Inc.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert O. Jordan", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert O. Jordan, PE RLS





## **Sec. XX.X - Parking Rules for Residential Districts.**

- (1) Parking in residential districts shall meet the following requirements:
  - (a) No more than four vehicles, including watercraft and trailers, per dwelling unit shall be parked, stopped, standing or stored on any parcel of land. Vehicles parked inside of a carport or enclosed garage shall not be counted towards the maximum number of allowed vehicles.
  - (b) A waiver from the requirements of this provision may be requested, at no charge, when an applicant can show that the number of vehicles does not exceed the total number of licensed drivers in the home and that all vehicles are in operable condition. Waivers are subject to review and approval by the Oxford City Council.
  - (c) All vehicles must be parked on a driveway or parking area directly adjacent to a city approved driveway.
  - (d) For corner lots and double frontage lots, the area fronting both streets between the sides of the dwelling shall be restricted to no parking except on the driveway or parking area directly adjacent to a city approved driveway.
  - (e) Under no circumstances shall more than 35 percent of the front yard or rear yard consist of a driveway or parking area, and the remaining percentage shall be grass or landscaped areas.
- (2) Parking on the street is not permitted. This includes dead end streets and cul-de-sacs. Property owners must provide sufficient off-street parking on an approved surface as described in Section (1) (c).
- (3) Vehicle repair is not permitted in residential districts unless performed in an enclosed garage and only on vehicles belonging to the resident.
- (4) Boats and boat trailers, other trailers, and recreational vehicles and equipment are to be parked in the side yard or back yard.
- (5) All vehicles shall have a valid license plate attached thereto, on private property or public roads. All vehicles on residential property are to be "operable." If any vehicle on residential property cannot be immediately and legally driven on public roads, for whatever reason, then it is classified as inoperable. In this case, such vehicle(s) must be removed from the premises or stored in a completely enclosed building.
- (6) Commercial vehicles which weigh 10,000 lbs. or more are prohibited in all residential zoning districts. A waiver from the requirements of this provision may be requested, at no charge. Waivers are subject to review and approval by the Oxford City Council.

## **Parking of Automobiles or Motor Vehicles.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful to park any passenger car or truck, either operable or inoperable, on the grass, lawn or dirt areas in the yard of any residential structure located within the City of Oxford. Further, parking any passenger car or truck in the front yard, unless on a driveway or a city-approved driveway expansion area, shall be unlawful. It shall be unlawful for any person to retain in the city boundaries any automobile, truck, vehicle, RV, camper or trailer of any kind or type, without a valid license plate attached thereto, on private property or public roads.
  
- (b) It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle, either operable or inoperable, on the grass, lawn or dirt areas in the yard of any non-residential structure or undeveloped property located within the corporate boundaries of the City of Oxford. Further, parking any motor vehicle, either operable or inoperable, on any surface other than an approved concrete or asphalt parking area shall be unlawful.

**Sec. 34-26. - Vehicle gross weight.**

- (a) It shall be unlawful to operate for through traffic purposes any truck, wagon, or other commercial vehicle that exceeds 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) on any street or highway within the City other than a state highway. The prohibition of this section shall not apply to vehicles in excess of 10,000 GVW in route to or from a specific location within the City for purposes of pickup or delivery. The term "through traffic purposes," as used in this section means vehicles passing through the City without loading or unloading at any location in the City or vehicles that have loaded or unloaded in the City but not do so again during the same trip. **A waiver from the requirements of this provision may be requested, at no charge. Waivers are subject to review and approval by the Oxford City Council.**

(Ord. of 12-5-2011(05), § 11-107)

ORDINANCE 2019-11

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY OF SMYRNA, GEORGIA, PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 98, TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE II, VEHICLE IMPOUNDMENT, BY ADDING SECTION 98-41, SHARABLE POWDERED MOBILITY DEVICES

**WHEREAS**, shareable powered mobility devices, electric scooters and bicycles, available to be rented on demand from unstaffed locations, have suddenly and unexpectedly appeared in cities throughout the country, and have rapidly proliferated in an unregulated environment; and

**WHEREAS**, these privately-owned devices are frequently stored on publicly owned rights-of-way without the consent of the local government jurisdiction. As they are not secured to a bike rack or other infrastructure, dock less electric scooters and bicycles are frequently abandoned by users on streets, sidewalks and other public places creating safety concerns, especially for vulnerable pedestrians; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has a substantial interest in regulating how private operators of Shareable Mobility Devices operate on the public rights-of-way to promote public safety, and to ensure the public right-of-way remains free of obstructions and hazardous operations; and

**WHEREAS**, for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety, the City Council has decided to proactively address the hazards posed by Shareable Powered Mobility Devices, electric scooters and bicycles being of specific public safety concern, operated on public rights of way and placed in and operated on public property.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SMYRNA, GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1:** That Chapter 98 Traffic and Vehicles of the Code of the City of Smyrna, Georgia be amended by inserting a new Section 98-41 entitled “Shareable Powered Mobility Devices”, as follows:

Section 98-41. Shareable Powered Mobility Devices.

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit Shareable Powered Mobility Devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, so as to allow for adequate pedestrian traffic flow and to promote public safety.
- (b) Definition. For purposes of this ordinance, *Shareable Powered Mobility Device* means an electric/motorized or human-powered device that permits an individual user to move or be moved freely, is not registered with the state of Georgia, Cobb County or the City

of Smyrna, is available for rent to certain members of the public via an on-demand portal, whether a smartphone application, membership card, or similar method at unstaffed, self-service locations provided by a party other than the City or vender of the City. Such devices shall include but not be limited to bicycles/e-bicycles, scooters/e-scooters, and other similarly operated vehicles.

(c) General Provisions.

1. It is unlawful to provide or offer for use a Shareable Powered Mobility Device anywhere within the City.
2. It is unlawful to park, leave standing, leave lying, abandon, or otherwise place a Shareable Powered Mobility Device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City.
3. It is unlawful to operate a Shareable Powered Mobility Device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the City.

(d) Violations; Impoundment. Devices violating Section (c) 2 of this ordinance shall be considered a safety or traffic hazard and may be immediately removed from the right-of-way. The City of Smyrna, GA Police Department's Property and Evidence Unit or its designee will attempt to notify any *identifiable* owner of an impounded mobility device within 48 hours of impoundment. The costs associated with the recovery of an impounded device will be posted in the City of Smyrna, GA Schedule of Fees and Charges and will be the responsibility of the owner of the device. Any person violating any provision of this section may be punished as provided in Section 1-8 of the

Smyrna

Code of Ordinances.

SECTION 2: If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

It is the intention of the Mayor and Council, and it is hereby ordained that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Code of Ordinances, City of Smyrna, Georgia and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered to accomplish such intention.

ORDINANCE 2019-11  
SHARABLE POWDERED MOBILITY DEVICES

The above Ordinance was read and approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Smyrna, Georgia, on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

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A. Max Bacon, Mayor

Attest:

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Terri Graham, City Clerk

SEAL

As to form:

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Scott Cochran, City Attorney

9-4-120 - Shareable dockless mobility devices.

- A. *Purpose.* The purpose of this section is to prohibit shareable dockless mobility devices from being placed in the public right-of-way or on public property, operated in the public right-of-way or on public property, or offered for use anywhere in the city, so as to allow for adequate pedestrian traffic flow and to promote public safety.
- B. *Definition.* For purposes of this section, *shareable dockless mobility device* means an electric/motorized or human-powered device that permits an individual user to move or be moved freely, is not registered with the state of Georgia or Cobb County, is available for rent to the general public via an on-demand portal, whether a smartphone application, membership card, or similar method at unstaffed, self-service locations. Such devices shall include but not be limited to bicycles/e-bicycles, scooters/e-scooters, and other similarly operated vehicles.
- C. *General provisions.*
  - 1. It is unlawful to provide or offer for use a shareable dockless mobility device anywhere within the city.
  - 2. It is unlawful to park, leave standing, leave lying, abandon, or otherwise place a shareable dockless mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the city.
  - 3. It is unlawful to operate a shareable dockless mobility device in a public right-of-way or on public property anywhere within the city.
- D. *Applicability.* The provisions stipulated within Subsection 9-4-120(c) shall not limit the ability of the city to offer shareable dockless mobility devices to the general public and their usage on public right-of-way.
- E. *Violations; impoundment.* Devices violating this section shall be considered a traffic hazard and immediately removed from right-of-way subject to the procedures and fines stipulated in Chapter 9-12 of this Code.

(Ord. No. 8076, 2/13/2019, § 1)



CITY OF OXFORD  
WIRELESS FACILITIES AND ANTENNAS ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I  
PURPOSE AND COMPLIANCE

Section 8-6-201.1 O.C.G.A. § 32-4-92 (a) (10) authorizes the City of Oxford, Georgia to establish reasonable regulations for the installation, construction, maintenance, renewal, removal, and relocation of pipes, mains, conduits, cables, wires, poles, towers, traffic and other signals, and other equipment, facilities, or appliances in, on, along, over, or under the public roads of the City of Oxford . Further, 47 U.S.C. § 253(c) provides that the City of Oxford has authority to manage its public rights of way. Finally, the Georgia Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act., O.C.G.A. Title 36, Chapter 66C (the "SWFAA"), addresses the placement of small wireless facilities in the public rights of way of the City of Oxford .

Section 8-6-201.2 The City of Oxford finds it is in the best interest of the City of Oxford and its residents and businesses to establish requirements and specify reasonable conditions regarding placement of small wireless facilities, poles in the public rights of way. These requirements, specifications and conditions are adopted in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and businesses of the City of Oxford and to reasonably manage and protect the public rights of way and its uses in the City of Oxford.

Section 8-6-201.3 The objective of this Ordinance is to (i) implement the SWFAA and (ii) ensure use of the public rights of way is consistent with the design, appearance and other features of nearby land uses, protects the integrity of historic, cultural and scenic resources and does not harm residents' quality of life.'

ARTICLE II  
DEFINITIONS

Section 8-6-202.1 Unless defined below, terms used in this Ordinance shall have the meanings given them in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-2.

As used in this Ordinance the following terms have the following meanings:

- (a) "Antenna" means: (i) communications equipment that transmits, receives, or transmits and receives electromagnetic radio frequency signals used in the provision of wireless services or other wireless communications; or (ii) Communications equipment similar to equipment described in part (i) used for the transmission, reception, or transmission and reception of surface waves. Such term shall not include television broadcast antennas, antennas designed for amateur radio use, or satellite dishes for residential or household purposes.
- (b) "Applicable Codes" means uniform building, fire, safety, electrical, plumbing, or mechanical codes adopted by a recognized national code organization to the extent such codes have been adopted by the State of Georgia or the City of Oxford or are otherwise applicable in the City of Oxford, including without

limitation the National Electrical Safety Code (2012) of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated and subsequent revisions thereof.

- (c) "Applicant" means any person that submits an application.
- (d) "Application" means a written request submitted by an applicant to the City of Oxford for a permit to: (i) collocate a small wireless facility in a right of way; or (ii) install, modify, or replace a pole or decorative pole in a right of way on which a small wireless facility is or will be located.
- (e) "Authority Pole" means a pole owned, managed, or operated by or on behalf of the City of Oxford, but shall not include poles, support structures, electric transmission structures, or equipment of any type owned by the City of Oxford in its capacity as an electric supplier.
- (f) "Collocate" or "Collocation" means to install, mount, modify, or replace a small wireless facility on or adjacent to a pole, decorative pole, or support structure.
- (g) "Communications Facility" means the set of equipment and network components, including wires and cables and associated equipment and network components, used by a communications service provider to provide communications services.
- (h) "Communications Service Provider" means a provider of communications services.
- (i) "Communications Services" means cable service as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 522(6); telecommunications service as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 153(53); information service as defined in 47 U.S.C. Section 153(24), as each such term existed on January 1, 2019; or wireless services.
- (j) "Consolidated Application" means an application for the collocation of multiple small wireless facilities on existing poles or support structures or for the installation, modification, or replacement of multiple poles and the collocation of associated small wireless facilities.
- (k) "Decorative Pole" means an authority pole that is specially designed and placed for aesthetic purposes.
- (l) "Electric Supplier" means any electric light and power company subject to regulation by the Georgia Public Service Commission, any electric membership corporation furnishing retail service in this state, and any municipality which furnishes such service within this state. The City of Oxford is an Electric Supplier and this Ordinance is inapplicable in all respects to city electric system facilities. See [Ordinance/Code Section \_\_\_\_\_] for terms applicable to such facilities.
- (m) "Eligible Facilities Request" means an eligible facilities request as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §1.40001(b)(3), as it existed on January 1, 2019.
- (n) "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission of the United States.
- (o) "Fee" means a one-time, nonrecurring charge based on time and expense.
- (p) "Historic District" means: (i) any district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the secretary of the interior of the United

States in accordance with Section VI.D.8-9-201.a.i- v of the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement codified by 47 C.F.R. Part 1; (ii) any area designated as a historic district under Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 44, the Georgia Historic Preservation Act'; or (iii) any area designated as a historic district or property by law prior to April 26, 2019.

(q) "Law" means and includes any and all federal, state, or local laws, statutes, common laws, codes, rules, regulations, orders, or ordinances.

(r) "Micro Wireless Facility" means a small wireless facility not larger in dimension than 24 inches in length, 15 inches in width, and 12 inches in height that has an exterior antenna, if any, no longer than 11 inches.

(s) "Permit" means a written authorization, in electronic or hard copy format, required to be issued by the City of Oxford to initiate, continue, or complete the collocation of a small wireless facility or the installation, modification, or replacement of a pole or decorative pole upon which a small wireless facility is collocated.

(t) "Person" means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, trust, or other entity or organization, including an authority.

(u) "Pole" means a vertical pole such as a utility, lighting, traffic, or similar pole made of wood, concrete, metal, or other material that is lawfully located or to be located within a right of way, including without limitation a replacement pole and an authority pole. Such term shall not include a support structure, decorative pole, or electric transmission structure.

(v) "Rate" means a recurring charge.

(w) "Reconditioning Work" means the activities associated with substantially painting, reconditioning, improving, or repairing authority poles.

(x) "Replace," "Replacement" or "Replacing" means to replace a pole or decorative pole with a new pole or a new decorative pole, similar in design, size, and scale to the existing pole or decorative pole consistent with 47 C.F.R. §1.40001(b)(7) as it existed on January 1, 2019, in order to address limitations of, or change requirements applicable to, the existing pole to structurally support the collocation of a small wireless facility.

(y) "Replacement Work" means the activities associated with replacing an authority pole.

(z) "Right of Way" means, generally, property or any interest therein, whether or not in the form of a strip, which is acquired for or devoted to a public road; provided, however, that such term shall apply only to property or an interest therein that is under the ownership or control of the City of Oxford and shall not include property or any interest therein acquired for or devoted to an interstate highway or the public rights, structures, sidewalks, facilities, and appurtenances of buildings for public equipment and personnel used for or engaged in administration, construction, or maintenance of public roads or research pertaining thereto or scenic easements and easements of light, air, view and access.

(aa) "Small Wireless Facility" means radio transceivers; surface wave couplers; antennas; coaxial, fiber optic, or other cabling; power supply; backup batteries; and comparable and associated equipment,

regardless of technological configuration, at a fixed location or fixed locations that enable communication or surface wave communication between user equipment and a communications network and that meet both of the following qualifications: (i) each wireless provider's antenna could fit within an enclosure of no more than six cubic feet in volume; and (ii) all other wireless equipment associated with the facility is cumulatively no more than 28 cubic feet in volume, measured based upon the exterior dimensions of height by width by depth of any enclosure that may be used. The following types of associated ancillary equipment are not included in the calculation of the volume of all other wireless equipment associated with any such facility: electric meters; concealment elements; telecommunications demarcation boxes; grounding equipment; power transfer switches; cut-off switches; and vertical cable runs for connection of power and other services. Such term shall not include a pole, decorative pole, or support structure on, under, or within which the equipment is located or collocated or to which the equipment is attached and shall not include any wireline backhaul facilities or coaxial, fiber optic, or other cabling that is between small wireless facilities, poles, decorative poles, or support structures or that is not otherwise immediately adjacent to or directly associated with a particular antenna.

(bb) "State" means the State of Georgia.

(cc) "Support Structure" means a building, billboard, water tank, or any other structure to which a small wireless facility is or may be attached. Such term shall not include a decorative pole, electric transmission structure, or pole.

(dd) "Wireless Infrastructure Provider" means any person, including a person authorized to provide telecommunications services in this state, that builds, installs, or operates small wireless facilities, poles, decorative poles, or support structures on which small wireless facilities are or are intended to be used for collocation but that is not a wireless services provider.

(ee) "Wireless Provider" means a wireless infrastructure provider or a wireless services provider.

(ff) "Wireless Services" means any services provided to the public using licensed or unlicensed spectrum, including the use of Wi-Fi, whether at a fixed location or mobile.

(gg) "Wireless Services Provider" means a person that provides wireless services.

(hh) "Wireline Backhaul Facility" means an aboveground or underground wireline facility used to transport communications data from a telecommunications demarcation box associated with small wireless facility to a network.

Section 8-6-202.2 In the event that any federal or state law containing definitions used in this Ordinance is amended, the definition in the referenced section, as amended, shall control.

### ARTICLE III PERMITS

Section 8-6-203.1 A permit is required to collocate a small wireless facility in the public right of way or to install, modify, or replace a pole or a decorative pole in the public right of way. A permit is not required to perform the activities described in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-6(e) or (f).

Section 8-6-203.2 Any person seeking to collocate a small wireless facility in the public right of way or to install, modify, or replace a pole or a decorative pole in the public right of way shall submit an application to the Planning Commission for a permit. Applications are available from the Zoning Administrator and a copy of the application is attached hereto as Exhibit B. Any material change to information contained in an application shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Administrator within 30 days after the events necessitating the change.

Section 8-6-203.3 Each application for a permit shall include the maximum application fees permitted under O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(3). Such maximum application fees shall automatically increase on January 1 of each year beginning January 1, 2021, as provided under O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(b).

Section 8-6-203.4 The Planning Commission shall review applications for permits according to the timelines and using the procedures identified in O.C.G.A. §§ 36-66C-7 and 36-66C-186-203.

Section 8-6-203.5 Applications for permits shall be approved except as follows:

(a) In order to receive a permit to install a pole or replace a decorative pole, the applicant must have determined after diligent investigation that it cannot meet the service objectives of the permit by collocating on an existing pole or support structure on which:

- (i) the applicant has the right to collocate subject to reasonable terms and conditions; and
- (ii) such collocation would not impose technical limitations or significant additional costs.

The applicant shall certify that it has made such a determination in good faith, based on the assessment of a licensed engineer, and shall provide a written summary of the basis for such determination.

(b) The Planning Commission may deny an application for a permit upon any of the conditions identified in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(j).

(c) For applications for new poles in the public right of way in areas zoned for residential use, the Planning Commission may propose an alternate location in the public right of way within 100 feet of the location set forth in the application, and the wireless provider shall use the Planning Commission's proposed alternate location unless the location imposes technical limits or significant additional costs. The wireless provider shall certify that it has made such a determination in good faith, based on the assessment of a licensed engineer, and it shall provide a written summary of the basis for such determination.

Section 8-6-203.6 A permit issued under this ARTICLE III shall authorize such person to occupy the public rights of way to: (i) collocate a small wireless facility on or adjacent to a pole or a support structure that does not exceed the limitations set forth in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(h)(3) or on or adjacent to a decorative pole in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-12; and (ii) install, modify, or replace a pole or decorative pole for collocation of a small wireless facility that does not exceed the limitations set forth in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(h)(1) and (h)(2).

Section 8-6-203.7 Upon the issuance of a permit under this Ordinance, and on each anniversary of such issuance, every person issued a permit shall submit to the City of Oxford the maximum annual payments permitted under O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(a)(4) and (a)(5); provided, however, that if such person removes its small wireless facilities from the public rights of way pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(e),

then such person shall be responsible for the pro rata portion of the annual payment based on the number of days of occupation since the last annual payment. Upon making such pro rata payment and removal of the small wireless facilities, the person's annual payment obligations under this section shall cease as of the date of the actual removal. The maximum annual payments shall automatically increase on January 1 of each year beginning January 1, 2021, as provided under O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(b).

Section 8-6-203.8 Any person issued a permit shall pay the fees identified in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(a)(6) and (a)(7), as applicable.

Section 8-6-203.9 The City of Oxford may revoke a permit issued pursuant to this ARTICLE III if the wireless provider or its equipment placed in the public right of way under that permit subsequently is not in compliance with any provision of this Ordinance or the Georgia Streamlining Wireless Facilities and Antennas Act. Upon revocation, the City of Oxford may proceed according to Section 8-6-203.10.

Section 8-6-203.10 If a wireless provider occupies the public rights of way without obtaining a permit required by this ARTICLE III or without complying with the SWFAA, then the City of Oxford, at the sole discretion of the City of Oxford, restore the right of way, to the extent practicable in the reasonable judgment of the City of Oxford, to its condition prior to the unpermitted collocation or installation and to charge the responsible wireless provider the reasonable, documented cost of the City of Oxford in doing so, plus a penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00.<sup>6</sup> The City of Oxford may suspend the ability of the wireless provider to receive any new permits from the City of Oxford under this ARTICLE III until the wireless provider has paid the amount assessed for such restoration costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided, however, that the City of Oxford may not suspend such ability of any applicant that has deposited the amount in controversy in escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of the dispute by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 8-6-203.11 All accepted applications for permits shall be publically available subject to the limitations identified in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-6(c),

Section 8-6-203.12 An applicant may file a consolidated application related to multiple small wireless facilities, poles or decorative poles so long as such consolidated application meets the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-18-6-203.

Section 8-6-203.13 Activities authorized under a permit shall be completed within the timelines provided in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(k)(2).

Section 8-6-203.14 Issuance of a permit authorizes the applicant to: (i) undertake the collocation, installation, modification or replacement approved by the permit and (ii) operate and maintain the small wireless facilities and any associated pole covered by the permit for a period of 10 years.

Section 8-6-203.15 Permits shall be renewed following the expiration of the term identified in Section 8-6-203.14 upon the terms and conditions identified in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(k)(2)(B).

Section 8-6-203.16 If an application for a permit seeks to collocate small wireless facilities on authority poles in the public rights of way, then the City of Oxford shall, within 60-days of receipt of the completed application: (i) provide a good faith estimate for any make-ready work necessary to enable the authority pole to support the proposed facility; or (ii) notify the wireless provider that the wireless provider will be required to perform the make-ready work. Any make-ready work performed by the City

of Oxford shall be completed pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(n).

ARTICLE IV  
REMOVAL; RELOCATION; RECONDITIONING; REPLACEMENT;  
ABANDONMENT

Section 8-6-204.1 A person may remove its small wireless facilities from the public rights of according to the procedures of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-5(e).

Section 8-6-204.2 In the event of a removal under Section 8-6-204.1, the right of way shall be, to the extent practicable in the reasonable judgment of the City of Oxford, restored to its condition prior to the removal. If a person fails to return the right of way, to the extent practicable in the reasonable judgment of the City of Oxford, to its condition prior to the removal within 90 days of the removal, the City of Oxford may, at the sole discretion of the City of Oxford, restore the right of way to such condition and charge the person the City of Oxford's reasonable, documented cost of removal and restoration, plus a penalty not to exceed \$500.00. The City of Oxford may suspend the ability of the person to receive any new permits under ARTICLE III until the person has paid the amount assessed for such restoration costs and the penalty assessed, if any; provided, however, that the City of Oxford will not suspend such ability of any person that has deposited the amount in controversy in escrow pending an adjudication of the merits of the dispute by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 8-6-204.3 If, in the reasonable exercise of police powers, the City of Oxford determines: (i) a pole or support structure unreasonably interferes with the widening, repair, reconstruction, or relocation of a public road or highway, or (ii) relocation of poles, support structures, or small wireless facilities is required as a result of a public project, the wireless provider shall relocate such poles, support structures, or small wireless facilities pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(1). If the wireless provider fails to relocate a pole, support structure or small wireless facility or fails to provide a written good faith estimate of the time needed to relocate the pole, support structure or small wireless within the time period prescribed in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(1), the City of Oxford make take the actions authorized by O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(o), in addition to any other powers under applicable law.

Section 8-6-204.4 The City of Oxford shall recondition and replace authority poles consistent with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(m). Wireless providers shall accommodate and cooperate with reconditioning and replacement consistent with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36- 66C-7(m).

Section 8-6-204.5 A wireless provider must notify the City of Oxford of its decision to abandon any small wireless facility, support structure or pole pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(p)(1). The wireless provider shall perform all acts and duties identified in O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(p) regarding abandonment. The City of Oxford may take all actions and exercise all powers authorized under O.C.G.A. § 36-66C-7(p) upon abandonment, in addition to any other powers under applicable law.

## ARTICLE V STANDARDS

Section 8-6-205.1 Small wireless facilities and new, modified, or replacement poles to be used for collocation of small wireless facilities may be placed in the public right of way as a permitted use: (i) upon a receipt of a permit under ARTICLE III; (ii) subject to applicable codes; and (iii) so long as such small wireless facilities and new, modified, or replacement poles to be used for collocation of small wireless facilities comply with the appropriate provisions of O.C.G.A. § 36- 66C-7(h).

(a) Each new, modified, or replacement pole installed in the right of way that is not in a historic district or in an area zoned primarily for residential use shall not exceed the greater of:

(i) Fifty feet above ground level; or

(ii) Ten feet greater in height above ground level than the tallest existing pole in the same public right of way in place as of January 1, 2019, and located within 500 feet of the new proposed pole;

Section 8-6-205.2 A decorative pole should only be located where an existing pole can be removed and replaced, or at a new location where the City of Oxford has identified that a streetlight is necessary.

Section 8-6-205.3 Unless it is determined that another design is less intrusive, or placement is required under applicable law, small wireless facilities shall be concealed as follows:

(a) Antennas located at the top of poles and support structures shall be incorporated into the pole or support structure, or placed within shrouds of a size such that the antenna appears to be part of the pole or support structure;

(b) Antennas placed elsewhere on a pole or support structure shall be integrated into the pole or support structure, or be designed and placed to minimize visual impacts.

(c) Radio units or equipment cabinets holding radio units and mounted on a pole shall be placed as high as possible, located to avoid interfering with, or creating any hazard to, any other use of the public rights of way, and located on one side of the pole. Unless the radio units or equipment cabinets can be concealed by appropriate traffic signage, radio units or equipment cabinets mounted below the communications space on poles shall be designed so that the largest dimension is vertical, and the width is such that the radio units or equipment cabinets are minimally visible from the opposite side of the pole on which they are placed.

(d) Wiring and cabling shall be neat and concealed within or flush to the pole or support structure, ensuring concealment of these components to the greatest extent possible.

Section 8-6-205.4 Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, an applicant may collocate a small wireless facility within a historic district, and may place or replace a pole within a historic district, only upon satisfaction of the following: (i) issuance of a permit under ARTICLE III and (ii) compliance with applicable codes.



Section 8-6-205.5 Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, an applicant may collocate a small wireless facility on a decorative pole, or may replace a decorative pole with a new decorative pole, in the event the existing decorative pole will not structurally support the attachment, only upon satisfaction of the following: (i) issuance of a permit under ARTICLE III and (ii) compliance with applicable codes.

Section 8-6-206 Notwithstanding any provision of this Ordinance to the contrary, this Ordinance is not applicable to city electric system facilities. See [Ordinance/Code Section \_\_\_\_\_] for terms applicable to such facilities,

Section 8-6-207 Reserved.

Sec. 40-611. - Meetings.

All meetings of the Planning Commission shall be open to the public. The Planning Commission shall hold regular meetings unless it is notified by the secretary or Zoning Administrator that there is no business to conduct, in which case the chairperson may cancel the regular meeting. **Members must attend at least two-thirds (2/3) of the meetings in a calendar year. Failure to do so warrants removal from the Planning Commission by Mayor and City Council.** No meeting shall be held unless 48 hours' notice thereof has been provided to each member. If special meetings are called by the chairperson, the purposes of the special meeting shall be stated and no other business may be conducted at such special meeting.

(Code 1997, § 40-908; Ord. of 2-6-2012, § 1(40-908))

Sec. 2-190. - Prohibited conduct.

***All elected and appointed*** Public officials and employees of the City shall treat all citizens with courtesy, impartiality, fairness, and equality under the law, and shall avoid both actual and potential conflicts between their private self-interest and the public interest. Prohibited conduct of each such official and employee shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Granting or making available to any person any special consideration, treatment, advantage, or favor beyond that which it is the general practice to grant or make available to the public at large;
- (2) Requesting, using, or permitting the use of any publicly-owned or publicly-supported property, vehicle, equipment, labor, or service for the personal convenience or the private advantage of himself or any other person, except as otherwise allowed by law;
- (3) Participating in the deliberation of or voting on any matter involving his financial or personal interest;
- (4) Engaging in private employment with, or rendering services for, any private person who has business transactions with the City, unless he has made full public disclosure of the nature and extent of such employment or services;
- (5) Appearing as counsel for any private persons, other than himself, before any public body in the City;
- (6) Accepting any gift, whether in the form of money, thing, favor, loan, or promise, that would not be offered or given to him if he were not an official or employee;
- (7) Disclosing any confidential information concerning any official or employee, or any other person, or any property or governmental affairs of the City, without prior formal authorization of the Mayor and City Council;
- (8) Using or permitting the use of confidential information to advance the financial or personal interest of himself or any other person; or
- (9) Appointing or voting for the appointment of any person related to him by blood or marriage to fill an office, position, employment, or duty, when the salary, wages, pay, or compensation is to be paid out of public funds.

***(10) Engaging in conduct unbecoming of a public official while carrying out official city business.***

(Code 1997, § 3-102(1))

**GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES  
BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**MASTER DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN  
DOCUMENT**

**AMENDED AND RESTATED**

**AS OF JANUARY 1, 2013**

**(WITH AMENDMENTS TAKING EFFECT ON OR BEFORE  
JANUARY 1, 2017)**

**Administered by:  
Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System  
201 Pryor Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Telephone: 404-688-0472  
Facsimile: 678-686-6289**

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**MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT**

**ARTICLE I.**

**PURPOSE OF PLAN**

The Georgia Municipal Employees Retirement System Plan ("Plan") is hereby amended and restated, effective January 1, 2013, except as otherwise provided herein, pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System, adopted June 25, 2018. The Plan is a governmental qualified defined benefit plan under Internal Revenue Code Sections 401(a) and 414(d) and is intended to be adopted by Employers in Georgia.

The Plan is intended to comply with certain provisions of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA"); the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008 ("HEART"); the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 ("WRERA"); as well as the additional guidance included in the 2012 Cumulative List under Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Notice 2012-76 to the extent applicable to the Plan. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the Plan establishes the rights and obligations with respect to individuals who are Employees on and after such dates, as applicable, and to transactions under the Plan on and after such dates, as applicable. Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the rights and benefits, if any, of individuals who are not Employees on or after such dates, as applicable, shall be determined in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Plan that were in effect on the date that their employment terminated.

Any Municipal Corporation accepted by the Board as an Adopting Employer may become a party to the Plan as of the first day of any Plan Year, or such other date specified by the Adopting Employer, by delivering to the Administrator an appropriate Ordinance of the Governing Authority adopting the Plan. Any other Employer accepted by the Board as an

Adopting Employer may become a party to the Plan as of the first day of any Plan Year, or such other date specified by the Adopting Employer, by delivering to the Administrator an appropriate resolution or ordinance (as applicable) of the Governing Authority adopting the Plan. With the consent of the Board, such organization shall become an Adopting Employer hereunder, as of the specified date, and shall be subject to the terms and provisions of the Plan as then in effect and thereafter amended.

The Plan document consists of this Master Plan document, the Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum of each Employer and any amendments to the Master Plan, the Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum. The Plan, generally effective as of the date set forth in the Adoption Agreement for each Employer, except as otherwise specifically provided herein, is established for the purpose of providing retirement and other benefits to Participants.

This Plan is intended to be a volume submitter plan, to be used with a completed Adoption Agreement.

## **ARTICLE II.**

### **DEFINITIONS**

This Article covers all generally applicable definitions used in this Plan, except for definitions related to service, which are in Article III. Except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum, the definition of terms contained in this Article II and Article III shall govern the meaning of such terms used in the Adoption Agreement. When the initial letter of a word or phrase is capitalized herein, the meaning of such word or phrase shall be as follows, unless a different meaning is plainly required by the content:

**Section 2.01.** **"Accrued Benefit"** shall mean, as of any date, the Normal Retirement benefit payable to a Participant at his Normal Retirement Date computed in accordance with the provisions of Article VI and the Adoption Agreement, based upon the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings (if applicable) as of the date that the Participant's Accrued Benefit is being determined.

**Section 2.02.** **"Actuarial Equivalent"** shall mean a benefit of approximately equal value when computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Article XII.

**Section 2.03.** **"Actuary"** shall mean an individual, or firm, appointed or approved by the Board of Trustees to perform actuarial calculations necessary in the funding of the Plan.

**Section 2.04.** **"Addendum"** means any Addendum to an Adoption Agreement submitted to the IRS for review under the pre-approved program and entered into by an Adopting Employer.

**Section 2.05.** **"Adjustment Date"** means January 1 or such other date in a calendar year on which a Cost of Living Adjustment is applied to a Retired Participant's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's benefit pursuant to an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto.

**Section 2.06.** **"Administrator"** shall mean the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System or its designee.

**Section 2.07.** **"Adopting Employer"** shall mean an Employer who adopts this Plan through the adoption of the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 2.08.** **"Adoption Agreement"** shall mean the Adoption Agreement adopted by an Adopting Employer, which Adoption Agreement contains certain terms of the Plan, and

whenever applicable shall include any Addendum amending provisions of the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 2.09.** **"Applicable Form"** shall mean the appropriate form as designated and furnished by the Administrator to make the election or provide the notice required by the Plan. In those circumstances where a written election or consent is not required by the Plan or the Code, the Administrator may prescribe an oral, electronic, or telephonic form in lieu of or in addition to a written form.

**Section 2.10.** **"Board of Trustees"** or **"Board"** shall mean the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

**Section 2.11.** **"Bona Fide Separation from Service"** shall mean, with respect to a Participant who Terminates employment on or after September 26, 2014, the Participant Terminated Employment with his Adopting Employer without an agreement for re-employment and did not return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee, Ineligible Employee, or independent contractor or in any other capacity, except as described below, for at least six (6) calendar months after the date of said Termination of Employment, provided that the Employer shall be required to provide any information to GMEBS necessary to verify an Employee's Bona Fide Separation from Service. A Bona Fide Separation from Service shall alternatively mean that an Eligible Employee Terminated Employment with the Adopting Employer and returned to service with the Adopting Employer as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, even if such Employee did not incur a six (6) month break in service prior to becoming an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.

**Section 2.12.** **"Child"** or **"Children"** shall mean any natural or adopted child of the Participant or Terminated Vested Participant, as applicable, who is younger than age twenty-two

(22) as of the date of the Participant's or Terminated Vested Participant's death. The term "adopted child" shall include any child who is legally adopted by the Participant and any child who is a member of the Participant's household if placed with the Participant by an authorized placement agency for legal adoption by the Participant. The term "child" does not include a foster child.

**Section 2.13.** **"Code"** shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as applicable to governmental plans, as amended from time to time, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as applicable to governmental plans.

**Section 2.14.** **"Code Section 415(d) Cost of Living Adjustment"** shall mean the cost of living adjustment prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury under Code Section 415(d) for any applicable year.

**Section 2.15.** **"Contract"** shall mean the entire contents of the Ordinance or Resolution adopting this Plan, the Employer's Adoption Agreement and any Addendum thereto, the Master Plan, the GMEBS Trust Agreement, and any amendments made hereafter.

**Section 2.16.** **"Contributions"** shall mean payments made by Employers (and Employees, if applicable) to GMEBS to provide the benefits specified in the Plan.

**Section 2.17.** **"Cost of Living Base Figure"** shall mean, with respect to Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide cost-of-living adjustments in benefits received under the Plan, the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is 14 months prior to the month of the Adjustment Date used to determine the Current Cost-of-Living Index Figure. However, if a Participant or Beneficiary has been drawing benefits for less than twelve (12) months, the Cost-of-Living Base

Figure shall mean the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is two (2) months prior to the month when benefit payments commenced.

**Section 2.18. "Covered Compensation AIME."** shall mean the portion of the Average Indexed Monthly Earnings (A.I.M.E.), annualized, as defined by the December 1977 amendments to the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (O.A.S.D.I.), not subject to the fifteen percent (15%) benefit rate as defined in the amendments and as adjusted to the year of termination of employment as provided for in said amendments.

**Section 2.19. "Covered Compensation Dynamic Break Point"** shall mean, for any calendar year, the average of the maximum amount of earnings for which taxes are payable under the Social Security Act during the period of calendar years: (1) beginning with the later of 1959 or the calendar year thirty-five (35) years before the year for which Social Security Covered Compensation is being computed, and (2) ending with the calendar year preceding the year for which Social Security Compensation is being computed. The amount of Covered Compensation for a Participant shall be determined as of the date of his most recent Termination or his date of death, whichever is applicable.

**Section 2.20. "Covered Compensation Table Break Point"** shall mean the amount listed in the table below, opposite the year of birth of the Participant:

Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount	Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount	Year of Birth	Covered Compensation Amount
1903 or earlier	\$4,944	1916	\$6,432	1929	\$6,900
1904	5,160	1917	6,480	1930	6,984
1905	5,352	1918	6,528	1931	7,080
1906	5,520	1919	6,576	1932	7,176

1907	5,652	1920	6,612	1933	7,260
1908	5,784	1921	6,660	1934	7,332
1909	5,892	1922	6,696	1935	7,416
1910	6,000	1923	6,720	1936	7,500
1911	6,084	1924	6,756	1937	7,572
1912	6,168	1925	6,792	1938	7,656
1913	6,240	1926	6,816	1939	7,728
1914	6,312	1927	6,840	1940	7,764
1915	6,372	1928	6,864	1941	7,800
				or later	

**Section 2.21.** **"Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure"** shall mean, with respect to Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide cost-of-living adjustments in benefits received under the Plan, the Consumer Price Index figure (All Urban Consumers Table – All Items, 1982-1984 Base Period) that was most recently issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the month that is two months prior to the month of the Adjustment Date.

**Section 2.22.** **"Default Beneficiary"** shall mean, with respect to a Participant who dies prior to July 1, 2015, the person(s) or entity to whom a pre-retirement death benefit is payable in the absence of a beneficiary designation by the Participant or in the event there is no designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a pre-retirement death benefit is payable, determined in accordance with and subject to Section 8.06.

**Section 2.23.** **"Disability"** shall mean, with respect to those Adopting Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits and unless otherwise provided in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the following:

(a) A physical or mental disability of a Participant who because of such disability becomes entitled to receive disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:



(1) Such disability commenced on a specified date during the period of the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer, as evidenced by a Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award submitted with the Participant's disability retirement application, reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; provided, however, that in the event a Participant has filed more than one disability application with the SSA and the SSA disability award reflects a disability onset date after the Participant's Termination date, and where due to SSA administrative res judicata rules the disability onset date reflected in the SSA disability award immediately follows the date that a prior SSA disability award was denied, then the Administrator may consider other documents submitted with the Participant's application for a SSA disability award to determine the disability onset date if the Participant provides such documents to the Administrator and the Administrator deems such documents sufficient to establish that the disability onset date is on or before the Participant's Termination date;

(2) In no event will the disability onset date be earlier than the latest disability onset date alleged by the Participant in his SSA disability application(s); and

(3) The Participant's disability was not intentionally self-inflicted, incurred in the commission of a felonious enterprise, or the result of the abuse or illegal use of narcotics or drugs; or

(b) A Participant who is not disabled in accordance with the definition under subsection (a) above solely because he lacks the quarters of Social Security coverage required under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended, shall qualify for Disability if the Pension Committee determines that the Participant is permanently disabled on the basis of a certificate

signed by at least two (2) physicians, (one physician selected and paid by the disabled Participant and one selected and paid by the Employer) stating that:

(1) The Participant is permanently disabled as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 72(m); and

(2) Such disability commenced on a specified date during the period of the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer; and

(3) Such disability was not intentionally self-inflicted, incurred in the commission of a felonious enterprise, or the result of the abuse or illegal use of narcotics or drugs.

(c) Neither the Adopting Employer nor the Administrator is required to independently investigate or confirm the cause(es) of a Participant's disability.

**Section 2.24. "Disability Retirement Date"** shall mean, with respect to those Adopting Employers who elect to provide Disability retirement benefits in the Adoption Agreement and with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment due to Disability on or after January 1, 2014, the first day of the first calendar month coinciding with or next following: (a) the date on which a Participant becomes entitled to receive a monthly disability insurance benefit under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended; (b) the date on which the Participant's Disability is determined by the Pension Committee to have commenced, in the case of Disability determinations made by the Pension Committee pursuant to Section 2.23(b); or (c) the date determined in accordance with the provisions of an Employer's General Addendum, as applicable. However, in no event will the Disability Retirement Date be earlier than the first day of the calendar month coinciding with or next following the date of the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of Disability. Unless otherwise specified in an Employer's Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment due to Disability on or after January 1, 2013 but prior to January 1, 2014, Disability Retirement Date shall be determined as follows: the first day of the first calendar month in which: (a) a Participant becomes entitled to receive a disability insurance benefit under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended; or (b) the Participant's Disability is determined by the Pension Committee to have commenced, in the case of Disability determinations made by the Pension Committee pursuant to Section 2.23(b), as applicable. However, in no event will the Disability Retirement Date be earlier than one (1) calendar month following the date of the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of Disability.

**Section 2.25.** **"Early Retirement Date"** shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the day a Participant qualifies for Early Retirement as specified in the Adoption Agreement, as of which the Participant actually Retires.

**Section 2.26.** **"Earnings"** shall mean with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment on or after July 1, 2014, unless otherwise specified by the Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the total gross earnings paid to a Participant by the Employer, as reflected in the Employer's payroll records and shall include salary, wages, bonuses, overtime, and compensation for unused sick, vacation, paid-time-off, personal, or any other paid leave. Earnings shall not be reduced for compensation deferred pursuant to Code Sections 401(k), 403(b) or 457, compensation redirected pursuant to Code Section 125 or 132(f)(4), or contributions picked-up under Code Section 414(h) during the Plan Year. Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Earnings shall not include perquisites or allowances for a car or house rent, or compensation for severance pay. With respect to Participants who Terminate Employment on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to July 1, 2014, "Earnings" shall mean the total taxable compensation paid to a Participant by the Employer as reflected in the Employer's W-2 payroll records, and shall include compensation deferred pursuant to Code Sections 401(k), 403(b) or 457, compensation redirected pursuant to Code Section 125 or 132(f)(4), and contributions picked-up under Code Section 414(h) during the Plan Year.

The annual earnings of a Participant for any year taken into account under the Plan for any Plan Year beginning prior to January 1, 1994, shall not exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) (as increased by the Cost of Living Adjustment for the year pursuant to Code Section 401(a)(17)), or for any Plan Year beginning on or after January 1, 1994, shall not exceed

One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) (as increased by the Cost of Living Adjustment for the year, pursuant to Code Section 401(a)(17)(B)). For any Plan Year beginning after December 31, 2001, the annual earnings of a Participant for any year taken into account under the Plan shall not exceed Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000) (as increased by the Cost of Living Adjustment for the year, pursuant to Code Section 401(a)(17)(B)). Notwithstanding the provisions of this paragraph, in determining benefit accruals in Plan Years beginning after December 31, 2001, the limit hereunder for determination periods beginning before January 1, 2002, shall be Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000).

Annual earnings means Earnings during the Plan Year or such other consecutive twelve (12) month period over which Earnings are otherwise determined under the Plan (the determination period). The Cost of Living Adjustment for a calendar year applies to annual earnings for the determination period that begins with or within such a calendar year. If a short Plan Year occurs, the annual earnings limit is an amount equal to the otherwise applicable annual earnings limit multiplied by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of months in the short Plan Year, and the denominator of which is twelve (12).

**Section 2.27.** **"Effective Date"** shall mean the original effective date of the Adopting Employer's GMEBS-administered defined benefit plan as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 2.28.** **"Eligible Employee"** shall mean any Employee who is designated as an Eligible Employee in the Adoption Agreement and who satisfies any eligibility conditions applicable to the class of Eligible Employees to which he belongs.

**Section 2.29.** **"Eligible Regular Employee"** shall mean any Regular Employee who satisfies the minimum hour and other eligibility conditions applicable to Regular Employees in the Employer's Adoption Agreement.

**Section 2.30.** **"Employee"** shall mean any person who is regularly employed in the services of the Employer as an employee and shall include elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are included as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement. However, notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, the term "Employee" does not include: (a) an individual who is a nonresident alien and who receives no earned income (within the meaning of Code Section 911(d)(2)) from an Employer which constitutes income from sources within the United States within the meaning of Code Section 861(a)(3); (b) a leased employee; or (c) any person treated in good faith by an Employer as an independent contractor, regardless of whether such person is later determined to be a common law employee for tax purposes.

**Section 2.31.** **"Employer"** shall mean an Employer as defined in O.C.G.A. § 47-5-2(9) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). No employer which is not permitted to participate in a qualified governmental pension plan as defined in Code Section 401(a) and 414(d) shall be permitted to participate in this Plan.

**Section 2.32.** **"Enrollment Date"** shall mean the date that an Eligible Employee first becomes a Participant under this Plan.

**Section 2.33.** **"FMLA"** shall mean the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended from time to time.

**Section 2.34.** **"Firefighter"** shall mean an Eligible Regular Employee of the Adopting Employer who is either certified as a firefighter pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-4-1 et seq. (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto) or who would otherwise be required to be certified as a firefighter but who is exempt pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 25-4-12 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

**Section 2.35.** **"Final Average Earnings"** shall mean, unless otherwise elected in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the arithmetic monthly average of the Earnings paid to a Participant by the Adopting Employer for a specified number of consecutive months of Credited Service preceding the Participant's most recent Termination in which the Participant's Earnings were the highest, multiplied by twelve (12). In computing Final Average Earnings for a Participant who Terminated Employment on or after July 1, 2014, Earnings shall include, if applicable and authorized by the Adopting Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, severance payments made prior to, on or after the Participant's Termination Date. For a Participant who Terminated Employment on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to July 1, 2014, unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Earnings shall include severance payments made prior to a Participant's Termination Date. The number of months to be used in determining Final Average Earnings shall be designated by the Adopting Employer in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto. The Administrator shall prescribe a formula for the determination of Final Average Earnings. Calculation of Final Average Earnings shall be subject to the following:

(a) If a Participant terminates employment or is on an unpaid leave of absence and later returns to employment with the Employer, the period(s) prior to and following such absence from employment shall be considered consecutive.

(b) If a Participant has not completed the number of consecutive months of Credited Service necessary to compute Final Average Earnings under this Section as of the date of such Participant's most recent Termination preceding Retirement, then Final Average Earnings shall be determined by dividing total Earnings for the Participant's entire period of Credited Service by such Participant's total number of months of Credited Service and multiplying the quotient by

twelve (12). In computing the number of months of Credited Service for this purpose, incomplete months of Credited Service shall be converted to fractional equivalents of months and included in the computation.

**Section 2.36.** **"Governing Authority"** shall mean the entity named in the Adoption Agreement which is authorized to act for the Adopting Employer.

**Section 2.37.** **"In-Service Distribution"** shall mean commencement of benefits to a Participant who has satisfied the requirements for Retirement prior to the Participant's Termination of Employment or continuation of benefits to a Retired Participant who returns to service without first completing a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

**Section 2.38.** **"Ineligible Employee"** shall mean an Employee of the Adopting Employer who is not an Eligible Employee.

**Section 2.39.** **"Interest"** shall mean a pro rata share of any and all interest, dividends, and capital gains or losses earned on the invested or reinvested funds of the GMEBS Investment Fund.

**Section 2.40.** **"Investment Fund"** or **"GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund"** shall mean the total amounts of all Contributions plus Interest, invested or uninvested, held by the Board of Trustees in the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund for all GMEBS Employers and their Employees where applicable.

**Section 2.41.** **"Late Retirement Date"** shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the day the Participant qualifies for Late Retirement, as specified in Section 6.03, as of which the Participant actually retires. The Plan shall not provide for a maximum retirement age.



**Section 2.42.** **"Military Service"** shall mean, unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, service performed while on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States if the Participant was granted an honorable discharge. Except as otherwise required by federal or state law, Military Service shall not include service which is credited toward retirement under any other local, state, or federal retirement or pension plan.

**Section 2.43.** **"Monthly Retirement Benefit"** shall mean the monthly benefit as provided in Article VI or any optional benefit payable in lieu thereof as provided in Article VII.

**Section 2.44.** **"Municipal Legal Officer"** shall mean, with respect to those Employers who elect to include municipal legal officers as Eligible Employees, only those municipal legal officers specifically designated in the Adoption Agreement for inclusion as Eligible Employees, provided that such officer otherwise meets the Master Plan's definition of Employee.

**Section 2.45.** **"Normal Retirement Date"** or **"Alternative Normal Retirement Date"** shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date the Participant qualifies for Normal Retirement as specified in the Employer's Adoption Agreement. An Employer may also establish alternative Normal Retirement qualifications in the Adoption Agreement. In such case, the Participant's Alternative Normal Retirement Date shall mean the first day of the month coinciding with or next following the date the Participant meets the alternative Normal Retirement qualifications.

**Section 2.46.** **"Participant"** or **"Participating Employee"** shall mean any Eligible Employee who is or may become eligible to receive a benefit of any type from the Plan and who has commenced participation in the Plan under Article IV.

**Section 2.47.** **"Pension Committee"** shall mean the committee named in the Adoption Agreement to represent the Adopting Employer in the administration of the Plan.

**Section 2.48.** **"Plan"** shall mean the provisions of this Master Plan document, along with the Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), setting forth the Employees to be covered, the benefits to be provided, and the conditions of retirement, and all amendments thereto which may hereafter be made.

**Section 2.49.** **"Plan Representative"** shall mean the Plan Representative designated in the Employer's Adoption Agreement. The Plan Representative must have full authority to represent the Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees. The Pension Committee Secretary may serve as the Plan Representative.

**Section 2.50.** **"Plan Year"** shall mean a twelve (12) consecutive month period specified as such in the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 2.51.** **"Police Officer"** shall mean an Eligible Regular Employee employed by the Adopting Employer's Police Department who is either certified or registered as a peace officer pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 35-8-1 et seq. (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

**Section 2.52.** **"Post-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on the Applicable Form, to receive a post-retirement survivor benefit in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VII and Section 8.12.

**Section 2.53.** **"Practitioner"** means the Georgia Municipal Association, Inc. who is the volume submitter practitioner sponsoring the Plan on behalf of GMEBS.

**Section 2.54.** **"Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on an Applicable Form, to receive a pre-retirement death benefit, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VIII.

**Section 2.55.** **"Regular Employee"** shall mean any Employee, other than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer, who is regularly employed in the services of the Adopting Employer.

**Section 2.56.** **"Resolution"** shall mean a resolution duly adopted by an Employer.

**Section 2.57.** **"Retired Participant"** shall mean any Participant who has Terminated Employment with the Employer and who is receiving a benefit provided under the Plan.

**Section 2.58.** **"Retirement"** or **"Retires"** shall mean withdrawal from Service with a retirement allowance granted under the provisions of the Plan.

**Section 2.59.** **"Retirement System," "System," or "GMEBS"** shall mean the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System created by O.C.G.A. Section 47-5-1 et seq. (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto).

**Section 2.60.** **"Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary"** shall mean the person designated by the Participant, in writing and on the Applicable Form, to receive a pre-retirement death benefit in the event the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of Article VIII.

**Section 2.61.** **"Section"** shall mean, when not preceded by the word Code or ERISA, a section of the Master Plan document.

**Section 2.62.** **"Spouse"** shall mean, notwithstanding any other provision in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum to the contrary, (i) effective on or after September 16, 2013, to the extent required by federal law, and (ii) effective on or after

September 26, 2014, for all purposes, a person who, as of the date of the Participant's, Retired Participant's or Terminated Vested Participant's death, as applicable, is lawfully joined with the Participant or Terminated Vested Participant in a marriage which is recognized under the laws of any state or foreign jurisdiction, whether opposite-sex or same-sex and regardless of whether or not the spouse resides in the state or foreign jurisdiction in which such marriage occurred. Prior to September 26, 2014, except as otherwise required by federal law, a Spouse shall mean a person who, as of the date of the Participant's or Terminated Vested Participant's death, as applicable, is lawfully joined with the Participant or Terminated Vested Participant in a marriage which is recognized under the laws of the State of Georgia. Sufficient documentation of marriage shall be provided to GMEBS upon request.

**Section 2.63. "Terminated Vested Participant"** shall mean any Participant who has Terminated Employment with the Adopting Employer and who has a Vested Benefit under any provision of the Adopting Employer's Plan but is not yet a Retired Participant.

**Section 2.64. "Termination," "Terminate Employment," "Termination of Employment," or "Terminated"** shall mean a severance of employment with the Employer, including Retirement, resignation or discharge, lapse of recall rights after layoff, death, or vacation of office by a Regular Employee, an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer. Provided, however, that Termination shall not include: (i) absence from active employment which is not treated by the Adopting Employer as a Termination of Employment; (ii) absence due to military service to the extent required under USERRA and Code Section 414(u)(8)(A), (iii) absence due to leave which qualifies as family or medical leave under the FMLA, to the extent required under the FMLA; or (iv) absence due to an authorized leave of absence for any reason if approved by the Adopting Employer. Unless

otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if an Employee on an authorized leave of absence fails to return to active employment upon expiration of the leave of absence, the Employee will be considered terminated as of the date immediately preceding the approved leave period.

**Section 2.65.** **"Trust Fund"** mean the total amounts, invested or uninvested, held at any time by the Board in trust for the Employer under the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

**Section 2.66.** **"Vested," "Vesting," "Vested Right," or "Vested Benefit"** shall mean the rights of a Terminated Vested Participant as specified in Article IX.

### **ARTICLE III.**

#### **SERVICE**

**Section 3.01.** **"Current Credited Service"** shall mean the number of years and complete months of Service of a Participant with the Adopting Employer from his Enrollment Date to his Termination, which are credited as Current Credited Service for purposes of meeting the Plan's requirements for vesting, retirement and death benefit eligibility, and/or for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, determined in accordance with and subject to any limitations established in the Master Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement. Current Credited Service shall include unused paid time off which the Employer elects to treat as Current Credited Service for a Terminated Vested Participant for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement; provided, however, that leave conversions will be permitted only if (i) the leave is for unused accrued paid time off for vacation and/or sick leave or for comparable paid-time-off under an established leave policy without regard to whether the leave is due to illness or incapacity, (ii) the leave policy qualifies as a bona fide sick and/or vacation leave plan for purposes of Code Section 409A and Treasury Regulation § 1.409A-1(a)(5), (iii) the Plan provides for service credit for an Employee's unused

paid time off, provided that the eligibility requirements for participation in the Plan do not permit an Employee to become a Participant only in the Plan Year in which the Employee terminates employment, (iv) the conversion is automatic, the employee has no right to request a cash payment for the leave, and no such payment is made, (v) the unused paid time off is converted to service credit under a formula specified in the Adoption Agreement and which satisfies the definitely determinable standard of Treasury Regulation § 1.401-1(b)(1)(i), (vi) the Adopting Employer's Plan otherwise provides for service credit unrelated to the conversion of any Employee's unused paid time off, and (vii) the Participant's annual benefit, as adjusted by the leave conversion, does not exceed the limit under Code Section 415(b).

**Section 3.02. "USERRA Military Service Credit."**

(a) USERRA Military Service Credit. Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, contributions, benefits, and service credit with respect to qualified military service shall be provided in accordance with Code Section 414(u). Code Section 414(u) provides that: (i) individuals reemployed under the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 ("USERRA") must be treated as not having incurred a break in Service because of qualified military service, (ii) periods of qualified military service must be counted for vesting and benefit accrual purposes, except that periods of qualified military service must not be counted for benefit accrual purposes where the individual would have been required to make Employee Contributions under the Adopting Employer's Plan if he or she had remained continuously employed by the Adopting Employer during said period of qualified military service and the individual fails to make-up said Employee Contributions as provided herein, (iii) make-up of Employee Contributions up to the maximum the individual would have been required to make if continuously employed must be allowed, in one lump sum payment or in

installments, during the period beginning on reemployment and lasting for the lesser of three (3) times the period of qualified military service or five (5) years, (iv) any Employer Contributions contingent on make-up Employee Contributions must be made by the Employer, if and to the extent the individual contributes his or her make-up Employee Contributions as provided herein, (v) earnings are not required to be credited unless and until the Employee contributes make-up contributions, (vi) make-up Contributions are based on compensation the individual would have received during the period of qualified military service (if not reasonably certain, compensation for the 12 month period (or, if shorter, the period of employment) immediately preceding qualified military service can be used), and (vii) make-up Contributions are subject to the limitations of Code Sections 402(g), 415, and 404(a) for the year to which the contribution relates, not the year in which the contribution is made.

(b) Ordered Military Leave under Georgia Law. To the extent not provided under subsection (a), the Plan will grant Credited Service for a period of "ordered" military service in accordance with and subject to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 38-2-279(f) (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto) to a Participant who was an Eligible Employee when such ordered military service commenced, if and to the extent that the Participant (or in case of the Participant's death during the period of military service, the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or the legal representative of the Participant's estate) makes up any required Employee Contributions as provided herein. To obtain Credited Service for the period of ordered military service, the Participant must make-up the required Employee Contributions in one lump sum payment or in installments during a period that begins upon commencement of such ordered military service and ends no later than five (5) years after the period of military service ends. If the Participant dies during the period of military service, the Participant's Pre-

Retirement Beneficiary or the legal representative of the Participant's estate must make up the required Employee Contributions no later than one (1) year following proof of the Participant's death. The amount of Employee Contributions required to be made to receive Credited Service for a period of military service shall be determined in the same manner as provided under USERRA and HEART and subsection (a) above.

(c) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2007, while a Participant is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code), to the extent required by Code Section 401(a)(37), survivors of the Participant are entitled to any additional benefits that the Plan would provide if the Participant had resumed employment and then died, such as accelerated vesting or survivor benefits that are contingent on the Participant's death while employed. In any event, a deceased Participant's period of qualified military service must be counted for vesting purposes.

(d) Beginning January 1, 2009, to the extent required by Code Sections 3401(h) and 414(u)(2), an individual receiving differential wage payments (while the individual is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code)) from an Employer shall be treated as employed by that Employer, and the differential wage payment shall be treated as compensation for purposes of applying the limits on annual additions under Code Section 415(c). This provision shall be applied to all similarly situated individuals in a reasonably equivalent manner.

(e) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after January 1, 2009, while a Participant is performing qualified military service (as defined in chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code), to the extent permitted by Code Section 414(u)(8), for benefit accrual and vesting purposes, the Participant will be treated as having returned to employment on the day before the



death and as having terminated on the date of death. This provision shall be applied to all similarly situated individuals in a reasonably equivalent manner.

**Section 3.03.** **"Credited Past Service"** shall mean the number of years and complete months of Service of a Participant with the Adopting Employer prior to his Enrollment Date which are treated as Credited Past Service under the Employer's Adoption Agreement for purposes of meeting the Plan's requirements for participation, vesting, retirement and death benefit eligibility, and/or or for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, subject to any limitations established in the Master Plan or the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 3.04.** **"Prior Governmental Service"** shall mean government service preceding the Eligible Employee's employment or reemployment date with the Adopting Employer, usually for an entity other than the Adopting Employer, which the Employer elects to treat as Credited Service for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement

**Section 3.05.** **"Prior Military Service"** shall mean Military Service not covered by Section 3.02 which the Employer elects to treat as Credited Service for certain purposes, as provided and subject to any limitations contained in the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 3.06.** **"Service"** shall mean regular service rendered as an Eligible Employee of the Adopting Employer. Service may include absence from active employment with the Adopting Employer under conditions which are not treated by the Employer as a Termination of Employment, subject to Article IV concerning leaves of absence and any other conditions or limitations specified in the Master Plan and Adoption Agreement. For those Employers who elect in the Adoption Agreement to include elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers as Eligible Employees, Service also means any tenure of

office held by an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer, provided that such tenure of office does not include any calendar period during which any elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer is also in the regular service of the Employer as an Eligible Employee in another capacity. No Participant may receive credit for more than one (1) year of Service in any twelve (12) month period.

**Section 3.07. "Total Credited Service"** shall mean the sum of the Participant's Current Credited Service, Credited Past Service, Prior Military Service, and Prior Governmental Service, as specified in this Article and covered per the Employer's Adoption Agreement, subject to any limitations imposed under the Master Plan or the Employer's Adoption Agreement. The term Total Credited Service includes any Service required to be included in Total Credited Service by USERRA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Full months of Total Credited Service shall be treated as fractions of one (1) year. Partial months shall not be included in the calculation. The Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement a maximum number of years that may be included as Total Credited Service. If an Employer elects in its Adoption Agreement to require Employee Contributions, Total Credited Service shall not include any period of time for which the Employee is required but fails to make such Employee Contributions to the Plan. If a Participant has received a cash single sum payment of the present value of his Plan benefit pursuant to Section 7.05 of the Master Plan upon or following termination with an Adopting Employer and subsequently returns to Service with such Adopting Employer, the Participant's prior Credited Service with the Adopting Employer for which the cash single sum payment was paid shall be counted for purposes of meeting the Plan's

requirements for participation, vesting, and retirement and death benefit eligibility but shall not be counted as Credited Service for purposes of benefit computation.

An Employee excluded from participation because of age shall receive credit for all Service as required by law.

#### **ARTICLE IV.**

#### **ELIGIBILITY, QUALIFICATION AND PARTICIPATION**

**Section 4.01. Classes of Eligible Employees.** The Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the class(es) of Employees which are eligible to participate in the Plan. Provided, however, that if a person does not meet the definition of "Employee" contained in Article II, he or she may not be included in any Eligible Employee class.

#### **Section 4.02. Qualifications for Participation.**

(a) **Minimum Service Requirement.** With respect to each class of Eligible Regular Employees, the Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement a minimum number of work hours per week and/or a minimum number of work months per year which are required to be scheduled in order to establish and maintain the Employee's status as an Eligible Regular Employee. It shall be the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied. In determining whether said requirements are satisfied, the following rules shall apply:

(1) If an Employee is otherwise includable in an Eligible Regular Employee class, but he does not meet the minimum service requirements established by the Employer for said class pursuant to subsection (a) above, he or she shall not be considered an Eligible Employee, unless and until he satisfies such requirements. If an Eligible Regular Employee who has not yet become a Participant no longer meets said minimum service requirement, but he remains an Employee of the Employer, he or she

shall no longer be considered an Eligible Regular Employee, unless and until he again satisfies the minimum requirement.

(2) No period of employment during which an Employee fails to satisfy the Employer's minimum service requirement and no leave of absence granted to such Employee shall be counted in determining whether any waiting period for participation established by the Employer pursuant to subsection (b) below has been satisfied. However, provided the Employee remains continuously employed by the Employer, such periods shall not be considered a break in Service under subsection (c)(1) below for purposes of satisfying said waiting period.

(b) Waiting Period. Effective January 1, 2015 with respect to Eligible Regular Employees in service with the Adopting Employer on or after said date, Eligible Regular Employees shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Likewise, effective January 1, 2015, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers, if eligible to participate in the Plan, shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Notwithstanding subsection 20.01(f) of the Master Plan, in the event that an Adopting Employer has specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement in effect immediately prior to January 1, 2015 that any class or classes of Eligible Employees shall be subject to a waiting period before participating in the Plan, such provision shall no longer be effective on or after January 1, 2015.

(c) Prior to January 1, 2015, unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Eligible Regular Employees were required to complete one (1) year of continuous, uninterrupted service with the Adopting Employer in order

to commence participation in the Plan. In determining whether an applicable waiting period was satisfied, the following rules shall apply:

(1) Breaks in Service. If an Eligible Regular Employee has a break in service prior to satisfying the waiting period for participation and later becomes reemployed by the Adopting Employer, he shall be required to again satisfy the waiting period in order to be eligible to participate in the Plan. Service rendered prior to said break in service shall not be taken into account in determining whether the waiting period has been satisfied.

(2) Employed on Effective Date; Waiting Period Satisfied. If an Eligible Regular Employee is employed by the Adopting Employer on the Effective Date of the Plan and he has completed a period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Employee immediately prior to the Effective Date equal to or exceeding the length of the required waiting period, then he shall be considered to have satisfied the waiting period and he shall be eligible to commence participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the Effective Date of the Plan.

(3) Employed on Effective Date; Waiting Period Not Satisfied. If an Eligible Regular Employee is employed by the Adopting Employer on the Effective Date of the Plan, but he has not completed a period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee immediately prior to the Effective Date equal to or exceeding the length of the required waiting period, then he shall be eligible to commence participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date that he completes the minimum period of continuous,

uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee necessary to satisfy the required waiting period.

(4) Employed After the Effective Date. If an Eligible Regular Employee is initially employed by the Adopting Employer after the Effective Date of the Plan, he shall be eligible to commence participation in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date that he completes the minimum period of continuous, uninterrupted service as an Eligible Regular Employee necessary to satisfy the required waiting period.

(5) Treatment of Leaves of Absence. For purposes of determining whether the waiting period for participation has been satisfied, service shall include any period of absence from employment which is required to be taken into account for such purpose under USERRA, the FMLA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, an authorized leave of absence granted to an Eligible Regular Employee by the Adopting Employer shall be counted as Credited Service for purposes of determining whether the waiting period for participation has been satisfied. However, unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if an Eligible Regular Employee on an authorized leave of absence fails to return to active employment or office upon expiration of the leave of absence, the Eligible Regular Employee shall be considered to have incurred a break in service for purposes of meeting the waiting period for participation as of the date preceding the approved leave period.

(6) Treatment of Service as an Ineligible Employee. If an Employee of the Adopting Employer who is not an Eligible Employee becomes an Eligible Regular

Employee while remaining continuously employed by the Adopting Employer, said Eligible Employee shall become eligible to commence participation on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date he meets the eligibility requirements for participation under this Article. For purposes of satisfying any waiting period imposed by the Adopting Employer, and unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, the Eligible Regular Employee's prior period of employment as an Ineligible Employee shall be credited in the same manner as service as an Eligible Regular Employee provided that during said prior period of service as an Ineligible Employee, he satisfied any minimum service requirement established by the Employer pursuant to Section 4.02(a). Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if an Eligible Regular Employee becomes an Ineligible Employee prior to satisfying the waiting period for participation in the Plan, his service as an Ineligible Employee shall be credited in the same manner as service as an Eligible Regular Employee for purposes of satisfying said waiting period, provided that the Ineligible Employee satisfies the applicable minimum service requirements established for Eligible Employees pursuant to Section 4.02(a). However, in no event will an Ineligible Employee be permitted to become a Participant in the Plan unless and until he has satisfied the waiting period and has again become an Eligible Employee. For purposes of satisfying the waiting period, leaves of absence granted to an Ineligible Employee shall be treated in the same manner as leaves of absence for Eligible Regular Employees under paragraph (5) above.

(7) Prior Participation in Another GMEBS Plan. An Eligible Regular Employee who is hired after the Effective Date of the Plan shall be eligible to become a Participant on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the

date on which he is employed by the Adopting Employer, regardless of any waiting period requirement established by the Employer, provided that: (i) his immediate prior employment was with another Adopting Employer in the GMEBS; (ii) he was a Participant in the previous Adopting Employer's GMEBS retirement plan; and (iii) he satisfies any minimum service requirement established by the Adopting Employer pursuant to Section 4.02(a) for his class.

**Section 4.03. Establishing Participation in the Plan.**

(a) Mandatory vs. Optional Participation. Participation in the Plan shall be considered mandatory for all classes of Eligible Employees unless, with respect to a particular class, the Employer specifies in the Adoption Agreement that participation is optional for members of said class.

(b) Mandatory Participation. Effective with respect to Eligible Employees initially employed or reemployed on or after January 1, 2015, if participation is mandatory for a class of Eligible Employees, then, except as otherwise provided in subsection (e) below, all Eligible Employees in the class shall become Participants in the Plan as of the date they are employed, provided that they satisfy the Adopting Employer's eligibility requirements for participation. With respect to Eligible Employees initially employed or reemployed prior to January 1, 2015, if participation is mandatory for a class of Eligible Employees, then except as provided in subsection (e) below, all Eligible Employees in the class shall become Participants in the Plan on the first day of the month immediately following or coinciding with the date they satisfy the applicable waiting period and any other eligibility requirements for participation; provided, however, that any Eligible Employee who was employed prior to January 1, 2015, was subject to a waiting period before participating in the Plan, and had not satisfied such waiting period prior



to January 1, 2015 shall commence participation in the Plan effective January 1, 2015. Eligible Employees shall provide to the Pension Committee on an Applicable Form such participation enrollment information as shall be required by the Pension Committee, which shall include the Eligible Employee's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Plan. Notwithstanding an Eligible Employee's failure to complete the Applicable Form, the Eligible Employee shall become a Participant as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

(c) Optional Participation. The Employer may specify in the Adoption Agreement that participation is optional for certain classes of Eligible Employees, including but not limited to Employees in the following categories: elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, Municipal Legal Officers, City Manager, and Department Heads. If participation is optional for an Eligible Employee, then the Eligible Employee may elect to become a Participant at his option by filing with the Pension Committee, on an Applicable Form, such information as shall be required to enroll in the Plan, which shall include the Eligible Employee's acceptance of the terms and conditions of the Plan. The election to participate must be made within 120 days after the later of: the date the Eligible Employee commences employment with the Adopting Employer, the date the Eligible Employee is elected or appointed to office, or the date participation in the Plan is first permitted for members of a class to which he belongs. The election to participate shall be irrevocable, and the failure to make an election within the 120-day time limit specified above shall be deemed an irrevocable election not to participate in the Plan. If Employee contributions are required under the Adopting Employer's Plan, then Eligible Employees who apply for participation within the 120 day period may be required to make retroactive contributions in order to receive credit under the Plan for creditable Service prior the date they apply to participate in the Plan.

(d) Participation in the Plan shall not give any Eligible Employee the right to be retained in the employ of the Adopting Employer nor, upon dismissal, to have any right or interest in the Trust Fund other than as herein provided.

(e) Notwithstanding anything in this Section 4.03 to the contrary, effective for Employees initially employed or reemployed by an Adopting Employer on or after January 1, 2014, if within 120 days following the date on which an Employee is first employed or first takes office with an Adopting Employer, the Employee enters into a written agreement or employment contract with the Adopting Employer pursuant to which the Employee agrees that the Employee will not participate in the Plan, the Employee shall be ineligible to participate in the Plan regardless of whether the Employee otherwise satisfies the eligibility requirements for participation in the Plan. The Employer shall notify the Administrator if and when an Employee has entered into such an agreement with the Employer and provide such information to the Administrator as necessary to confirm the existence of said agreement. A subsequent change in the terms of said agreement will not make the Employee eligible to participate in the Plan unless the Adopting Employer amends its Adoption Agreement to specifically require participation by said Employee.

**Section 4.04. Change in Employment Status.**

(a) Transfer to Ineligible Status. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, if a Participant's employment status changes such that he becomes an Ineligible Employee, he shall cease to accrue benefits under the Plan for any purpose and his interest under the Plan, if any, shall be only such as existed immediately before he became an Ineligible Employee, unless and until he again becomes a Participant. In no event will his service or earnings as an Ineligible Employee be taken into account for purposes of meeting the

Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting, retirement eligibility, death benefit eligibility, or for purposes of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan. However, said period of service as an Ineligible Employee shall not be considered a break in Service under Section 4.06, provided the Ineligible Employee remains continuously employed by the Adopting Employer. If the Ineligible Employee does not again become a Participant prior to Retirement or Termination of Employment, his Vested Benefit, if any, shall be paid as provided in Article IX.

(b) Transfer Back to Eligible Status. If an Ineligible Employee described in subsection (a) above remains continuously employed by the Adopting Employer and he has another change in employment status such that he again becomes a Participant, he shall thereafter be entitled to accrue benefits in accordance with the terms of the Plan as in effect as of the date of the subsequent change in employment status. In no event, however, shall such a Participant receive a greater benefit under the Plan than that which the Participant would have received had the Participant not had a change in employment status.

**Section 4.05. Participant Leaves of Absence.**

(a) USERRA, FMLA Leave – Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, if any period of absence is required to be counted under USERRA, the FMLA or any other applicable federal or state law as Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, or for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting, retirement or death benefit eligibility, then said period of absence shall be counted as such in accordance with and subject to the requirements of such law.

(b) Other Leaves of Absence. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, an authorized leave of absence granted to a Participant by the Adopting Employer will be counted as Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing

the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting and benefit eligibility. However, if the Participant does not return to active employment upon expiration of the authorized leave period, then subsection (c) shall apply.

(c) Failure to Return to Service. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if a Participant does not return to active employment with the Employer upon expiration of a leave of absence, his interest under the Plan, if any, including his Current Credited Service for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the Plan's minimum service requirements for vesting and any minimum service requirements for retirement or death benefit eligibility, will be limited to that accrued as of the date preceding the approved leave period.

(d) Unused Leave. The Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to credit certain unused leave at termination or retirement for which the Participant is not paid as Credited Service, subject to the terms and limits specified in the Master Plan and Adoption Agreement.

**Section 4.06. Non-Vested Participant Breaks in Service.**

Except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement, this Section shall apply only to Participants who are Eligible Regular Employees. If a non-vested Participant experiences a break in service, the Participant's Current Credited Service shall not include any Service rendered prior to the break in service, unless the Participant returns to employment with the Adopting Employer and performs the lesser of: service equal to the break in service, or service equal to one (1) year. The following limitations shall apply in administering the break in service rule:

(a) Absence of Less Than One (1) Year. If a Participant terminates employment with the Adopting Employer and returns to employment with the Adopting Employer within one (1) year after said termination, the Participant shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in service. Except as otherwise required under this Section, however, the time he was absent shall not be taken into account for any purpose under the Plan.

(b) Interim Employment with Another GMEBS Employer. If a Participant terminates employment with the Adopting Employer and returns to employment with the Adopting Employer after having spent the interim period in the continuous employment of another Employer in the GMEBS, he shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in Service. The time he was absent may be taken into account for purposes of determining whether the Participant has met the minimum service requirements for vesting and retirement eligibility under the Adopting Employer's Plan, as provided by and subject to the provisions of Section 9.05 concerning portability. However, in no event shall the time he was absent from the Adopting Employer be taken into account for the purpose of computing the amount of any benefit payable under the Adopting Employer's Plan.

(c) Treatment of Leaves of Absence. No leave of absence or other period of absence from employment shall be considered a break in Service if it is not permitted to be treated as such under USERRA, the FMLA, or any other applicable federal or state law. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, any other authorized leave of absence granted to a Participant shall not be deemed a break in Service, provided the Participant was regularly employed by the Employer immediately prior to his leave of absence and the Participant is reemployed by the Employer upon expiration of the leave of absence. Unless otherwise required by law or unless the terms of the leave otherwise specify, if a Participant does

not return to active employment upon expiration of the approved leave period, he will be considered to have incurred a break in Service under this Section as of the date immediately preceding the approved leave period.

(d) Transfer to Ineligible Employee Status. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, if a Participant's employment status changes such that he becomes an Ineligible Employee pursuant to Section 4.04, the period of time spent as an Ineligible Employee shall not be considered a break in Service under this Section, provided the Participant remains employed by the Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer, leaves of absence granted to an Ineligible Employee will not be considered a break in Service under this Section, provided the Ineligible Employee returns to active employment with the Employer upon expiration of the approved leave period and the requirements of subsection (c) are otherwise satisfied with respect to such leave of absence.

(e) Graduated Vesting. If the Adopting Employer has established a graduated vesting schedule in the Adoption Agreement, and a Participant who is partially vested Terminates Employment with the Adopting Employer and subsequently returns to employment with the Adopting Employer, the Participant shall not be deemed to have incurred a break in service. Except as otherwise required under this Section, however, the time he was absent shall not be taken into account for any purpose under the Plan.

(f) Repeated Breaks in Service. If a non-vested Participant has a break in Service, returns to employment with the Adopting Employer, and experiences one or more additional breaks in Service prior to satisfying the one (1) year Service requirement necessary to work off the initial break, then the Participant's Current Credited Service shall not include any Service rendered prior to the most recent break in Service, unless upon the Participant's return to

employment with the Employer following the most recent break in Service he performs Service for a period of at least one (1) year.

## **ARTICLE V.**

### **RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY**

(a) The Retirement prerequisites of a Participant under this Plan are contingent upon the type of Retirement offered by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement and selected by the Participant: that is, Normal Retirement, Alternative Normal Retirement, Early Retirement, Late Retirement, or Disability Retirement, as applicable. The provision of an Alternative Normal Retirement benefit or the designation of an Alternative Normal Retirement Date in the Adoption Agreement shall not be construed to establish an Alternative Normal Retirement Age or Alternative Normal Retirement Date for purposes of the definition of Accrued Benefit under Section 2.01, for purposes of computing death benefits under Article VIII, or for purposes of applying the actuarial equivalent conversion provisions of Article XII. The minimum age and service requirements and other prerequisites associated with each type of Retirement for each class of Eligible Employees shall be as specified in the pertinent sections of the Adoption Agreement. Except as otherwise provided in the Master Plan or Adoption Agreement with respect to In-Service Distributions for those who remain in service after they qualify for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, receipt of Retirement benefits shall also be contingent upon Termination of Employment.

(b) Provided a Participant is otherwise eligible to receive a Retirement benefit under the Plan, Retirement is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the Applicable Form provided for such purpose and the acceptance of the Applicable Form by the Pension Committee.

(c) Retirement applications shall be prepared and submitted at such time as to reach the office of GMEBS no earlier than ninety (90) days and no later than thirty (30) days prior to a

Participant's effective Retirement Date. A Participant's effective Retirement date shall be the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date he has satisfied all of the prerequisites for Retirement as specified in this Article V, and actually Retires.

## **ARTICLE VI.**

### **RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

#### **Section 6.01. Normal Retirement Benefit.**

(a) A Participant, upon Retirement on or after his Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), shall receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit under which payments shall commence on the first day of the month in which his effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during his lifetime. However, if directed by the Employer, Normal Retirement benefits (not including Alternative Normal Retirement benefits or the In-Service Distribution of Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits) may be paid retroactively to the first day of the month following the month in which the Participant's Termination occurs (or, if the Participant's Termination occurs on the first of the month, the first day of the month in which the Participant's Termination occurs) or if later, the first day of the month in which his Normal Retirement Date occurs. The amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be determined based upon the applicable benefit formula specified in the Adoption Agreement and in effect at the Participant's Termination. If the Participant elects a form of benefit payment other than the standard form, the amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit will be adjusted in accordance with and subject to the terms of the option elected (see Section 7.01).

(b) No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Normal Retirement benefits.



**Section 6.02. Early Retirement Benefit.**

(a) A Participant, upon Retirement on or after his Early Retirement Date and before his Normal Retirement Date or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, shall receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit under which payments shall commence on the first day of the month in which his effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during the lifetime of the Participant. The amount of such Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in the same manner as for a Normal Retirement benefit, but reduced on an Actuarially Equivalent basis in accordance with the actuarial table contained in Section 12.01. An Adopting Employer may adopt in the Adoption Agreement an alternative early retirement actuarial reduction table for one or more classes of Eligible Employees, provided the adoption of such table satisfies the requirements of Code Section 401(a)(25).

(b) Provided the Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, a Participant who is otherwise eligible for an Early Retirement benefit may apply for and receive an Early Retirement benefit (i) while a Disability Retirement benefit determination is pending, or (ii) while waiting for an approved Disability Retirement benefit to commence. Upon a determination that the Participant is entitled to receive a Disability Retirement benefit, the Participant's benefit will be changed to a Disability Retirement benefit (if greater), retroactive to the Disability Retirement Date, provided that the requirements of Section 6.04(b) relating to making application for retroactive payments of Disability Retirement benefits are met. If said requirements are not met but the Participant otherwise qualifies for a Disability Retirement benefit, the Participant's benefit will be changed to a Disability Retirement benefit as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date that the Participant submits documentation sufficient to confirm his eligibility for a Disability Retirement benefit, as

described in Section 6.04(c). However, no change in the form of benefit payment or designation of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be made, and no Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be named if one had not been previously named.

(c) If directed by the Employer, effective with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment on or after January 1, 2014, Early Retirement benefits may be paid retroactively to a date (first day of the month) designated on the Participant's retirement application, provided that such date may be no earlier than the later of: 1) four (4) full calendar months prior to the date of the Pension Committee Secretary's execution of the Participant's retirement application; or 2) the Participant's Early Retirement Date. No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Early Retirement benefits. Effective with respect to Participants who Terminate Employment on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to January 1, 2014, retroactive payment of Early Retirement benefits to the Participant's Early Retirement Date or date of Termination is not permitted.

**Section 6.03. Late Retirement Benefit.**

(a) A Participant may Retire from the active Service of the Adopting Employer on the first day of any month after his Normal Retirement Date, in which case the Participant shall receive a Late Retirement benefit. For purposes of this provision and except as otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, a Participant who Terminates Employment on or after January 1, 2014 will be treated as having Retired from the active service of the Adopting Employer if the Participant submits a GMEBS retirement application no later than thirty-one (31) days after his or her Termination of Employment and said application is approved by GMEBS. The Late Retirement benefit shall be calculated in the same manner as the Normal Retirement benefit. However, the Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or

Addendum thereto to provide for an increased Late Retirement benefit, in which case the Late Retirement Benefit shall be calculated in the same manner as the Normal Retirement Benefit, but increased as provided in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum, as applicable.

**Section 6.04. Disability Benefit.**

(a) Where the Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, a Participant who becomes Disabled and Terminates Employment due to Disability on or after April 1, 2015, and is otherwise entitled to receive a Disability Retirement benefit, shall receive such benefit in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this Section.

(b) Requirements for Payment as of Disability Retirement Date - Disability Retirement benefit payments shall be payable during a Participant's Disability as of the first day of the month coinciding with or next following, and may be paid retroactively to, the Participant's Disability Retirement Date, provided the following requirements are satisfied:

(1) Application for Disability Award Must Be Filed Within 1 Year After Termination — No later than one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment due to Disability, the Participant must file an application for a federal Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award or, if applicable under Section 2.23, an application for determination of Disability by the Pension Committee, and for a Participant who terminates due to disability prior to April 1, 2015, such Participant also must complete and submit a GMEBS retirement application form to the Pension Committee Secretary no later than one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment due to Disability (regardless of whether the Participant has yet received a federal SSA disability award or, if applicable, a Pension Committee determination of Disability); and

(2) GMEBS Retirement Application Form and Disability Award Must Be Submitted Within 1 Year of Termination, or if Later, Within 6 Months After Date of Disability Award; Proof of Application for Disability Award Before Expiration of 1 Year Following Termination Due to Disability — Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6.04(b)(1) above, requiring Participants who terminate due to Disability prior to April 1, 2015, to submit a completed GMEBS retirement application form to the Pension Committee Secretary within one (1) year following Termination of Employment due to Disability, or subsection 6.04(b)(3) below, the Participant must submit the following to the Pension Committee Secretary within one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment due to Disability or within six (6) months after the date of such award or determination, whichever is later:

(i) the Participant's GMEBS Retirement Application Form;

(ii) the SSA Disability Award (or, if applicable under Section 2.23, the Pension Committee determination of Disability) reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; and

(iii) documentation the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that the Participant filed an application for a federal SSA disability award (or, if applicable under Section 2.23, an application for determination of Disability by the Pension Committee) before the expiration of one (1) year following Termination of employment due to Disability. Such documentation may include a copy of such application, a copy of the Disability award or determination received in response to such application, or an affidavit completed by the Participant (on

the GMEBS retirement application or another Applicable Form provided for such purpose) in which the Participant affirms that he or she has filed such application.

(3) Special Rule in Case of Disability Award on Subsequent SSA Disability Application - In the event that a Participant's application for a SSA disability award is denied, the Participant must make any subsequent application for a SSA disability award within six (6) months following such denial becoming final, must allege in the subsequent SSA application a disability onset date that is on or before the Participant's Termination date, and where the Participant is subsequently granted a SSA disability award, the Participant must submit the following to the Pension Committee Secretary within six (6) months after the date of such favorable award, or if later, one (1) year after the Participant's Termination of Employment:

(i) a GMEBS retirement application form (but see subsection 6.04(b)(1) above concerning requirement for Participants who terminate due to disability prior to April 1, 2015 to submit a GMEBS retirement application to the Pension Committee Secretary within one (1) year after Termination of Employment due to Disability);

(ii) the Participant's SSA disability award reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date or reflecting a disability onset date that immediately follows the date of denial of the Participant's prior SSA disability application (due to application of Social Security Administration res judicata rules) but the Participant's actual Disability onset date was on or before the Participant's Termination date as provided under Section 2.23; and

(iii) documentation the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that within six (6) months after the SSA's denial of the Participant's initial application for a disability award, the Participant filed a subsequent application for a SSA disability award in accordance with this subsection 6.04(b)(3). Such documentation may include a copy of such application, a copy of the Disability award or determination received in response to such application, or an affidavit completed by the Participant (on the GMEBS retirement application or another Applicable Form provided for such purpose) in which the Participant affirms that he or she has filed such application.

(c) Prospective Payment Following Retirement Application — If the Participant who has Terminated Employment due to Disability is otherwise eligible to receive a Disability Retirement benefit and except as otherwise permitted under subsection 6.04(b) above with respect to payment of Disability Retirement benefits retroactive to the Participant's Disability Retirement Date, Disability Retirement benefits shall be payable as of the first day of the month following or coinciding with the date of acceptance of the Participant's completed GMEBS retirement application form by the Pension Committee, provided such application includes: (1) a Social Security Administration (SSA) disability award reflecting a disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; or (2) if applicable under Section 2.23, a Pension Committee determination of Disability reflecting a Disability onset date on or before the Participant's Termination date; or (3) where the Participant has received a SSA disability award in response to a subsequent SSA disability application as provided under Section 2.23, documentation which the Administrator deems sufficient to establish that the disability onset date reflected in the SSA disability award immediately follows the date of denial of the

Participant's prior SSA disability application (due to application of Social Security Administration res judicata rules) and that the Participant's actual Disability onset date was on or before the Participant's Termination date. In no event shall Disability Retirement benefits be payable before the Participant's Disability Retirement Date.

(d) Amount of Disability Retirement Benefit - The amount of the monthly Disability Retirement benefit shall be determined as provided in the Adoption Agreement. The Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to specify another method for calculation of the benefit, and require an offset against the monthly Disability Retirement benefit for other types of payments received by the Participant. The Participant shall receive the monthly Disability Retirement benefit provided in this Section, or any other Monthly Retirement Benefit granted under the Plan for which he is eligible if such benefit is greater than the aforesaid monthly Disability Retirement benefit. However, under no circumstances shall any Retired Participant be entitled at one time to more than one type of Retirement benefit granted under the Plan.

(e) No interest shall be paid on the retroactive payment of Disability benefits.

(f) Where an Employer has executed or executes a General Addendum to the Employer's Adoption Agreement which contains provisions on payment of Disability Retirement benefits that conflict with the procedures or time limitations established in this Section 6.04, said provisions of the General Addendum shall govern to the extent they conflict with this Section 6.04.

**Section 6.05. Cost of Living Adjustment.**

(a) An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide for a variable annual cost-of-living adjustment in the amount of Monthly Retirement Benefits payable under the Plan to Participants or their Beneficiaries. In such event, the amount of benefits payable

under the Plan shall be adjusted as provided in this Section, except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement.

(b) The Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure as defined in Section 2.21 shall be ascertained as of the Adopting Employer's Adjustment Date in each year.

(c) Each Monthly Retirement Benefit then being received by Participants who terminate after the date specified in the Adoption Agreement and their Beneficiaries shall thereupon be adjusted as follows:

(1) Each Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be increased by the percentage that the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure increased over each recipient's Cost-of-Living Base Figure, as defined in Section 2.17. If the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure is less than the Cost-of-Living Base Figure, no reduction in the Monthly Retirement Benefit, shall be effected. Increased benefits are payable on the Adjustment Date.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, no increase in the amount of a Monthly Retirement Benefit due to changes in the Current Average Cost-of-Living Index Figure effective at any annual Adjustment Date shall be in excess of a certain percentage of the amount of the Monthly Retirement Benefit payable immediately prior to each Participant's or Beneficiary's applicable adjustment date. Said percentage limit shall be designated by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement.

(d) An Adopting Employer may implement one-time or ad-hoc cost-of-living adjustments by adopting an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement to effect said increase.

(e) In lieu of the variable cost-of-living adjustment referred to in subsections (a)-(c) above, the Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide for a fixed annual



cost-of-living adjustment, subject to any limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code or regulations issued thereunder.

**Section 6.06. In-Service Distribution; Suspension of Benefits Following Return to Service.**

(a) General Rules.

(1) Unless otherwise provided in this Section and in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, a Participant shall be required to Terminate Employment with an Adopting Employer prior to commencing Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits under such Employer's GMEBS Plan. Likewise, unless otherwise provided in this Section and in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Retired Participant returns to service as an Eligible Employee with an Adopting Employer from whose Trust Fund the Retired Participant is receiving a Monthly Retirement Benefit, said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be suspended as of the date of said return to service.

(2) Re-Computation of Benefit in Case of Suspension. In any case where the payment of a Participant's Retirement benefit shall have been suspended, the Retirement benefit payable on his re-retirement (whether before or after his Normal Retirement Date) shall be the benefit computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of his aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of his subsequent re-retirement, but reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by him prior to said suspension, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the time of his previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value

of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's Re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's return to service with the Adopting Employer. A Retired Participant who is reemployed as an Eligible Employee shall not be authorized to change his form of benefit payment on his subsequent re-retirement, or to change his Post-Retirement Beneficiary, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named. For the purposes of this Section, any such Participant's Credited Service subsequent to his reemployment by the Employer as an Eligible Employee shall commence as of the date of his reemployment as an Eligible Employee.

(3) Minimum Age Parameters for In-Service Distribution. In order to commence or continue receiving Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits without a Bona Fide Separation from Service, if permitted under the Employer's Plan, a Participant shall be required to satisfy the following minimum age and other requirements:

(A) For a Participant who is not a "public safety employee" at the time he applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits (and a Participant who is a public safety employee at the time he applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits unless subparagraph 6.06(a)(3)(B) below applies), the Participant must be at least age sixty-two (62) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement) to receive an In-Service Distribution.

(B) For a Participant who is a "public safety employee" in the service of the Employer at the time he applies for Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits, the Participant must be at least age sixty-two (62) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement) to receive an In-Service Distribution; provided, however, that if the Adopting Employer's Plan provides for a Normal Retirement Age or Alternative Normal Retirement Age which applies only to public safety employees and which is at least age fifty (50) (or such lower age specified under applicable federal law as a safe-harbor age for distributions during working retirement), the Participant may receive an In-Service Distribution as long as he is at least such age. For purposes of this subparagraph (B), "public safety employees" are employees of the Adopting Employer who provide police protection, firefighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of the Adopting Employer.

(C) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, effective for Employees hired during Plan Years beginning on or after the later of: January 1, 2017; or the close of the first regular legislative session of the legislative body with the authority to amend the plan that begins on or after the date that is 3 months after the final regulations are published in the Federal Register, the Plan will comply with the final Normal Retirement age regulations applicable to governmental plans established in Treas. Reg. 1.401(a) – 1, as amended.

(b) Exception to General Rule; In-Service Distribution for Eligible Employees; Continuation of Retirement Benefits Following Return to Service as an Eligible Employee After a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(1) In-Service Distribution Absent Termination or Bona Fide Separation from Service Upon Qualifying for Normal Retirement. Notwithstanding the general rules described in subsection 6.06(a)(1), an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit In-Service Distribution to Participants (or certain classes of Participants) who have satisfied the eligibility requirements for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, under the Adopting Employer's Plan while remaining Eligible Employees under the Plan, in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this paragraph. An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Participants or certain classes of Participants who have (i) satisfied the qualifications for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, (ii) satisfied the minimum age parameters set forth in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3), and (iii) applied for such Retirement benefits on the Applicable Form to apply for and begin receiving their Retirement benefit as an In-Service Distribution while in service as an Eligible Employee even though they have not yet Terminated Employment with the Employer or to continue receiving Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits following a return to Service as an Eligible Employee without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(2) Exception to General Rule; Continuing to Draw Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Benefits After Returning to Service as Eligible Employee Following a Bona Fide Separation from Service. Notwithstanding the requirement for

suspension of benefits upon reemployment under subsection 6.06(a)(1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants who return to service as Eligible Employees following a Bona Fide Separation from Service to continue receiving Early, Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement benefits following such return to service, regardless of the Participant's age, in accordance with and subject to the following requirements:

(A) Reemployment as Eligible Employee after Normal Retirement Date. An Adopting Employer may elect (notwithstanding required suspension under Section 6.06(a)(1)) in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants to continue receiving Retirement benefits if they return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee on or after their Normal Retirement Date or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable, and, with respect to a Participant returning to service as an Eligible Employee on or after September 26, 2014, after a Bona Fide Separation from Service. If the Employer has made such an election in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum, then Retired Participants who are designated in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum as eligible to continue receiving Retirement benefits following their return to service as an Eligible Employee may continue to receive their Monthly Retirement Benefit if they return to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee after a Bona Fide Separation from Service and on or after their Normal Retirement Date or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable.

(B) Reemployment as Eligible Employee Before Normal Retirement Date.

(i) Suspension of Early Retirement Benefits until Normal Retirement Date; Recommencement of Benefits upon Attainment of Normal Retirement Date. An Adopting Employer may elect (notwithstanding required suspension under Section 6.06(a)(1)) in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to provide that, with respect to Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants, if such a Retired Participant returns to Service as an Eligible Employee before the Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Retirement Date, as applicable), and, with respect to a Participant returning to service as an Eligible Employee on or after September 26, 2014, after a Bona Fide Separation from Service, and remains employed until the Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), the Participant may apply for and receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit on or after the Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable), notwithstanding continued service with the Employer, provided that the Participant satisfies the minimum age parameters for an In-Service Distribution pursuant to Section 6.06(a)(3). Said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article, based upon the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, through the date the Participant recommences receipt of a Monthly Retirement Benefit pursuant to this subsection.

However, except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, said Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by the Participant prior to said suspension, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the time of the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefit payments received, determined as of the date the Participant recommences receipt of a Monthly Retirement Benefit, and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting Monthly Retirement Benefit be less than the Participant's benefit payable immediately prior to said suspension.

(ii) Exception to General Rule; Continuation of Early Retirement Benefits Upon Return to Service as Eligible Employee Following Bona Fide Separation from Service. Notwithstanding the requirement for suspension of benefits upon reemployment under subsection 6.06(a)(1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto to permit Retired Participants or certain classes of Retired Participants who are receiving an Early Retirement benefit to continue receiving said benefit if they return to Service with the Employer after a Bona Fide Separation from Service, or with respect to Participants returning to service as an Eligible Employee prior to September 26, 2014, after at least a six-month separation from

Service, as an Eligible Employee at any time on or after their Early Retirement Date but before their Normal Retirement Date (or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, as applicable). If the Employer has made such an election, and if a Retired Participant belongs to a class for which such continuation of benefit payments is permitted, then upon the Retired Participant's return to service with the Employer as an Eligible Employee after the Early Retirement Date and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service (or at least a six-month separation from Service, as applicable), the Retired Participant may continue to receive a Monthly Retirement Benefit during the period of reemployment.

(3) A Participant who receives an In-Service Distribution of Retirement benefits while serving as an Eligible Employee or who receives Retirement Benefits following his return to service as an Eligible Employee shall not be authorized to change his form of benefit payment, or to change his Post-Retirement Beneficiary on his subsequent termination of employment, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named.

(4) With respect to Participants described in Section 6.06(b)(1) and (2) above, except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, upon said Participants' subsequent termination of employment or vacation of office, as applicable, their Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of their aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of such termination of employment or vacation of office, but it shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received prior to



re-retirement, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's re-retirement.

(c) Exception to General Rule; In-Service Distribution for Individuals Who Are Not Eligible Employees; Continuation of Retirement Benefits Following Return to Service in a Capacity Other Than as an Eligible Employee After a Bona Fide Separation from Service.

(1) In-Service Distribution Prior to Termination. Effective on or after September 26, 2014, notwithstanding the general rule in Section 6.06(a)(1) and except as may be otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, regardless of whether an Employer elects to permit active Participants to receive In-Service Distributions while serving as Eligible Employees under the Plan pursuant to paragraph 6.06(b)(1) above, an individual who is in service with the Adopting Employer, who previously accrued a benefit as an Eligible Employee under the Plan but who is not currently an Eligible Employee under the Plan, may commence receipt of his Retirement benefit while still in service with the Adopting Employer provided that such individual (i) has satisfied the Adopting Employer's qualifications for Early Retirement, Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement; (ii) has satisfied the minimum age and other applicable requirements established in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3) above; and (iii) applies for such Retirement benefit on the Applicable Form.

(2) Continued Receipt of Retirement Benefits Upon Return to Service in a Capacity Other Than as an Eligible Employee. Except as may be otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, an Adopting Employer may engage any Retired Participant receiving benefits hereunder in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee and such engagement shall not terminate or suspend such benefits. Effective with respect to Retired Participants who return to service in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee on or after September 26, 2014, in order to continue receiving benefits after returning to service, the Retired Participant (i) must have had a Bona Fide Separation from Service prior to returning to service in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee under the Plan; or (ii) must satisfy the minimum age parameters established in subparagraph 6.06(a)(3) above.

(3) An individual who receives Retirement benefits while in the service of the Adopting Employer pursuant to paragraphs 6.06(c)(1) and (2) above shall not be authorized to change his form of benefit payment, or to change his Post-Retirement Beneficiary on his subsequent Termination of Employment, or to name a Post-Retirement Beneficiary if one had not been previously named. An individual who commences or continues receiving benefits while in the service of the Adopting Employer in a capacity other than as an Eligible Employee pursuant to paragraph 6.06(c)(1) or 6.06(c)(2) shall not accrue benefits or service credit for any purpose under the Plan during his or her period of continued service with the Adopting Employer during which he is not an Eligible Employee.

(4) In the event that an individual described in paragraph 6.06(c)(1) or (2) subsequently becomes an Eligible Employee under the Plan, the provisions applicable to

In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees or to Retired Participants who return to Service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee, as applicable, under subsection 6.06(b) above and the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum shall apply with respect to such individual. Except as otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, upon such a Participant's subsequent Termination of Employment or vacation of office, as applicable, his or her Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in accordance with this Article on the basis of his or her aggregate Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings, if applicable, at the time of such Termination of Employment or vacation of office. However, this Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received prior to re-retirement, and by any actuarial factors used in calculating the benefit payable at the previous Retirement. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Actuarial Equivalent" shall mean an amount equal to the value of Retirement benefits received, determined as of the date of the Participant's re-retirement and computed on the basis of the actuarial assumptions contained in Section 12.06. In no event shall the resulting benefit be less than the benefit payable immediately prior to the Participant's re-retirement.

(d) Death in Service After Retirement. If a Retired Participant who returns to service with an Adopting Employer as an Eligible Employee or an active Participant commences Retirement benefits while remaining in service as an Eligible Employee and he dies during the period of continuous employment or during the period of his reemployment, as applicable, and before re-retirement, then his Post-Retirement Beneficiary, if any, shall be entitled to receive the monthly post-retirement survivor benefit payable, if any, taking into account any additional

Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death in-service. Such post-retirement survivor benefit shall be reduced by the Actuarial Equivalent of any Retirement benefits received by the Participant prior to his death. In no event shall the resulting post-retirement survivor benefit (after any actuarial reduction provided for in the preceding sentence) be less than the benefit that would have been payable to such Post-Retirement Beneficiary had the Participant not been employed as an Eligible Employee on or after his Retirement Date. This provision shall not be interpreted to permit payment to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary in the event of a Retired Participant's death during reemployment.

(e) Suspension of Disability Benefits.

(1) Any Disability Retirement Benefit payable under the Plan to any Participant shall be suspended as of the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date his Disability ceases. A Participant's Disability shall be considered to have ceased upon the earliest of the following dates: (1) with respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the date as of which the Social Security Administration determines that the Participant is no longer disabled; or (2) with respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon a determination by the Pension Committee, the date as of which the Pension Committee determines that the Participant is no longer disabled as defined under Code Section 72(m), based upon an examination by a physician chosen by the Pension Committee. With respect to those Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the Participant shall be required to notify the Pension Committee Secretary within sixty (60) days after the Participant

receives notice that the Social Security Administration has determined that the Participant is no longer disabled. With respect to those Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, the Pension Committee shall have the right to require the Participant to prove at any time, as a condition for continued receipt of Disability benefits under the Plan, continued eligibility for receipt of disability insurance benefits under the Federal Social Security Act, as amended. With respect to Participants whose entitlement to a Disability benefit is based upon a determination of Disability by the Pension Committee, the Pension Committee shall have the right to require, as a condition for continued receipt of Disability benefits, that the Participant be examined at any time by a physician chosen by the Pension Committee. In the event that any Participant fails or refuses to submit to a physical examination or to obtain and provide other information requested by the Pension Committee to confirm continuation of a Disability, then the Participant's Disability benefits shall be suspended as of the first day of the month following expiration of the ninety (90) day period following the Pension Committee's request for such examination or information, unless the Pension Committee determines in its discretion that the failure to comply within ninety (90) days was due to circumstances beyond the Participant's control, in which case the ninety (90) day time limit may be extended by the Pension Committee and suspension may be deferred as determined by the Pension Committee.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection 6.06(e) to the contrary, and except as otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, in the event that a Participant, who shall have retired or been retired for Disability, returns to service as an Eligible Regular Employee or becomes an Eligible

Regular Employee of said Employer, his or her Disability Retirement benefit shall be suspended as of the date of such return to or commencement of service as an Eligible Regular Employee.

(3) Nothing in paragraph 6.06(e)(2) shall be construed to require the suspension of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefit upon his return to service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority after the commencement of such benefit unless and until the Participant is determined to no longer have a Disability, or unless suspension of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefits is otherwise required under subparagraph 6.06(e)(1).

(f) Suspension of Disability Benefit; Right to Other Benefits.

(1) In any case where the payment of a Participant's Disability Retirement benefit is suspended, regardless of whether the Participant returns to service with the Employer, the period of absence from employment due to such Disability shall not be counted as Credited Service. Any Participant who shall have Retired or been Retired for Disability and who has been or shall be subsequently declared ineligible for a Disability Retirement benefit because of the cessation of said Disability, or as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection 6.06(e) above, shall have a right to any benefit afforded under any other provision of this Plan to which he or his beneficiary might otherwise be entitled. In such case, any Disability Retirement payments made prior to the required suspension date shall be retained by the Retiree and disregarded in computing any other benefit payable under the Plan.

(2) Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall be construed to allow a Retired Participant who shall have Retired or been Retired due to Disability, who

returns to service with the Employer, and who subsequently re-retires to elect a different benefit payment form or name a new post-retirement beneficiary upon re-retirement.

(3) Unless otherwise provided in an Employer's Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, in the event that a Retired Participant who is receiving a Disability Retirement benefit returns to service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, and his Disability Retirement benefit is not suspended, any Disability Retirement payments made prior to his return to service or during such period(s) of service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority following such return shall be retained by the Participant and disregarded in computing any other benefit payable under the Plan upon his subsequent vacation of office.

## **ARTICLE VII.**

### **OPTIONAL FORMS OF RETIREMENT INCOME**

**Section 7.01. Standard Benefit Payment Form; Other Payment Options.** With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, a Participant may elect, or may revoke a previous election and make a new election, at any time prior to his effective Retirement Date, to have his Retirement benefit payable under the standard benefit payment option or under one of the other benefit payment options set forth in Section 7.03. The standard benefit payment option is a monthly retirement benefit payable to the Participant during his lifetime only. At the death of the Participant all payments will cease and no further benefits will be payable to the estate of the Participant or other persons, except as otherwise provided in Subsection 8.12(b). The standard benefit payment form is referred to in the Master Plan as Option A. The benefit shall be paid in accordance with and subject to the terms of the benefit payment option elected. Election of any option shall be made by the Participant in writing on the Applicable Form, and shall be subject to approval by GMEBS.

**Section 7.02. Designation of Post-Retirement Beneficiary.** With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, if the Participant elects Option B (Joint and Survivor Option with Pop-Up) or Option C (Period Certain and Life Option.) in Section 7.03, he shall designate a Post-Retirement Beneficiary to receive a survivor benefit in accordance with and subject to the terms of such Option. Designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary may be revoked or changed by the Participant by submitting a new completed Retirement Application at any time prior to the Participant's effective Retirement date. Only the last such designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary shall have effect, and any new designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary shall invalidate, supersede, and revoke any prior designation.

**Section 7.03. Description of Options.** With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, the amount of any optional benefit set forth below shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the amount of the standard benefit that would otherwise be payable to the Participant under Section 7.01 (monthly retirement benefit payable to the Participant during his lifetime only, referred to as "OPTION A").

(a) **OPTION B: Joint and Survivor Option with Pop-Up.** A retirement benefit computed and paid in the same manner as Option A above, but with a decrease in the retirement benefit to account for the survivor benefit and the pop-up benefit provided under this Option B. If the Participant elects Option B, then the Participant will receive a decreased retirement benefit which shall be payable during the lifetime of the Participant. If the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary should survive the Participant (except as provided in subsections (1) and (2) below with respect to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death before the Participant or the divorce of the Participant and Post-Retirement Beneficiary) the benefit shall continue to be paid



to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary after the Participant's death during the lifetime of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary in the same amount (100%) or in such smaller amount (75%, 50%, or 25%), as the Participant has designated on his retirement application. This option shall be known as Option B. The Participant's retirement benefit under Option B shall be calculated in accordance with Section 12.02(a) or Section 12.02(b), whichever is applicable.

(1) Death of Post-Retirement Beneficiary Before Participant — In the event that the Participant's Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies before the Participant and after Retirement benefit payments have commenced, and provided the Participant furnishes GMEBS with proper proof of the Beneficiary's death within one (1) year after such death, the requirement for a reduction in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit on account of his election of Option B shall no longer apply (resulting in an increase, or "pop-up", in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit), effective as of the first day of the month following the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death. Effective with respect to monthly payments made on and after such date, the amount of the Participant's monthly retirement benefit shall be equal to the monthly amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant under Article VI, had the Participant elected Option A. However, if the Participant fails to furnish the Plan with proper proof of the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death within the one (1) year period referred to above, then said change in monthly retirement benefit shall not become effective until the first day of the month following the date such proof is submitted to GMEBS. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, all payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to his estate or to other persons.

(2) Divorce of Participant and Post-Retirement Beneficiary—If the Participant designates his Spouse as his Post-Retirement Beneficiary and provides GMEBS with proof that GMEBS in its sole discretion deems sufficient to establish that the Post-Retirement Beneficiary is the Participant's Spouse as of the Participant's effective retirement date, and if the Participant and the Post-Retirement Beneficiary become divorced after retirement benefit payments have commenced, then the Participant is permitted but not required to request a "pop-up" in his monthly retirement benefit, in accordance with and subject to the requirements of this subsection (2). A Participant who requests a pop-up pursuant to this subsection (2) will be bound by the provisions of this subsection and any other terms and conditions for receipt of said pop-up as set forth in an Applicable Form provided by GMEBS for such purpose. Such Participant shall furnish proof to GMEBS which GMEBS in its sole discretion deems sufficient to confirm the Participant's divorce from the Post-Retirement Beneficiary and the Participant's eligibility for the pop-up benefit provided herein, which may include but may not be limited to a court-certified copy of a valid divorce decree. In the event that the conditions of this subsection (2) are satisfied, the requirement for a reduction in the Participant's monthly retirement benefit on account of the election of Option B will no longer apply; provided, however, that GMEBS may deny the Participant's application for the pop-up in the event that GMEBS, in its sole discretion, determines that such denial is prudent or necessary based on the terms of the applicable divorce decree. Any change in the monthly retirement benefit resulting from the pop-up, if approved by GMEBS, will be effective as of the first day of the month following GMEBS' receipt of said Applicable Form completed by the Participant, and after GMEBS' receipt of said proof evidencing divorce.

Effective with respect to monthly payments made on and after such date, the amount of the Participant's monthly retirement benefit will be equal to the monthly amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant under Article VI had the Participant elected Option A. On and after said date, the Participant's Post-Retirement Beneficiary will not be eligible to receive any survivor benefits following the Participant's death, notwithstanding any prior designation made by the Participant or the later remarriage of the Participant and the Post-Retirement Beneficiary. All payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to his estate or to other persons. This provision shall not be construed to permit a Participant to change his form of benefit payment, to change his Post-Retirement Beneficiary after his effective Retirement date, or to name a new Post-Retirement Beneficiary following the Participant's divorce from the Post-Retirement Beneficiary. Nor shall this provision be construed to require or permit payment of all or a portion of a Participant's retirement benefit to a former spouse pursuant to a domestic relations order.

(b) OPTION C: Period Certain and Life Option. A decreased benefit payable monthly to the Participant during his lifetime and, in the event of his death within a period of specified years, either five (5), ten (10), fifteen (15), or twenty (20) years after his benefit commencement, the same monthly amount shall be payable for the balance of such period to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary designated by him. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant but dies before the end of such period, any unpaid monthly amounts that would have otherwise been payable to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary for the remainder of said period following the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's death shall be paid to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. If the Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant, all

payments shall cease at the death of the Participant and no further benefits will accrue to his estate or to other persons except as provided in Article VIII. This option shall be known as Option C. The Retirement benefit under Option C shall be calculated in accordance with Section 12.03.

**Section 7.04. Cancellation of Election.** The election by a Participant of any option in this Article VII shall be null and void if either the Participant or his designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies before the Participant's effective Retirement date.

**Section 7.05. Rule for Small Benefits.**

(a) Effective January 1, 2002, the present value of a Plan benefit shall be distributed in a cash single sum payment to the Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, or Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, if the present value of said Plan benefit payable to the recipient does not exceed Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) on the date of distribution. The present value of said Plan benefit shall be determined in accordance with Article XII.

(b) Effective for distributions commencing on or after March 28, 2005, if a distribution to be made under subsection (a) is greater than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), is an eligible rollover distribution, and the recipient of the distribution does not elect to have the distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the recipient in a direct rollover or does not elect to receive the distribution directly, the Administrator will pay the distribution in a direct rollover to an individual retirement plan designated by the Administrator.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (b), effective on and after July 1, 2007, no distribution will be made under this Section unless and until the recipient of the distribution makes an election to either have the distribution paid directly to an eligible

retirement plan specified by the recipient in a direct rollover or to receive the distribution directly in cash.

**Section 7.06. Distributions.**

(a) Distributions payable as of any date shall be made on or as soon as administratively feasible after that date.

(b) In a contributory plan, interest shall be paid on any refund of employee contributions only as specified in the Adoption Agreement.

**Section 7.07. Compliance with Internal Revenue Section 401(a)(9).** All distributions shall be made in compliance with Article X.

**Section 7.08. Compliance with Internal Revenue Section 415.** All benefit options must comply with the limitations of Code Section 415, pursuant to Article XI and as applicable to governmental plans.

**ARTICLE VIII.**

**DEATH BENEFITS**

**Section 8.01. Death in Service Prior to Retirement.** In the event a Participant's employment or term of office is Terminated by reason of death prior to Retirement, there shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary the in-service death benefit elected by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, provided the requirements of this Article are satisfied and except as otherwise provided under this Article.

**Section 8.02. Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit.** An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit for one or more classes of Eligible Employees. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum service and other eligibility requirements a Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to receive such benefit. Provided a Participant satisfies such requirements,

then in the event the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer is terminated by reason of his death prior to his Retirement, and except as otherwise provided in Section 8.07(b), there shall be paid to his Pre-Retirement Beneficiary a lifetime monthly death benefit actuarially equivalent to the reserve required for the Participant's anticipated Normal Retirement benefit. In calculating the Normal Retirement benefit under the provisions of this Section, the following assumptions shall be used:

(a) The Participant's age at the time of his death is equal to the Normal Retirement Age as specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, or his attained age if his attained age is greater than the Normal Retirement Age; and

(b) The Participant's Total Credited Service shall include the amount of Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death. The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to include additional imputed Credited Service in the calculation, but in no event shall the amount of Total Credited Service used in the calculation exceed the sum of actual service performed plus ten (10) calendar years. The death benefit under this Section shall be calculated using the factors contained in Section 12.04.

(c) Effective January 1, 2015, with respect to those Adopting Employers who have elected in their Adoption Agreement to provide the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit, an Eligible Regular Employee must have at least one (1) year of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit; provided, however, that this one (1) year minimum shall not apply with respect to an Eligible Regular Employee: (1) whose immediate prior employment was with another GMEBS Adopting Employer and who had at least one (1) year of Credited Service with such prior GMEBS Adopting Employer, or (2) (A) who is not described in paragraph 8.02(c)(1) above and whose

Employer's Plan contains an Addendum provision which was in effect immediately prior to January 1, 2015, which provides for a waiting period of less than one (1) year to commence participation in the Plan, and (B) who was employed with said Employer prior to January 1, 2015 and satisfies such time limitation prior to the date of his death. The one (1) year minimum and the exceptions thereto described in this subsection 8.02(c) shall not supersede eligibility conditions specified in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto which specify a requirement of more or less than one (1) year of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer and/or other minimum age or service requirements that are inconsistent with this Section 8.02 to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit. Except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority shall not be subject to a minimum Service requirement to be eligible for the Actuarial Reserve In-Service Death Benefit.

**Section 8.03. Auto A In-Service Death Benefit.** An Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Auto A in-service death benefit for one or more classes of Eligible Employees. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Participant's employment with the Adopting Employer is terminated by reason of his death prior to his Retirement, and except as otherwise provided in Section 8.06(b), there shall be paid to his Pre-Retirement Beneficiary a lifetime monthly death benefit, as follows:

(a) **Monthly Death Benefit Payable to Spouse.** If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the in-service death benefit is payable under this Section is the Participant's Spouse, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to said Spouse shall commence on the first day of the

month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death. Alternatively, the Spouse may elect to defer benefit payment commencement until the first day of any month up to and including the date the Participant would have attained Normal Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement. A Spouse shall be considered to have deferred benefit payment commencement until the first day of the month following the date the Spouse makes application for payment of death benefits. If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the in-service death benefit is payable under this Section is not the Spouse of the Participant, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to said Beneficiary shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death.

(b) Computation of Monthly Death Benefits. Benefits under this Section shall be computed as of the date of the Participant's death, based upon the applicable benefit formula in effect on said date, as follows:

(1) Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Payment Before Early Retirement Age. If a Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary before the Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to said beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the monthly Retirement benefit amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming the Participant: (i) terminated employment on his date of death; (ii) survived until Normal Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement; and (iii) elected to retire upon attaining Normal Retirement Age with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one



hundred percent (100%), and then died. Said benefit shall be calculated in accordance with the actuarial assumptions specified in Section 12.06.

(2) Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse Until After Early Retirement Age. If the Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement and a Spouse who is eligible to receive the in-service death benefit hereunder defers payment until a date which is on or after the date the Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming that the Participant: (i) terminated employment on the date of death; (ii) survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse Beneficiary's selected benefit commencement date; and, (iii) elected to retire on the benefit commencement date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(3) Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Payment Upon Death. If the Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Participant's death, then the monthly death benefit payable to said Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the monthly benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming the Participant: (i) retired on the date of death, and (ii) elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(4) Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse. If the Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, and if a Spouse who is eligible to receive the Auto A in-service death benefit hereunder defers payment in accordance with this Section, then the monthly benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, assuming that the Participant: (i) terminated employment on his date of death; (ii) survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse beneficiary's selected commencement date, and (ii) elected to retire on the benefit commencement date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated in Section 7.03 as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

**Section 8.04. Designation of Beneficiary.** Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, a Participant may designate, on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose, one person as his Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. If the Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to his Retirement and if as of the date of the Participant's death the Participant has satisfied the minimum service and other eligibility requirements to be entitled to an in-service pre-retirement death benefit, said Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall receive the monthly pre-retirement death benefit elected by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, provided the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 47-1-15 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). The Participant may additionally designate, on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose, one person as his Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. The monthly death benefit otherwise

payable to the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary hereunder shall be payable to the Participant's designated Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary in the event that: (1) the Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to his Retirement; (2) the Primary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days; and (3) the Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

**Section 8.05. Change of Beneficiary.** Designation of a Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may be changed by the Participant in writing on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose at any time prior to Retirement. Only the last such designation prior to Retirement shall have effect and any new designation of a Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary invalidates, supersedes, and revokes any prior designation.

**Section 8.06. Auto A In-Service Pre-Retirement Death Benefit; Default Beneficiary; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary.**

(a) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, in the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the Auto A in-service pre-retirement death benefit is payable under this Article, then the Auto A in-service pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this subsection. In such case, the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, if there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the Auto A in-service death benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's Vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had Terminated Employment on the date immediately preceding his date of death and received a lump sum distribution of said benefit under Section 7.05, determined without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

(c) Effective with respect to deaths occurring before July 1, 2015, in the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a pre-retirement death benefit is payable under this Article, then the pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Default Beneficiary in accordance with this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, the Participant's Default Beneficiary(ies) shall be as follows: (a) the Participant's surviving Spouse; or (b) if there is no surviving Spouse, the Participant's surviving Children; or (c) if there is no surviving Spouse or Children, the Participant's surviving Parent(s). For purposes of this Section, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. For purposes of this subsection, the term "Spouse" shall be as defined in Section 2.62. The term "Child" or "Children" shall be as defined in Section 2.12. The term "Parent" shall be as defined in O.C.G.A. §19-11-3(7), determined as of the date of the Participant's death. Notwithstanding any other provision to the

contrary, if a death benefit becomes payable to more than one Child of the Participant under this subsection, then such benefit shall be paid to each such Child and calculated in a manner to provide each Child with an equal monthly benefit which ceases on the date such Child reaches age twenty-two (22). Such benefit shall be calculated using the factors contained in Section 12.06. If a death benefit is payable to more than one surviving Parent of the Participant under this subsection, then such benefit shall be calculated in a manner to provide each such Parent with the same monthly benefit amount for his or her lifetime. If a Child who is receiving a monthly benefit hereunder reaches age twenty-two (22) or if a Child or Parent receiving a monthly benefit hereunder dies, this shall not affect the monthly benefit amount any other Child or Parent is receiving. Except as otherwise provided in Section 8.07, if there is no Primary, Secondary, or Default Beneficiary to whom a death benefit is payable, then no death benefit is payable under the Plan.

**Section 8.07. Actuarial Reserve In-Service Pre-Retirement Death Benefit; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary.**

(a) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, with respect to the Actuarial Reserve in-service death benefit only, if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the death benefit is payable, then the Actuarial Reserve in-service pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this Section, in which case the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, if there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the death benefit is payable, then the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Retirement Benefit shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had terminated employment on the date immediately preceding his date of death and received a lump sum distribution of his benefit under Section 7.05, determined without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

(c) Effective with respect to deaths occurring before July 1, 2015, with respect to the Actuarial Reserve in-service death benefit only, if there is no Primary, Secondary or Default Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a death benefit is payable under Section 8.06, then the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Retirement Benefit shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had terminated employment on the date immediately preceding his date of death and received a lump sum distribution of his benefit under Section 7.05, determined without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section.

**Section 8.08. Terminated Vested Death Benefits.** If the Employer elects in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit for Terminated Vested Participants or for certain classes of Terminated Vested Participants, then in the event such a Terminated Vested Participant dies before the effective Retirement Date, there shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary the terminated vested death benefit specified in the Adoption Agreement, provided

the requirements of this Article are satisfied and except as otherwise provided in this Article. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, effective October 1, 2016, an Adopting Employer that had not previously elected in its Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto to provide a Terminated Vested death benefit to one or more classes of Participants shall be deemed to have elected by default to provide the Terminated Vested Auto A Death Benefit to such class or classes of Participants who terminate employment on or after such date.

**Section 8.09. Terminated Vested Auto A Death Benefit.** The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide the Auto A Death Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Vested Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement the minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Vested Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated Vested Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Vested Participant dies prior to his effective Retirement date, his Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this Section. If the Terminated Vested Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary is the Terminated Vested Participant's Spouse, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse Beneficiary under this Section shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. Alternatively, the Spouse Beneficiary may elect to defer benefit payment commencement until the first day of any month up to and including the date the Participant would have attained Normal Retirement Age as determined under the Employer's Adoption Agreement. A Spouse designated as beneficiary shall be considered to have deferred benefit payment commencement until the first day of the month following the date the Spouse makes application for payment of death benefits. If the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary is not the

Spouse of the Terminated Vested Participant, then the lifetime monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary under this Section shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. Benefits under this Section shall be computed as follows:

(a) Terminated Vested Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Payment Before Early Retirement Age. If a Terminated Vested Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a beneficiary before the Terminated Vested Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the monthly Retirement benefit amount that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until Normal Retirement Age; and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died. Said benefit shall be calculated in accordance with the actuarial assumptions specified in Section 12.06.

(b) Terminated Vested Participant Death Before Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse Until After Early Retirement Age. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies before attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement and a Spouse designated as beneficiary defers payment until a date which is on or after the date the Terminated Vested Participant would have attained Early Retirement Age, then the monthly death benefit payable to the Spouse shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming that: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in



accordance with the Spouse's selected benefit commencement date; and, (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected on such date to retire with the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(c) Terminated Vested Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Payment Upon Death. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age as defined in the Adoption Agreement, and if benefit payments commence to a beneficiary on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death, then the monthly death benefit payable to the beneficiary shall be the monthly benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant retired on the date of death, and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(d) Terminated Vested Participant Death After Early Retirement Age; Deferred Payment by Spouse. If the Terminated Vested Participant dies after attaining Early Retirement Age, and if a Spouse designated as beneficiary defers payment in accordance with this Section, then the monthly benefit payable to the Spouse shall be the monthly Retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Terminated Vested Participant, assuming that: (i) the Terminated Vested Participant survived until the date upon which the deferred benefit payments commence in accordance with the Spouse's selected commencement date, and (ii) the Terminated Vested Participant elected to retire on such date with the optional form of Retirement payment designated herein as Option B at one hundred percent (100%), and then died.

(e) Auto A Terminated Vested Death Benefit; Payment to Surviving Spouse or to Estate Where Benefit Not Payable to Designated Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement

Beneficiary. Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, in the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the terminated vested Auto A death benefit is payable under this Article, then said pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this Section, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section 8.09(e), the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (i.e., a designated Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or surviving Spouse) to whom the terminated vested Auto A death benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had received a lump sum distribution of said benefit under Section 7.05, calculated as of the date on which the payment is made, without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

(f) Calculation of Benefits. Benefits under this Section shall be calculated taking into account only the Participant's Total Credited Service and Final Average Earnings (where applicable) as of the date of his Termination of Employment with Adopting Employer, and the applicable benefit formula in effect on the date of said Termination.

**Section 8.10. Accrued Retirement Benefit.**

(a) Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, the Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit consisting of the Accrued Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Vested Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate the minimum service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Vested Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated Vested Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Vested Participant dies prior to the effective Retirement date, the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this subsection. Said benefit shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Vested Participant's death. The monthly death benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the Terminated Vested Participant's Accrued Benefit, determined as of the date of the Participant's death, taking into account the Participant's Total Credited Service, Final Average Earnings, and the benefit formula in effect as of the date of the Participant's Termination. Effective with respect to deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2015, and except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom said pre-retirement death benefit is payable, said pre-retirement death benefit shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with this subsection, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom the benefit is payable, then a lump sum payment equal to fifty percent (50%) of the Actuarial Equivalent of the Participant's vested Accrued Benefit, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's estate in lieu of the

lifetime monthly benefit which would otherwise be payable to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary. Such lump sum Actuarial Equivalent shall be determined as if the Participant had received a lump sum distribution of said benefits under Section 7.05, calculated as of the date on which the payment is made, without reference to the maximum cash-out limits of said Section, and using the assumptions set forth in Section 12.06.

(b) The provisions of this subsection (b) were effective as of January 1, 2013 but were superseded by the provisions of subsection (c) below effective January 1, 2014. The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit consisting of the Accrued Retirement Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate the minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Participant dies prior to the effective Retirement date, the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this subsection. Said benefit shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Participant's death. The monthly death benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the Terminated Participant's death, taking into account the Participant's Total Credited Service, Final Average Earnings, and the benefit formula in effect as of the date of the Participant's Termination.

(c) The provisions of this subsection (c) were effective as of January 1, 2014 but were superseded by the provisions of subsection (a) effective July 1, 2015. The Employer may elect in the Adoption Agreement to provide a death benefit consisting of the Accrued Benefit for one or more classes of Terminated Participants. In such case, the Employer shall designate the

minimum Service and other eligibility requirements a Terminated Participant must satisfy in order to be entitled to such benefit. Provided a Terminated Participant satisfies such requirements, then in the event that the Terminated Participant dies prior to the effective Retirement date, the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary may apply to receive a lifetime monthly death benefit subject to the provisions of this subsection. Said benefit shall commence on the first day of the month coinciding with or immediately following the date of the Terminated Participant's death. The monthly death benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary shall be the Actuarial Equivalent of the Terminated Participant's Accrued Benefit, determined as of the date of the Participant's death, taking into account the Participant's Total Credited Service, Final Average Earnings, and the benefit formula in effect as of the date of the Participant's Termination.

**Section 8.11. Designation of Terminated Vested Pre-Retirement Beneficiary.** The Primary and Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary designated by the Participant to receive in-service death benefits under Section 8.04 shall automatically be considered the Participant's Primary and Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary for purposes of payment of terminated vested pre-retirement death benefits, if any, under the Employer's Plan. If the Participant changes his beneficiary designation in accordance with Section 8.05, his designation under this Section shall be considered changed as well to reflect the new designation. In the absence of a designation by the Participant, or if there is no Primary or Secondary Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a terminated vested pre-retirement death benefit is payable upon the Participant's death, then the terminated vested pre-retirement death benefit otherwise payable, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's surviving Spouse in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of this Article, in which case the surviving Spouse will be considered the Pre-Retirement

Beneficiary under the Plan. For purposes of this Section, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days. If there is no Pre-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a death benefit is payable, the death benefit shall be payable to the Participant's estate in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of this Article.

**Section 8.12. Participant Death After Retirement Benefit Commencement.** With respect to retirement applications received by GMEBS on or after July 1, 2011, upon the death of a Retired Participant subsequent to his Retirement, there shall be payable to the Participant's designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary, a benefit to be determined as follows:

(a) If the Participant has elected a form of payment that does not permit designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option A), as provided in Article VII, or if he has elected a form of payment that does permit such designation (Option B or C) and his designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary does not survive him, no further payment of any kind whatsoever shall be made at the death of the Participant, except as provided in subsection (b) below.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in an Addendum to the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement, in the event that a Retired Participant who has elected a form of payment that does not permit designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option A), as provided in Article VII, dies after Retirement benefit payments have commenced but before the Retired Participant has received at least thirty-six (36) monthly Retirement benefit payments, a one-time lump sum death benefit shall become payable which shall be equal to the amount of the Participant's initial Retirement benefit (determined as of the date such monthly Retirement benefit commenced) multiplied by thirty-six (36); provided, however, that the total amount of such lump-sum death benefit shall be reduced by the aggregate amount of Retirement benefits paid to such Retired Participant. The one-time lump sum death benefit shall be payable to the

Retired Participant's surviving Spouse. In such case, the Participant's surviving Spouse shall be considered the designated beneficiary under the Plan for purposes of this subsection (b). In the event that: (1) such Retired Participant does not have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death; or (2) such Retired Participant does have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death but such Spouse does not survive the Retired Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days; or (3) such Retired Participant does have a Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death but such Spouse does not within six (6) months following the Retired Participant's death provide the Administrator with documentation which the Administrator deems sufficient to verify that he or she was the Retired Participant's Spouse at the time of the Retired Participant's death, the lump-sum death benefit described in this subsection 8.12(b) shall be paid to the estate of the Retired Participant. The lump sum death benefit described in this subsection 8.12(b) shall not be considered part of the standard benefit payment form (Option A) for purposes of determining actuarial equivalence. The lump sum death benefit paid pursuant to this subsection 8.12(b) shall be included in determining the sum of all benefits paid to the Participant for purposes of determining the amount of any refund of Employee Contributions payable under Section 13.06. For purposes of this subsection, the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) If the Participant has elected a form of payment that permits designation of a Post-Retirement Beneficiary (Option B or C) as provided in Article VII, and his designated Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives him, benefits shall be payable to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary as provided by the option elected, commencing the month following the Participant's last benefit payment month.

**ARTICLE IX.**

**TERMINATION BEFORE RETIREMENT; VESTING**

**Section 9.01. Vesting Requirement for Deferred Retirement Benefit.** An Employer may establish different vesting requirements for different classes of Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement. A Participant whose employment is terminated for any reason other than death or Retirement shall be entitled to a Vested right in the Accrued Benefit only if the Participant meets the Qualifications for a deferred Vested Retirement benefit specified in the Adoption Agreement. Payment of such Vested Retirement Benefit shall commence on the first day of the month in which the effective Retirement Date occurs and shall be payable on the first day of each month thereafter during the lifetime of the Participant, unless the Participant elects an optional form of benefit payment under Article VII. The amount of such Monthly Retirement Benefit shall be computed in the manner prescribed for Normal or Early Retirement in Article VI, as applicable, but based upon the Participant's Final Average Earnings (if applicable) and Total Credited Service up to the Participant's date of Termination of Employment with the Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or in an Addendum thereto, in the event that an Eligible Regular Employee terminates employment with an Adopting Employer and returns to service with such Adopting Employer as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority, the portion of the monthly benefit attributable to Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee shall be computed based upon Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee and the benefit formula in effect as of the latest termination of employment as an Eligible Regular Employee. Likewise, in the event that an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority vacates such office and returns to service with the Adopting Employer as an Eligible Regular Employee, the portion of the monthly benefit attributable to Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority shall be computed based



upon Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority and the benefit formula in effect as of such individual's latest vacation of such office. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Plan to the contrary, if a Participant has satisfied the requirements for Normal Retirement as of the date of his Termination, the Participant shall be one hundred percent (100%) Vested in the Normal Retirement benefit.

**Section 9.02. Termination of Tenure of Office Before Retirement.** Unless otherwise specified by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant who is an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer, and who vacates office for any reason other than death or Retirement shall be entitled to a Vested right in the portion of his Accrued Benefit attributable to his Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority only if he meets the qualifications for a deferred Vested benefit applicable to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers as specified in the Adoption Agreement. Unless otherwise specified in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum thereto, if a Participant has Credited Service both as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer and as an Eligible Regular Employee of the Adopting Employer, the Participant's combined Total Credited Service shall be taken into account in determining whether the Participant has satisfied the minimum service requirements for vesting under the Plan and the minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility under the Plan that are applicable to Eligible Regular Employees, Municipal Legal Officers, and/or elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, as applicable.

**Section 9.03. Immediate Vesting in Disability Retirement Benefit.** If the Employer elects in the Adoption Agreement to provide Disability benefits, and unless otherwise specified

in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant who is Disabled and otherwise meets the Plan's eligibility requirements for payment of a Disability Retirement Benefit shall be considered 100% Vested in such benefit.

**Section 9.04. Involuntary Termination Without Cause.** Notwithstanding any more restrictive vesting requirement imposed by the Employer in the Adoption Agreement, a Participant whose employment is terminated involuntarily and without cause shall be entitled to a Vested Benefit if he has completed five (5) years of Total Credited Service. For the purpose of this condition, "cause" for dismissal shall mean negligence or inefficiency in performing the duties of the position held, unfitness to perform assigned duties, insubordination, or misconduct reflecting discredit on the Adopting Employer or upon the Governing Authority.

**Section 9.05. Portability between Adopting Employers.**

(a) This Section applies to a Participant, other than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer, whose employment is terminated either voluntarily or involuntarily after participation in the Plan, provided that with respect to a Participant who terminates employment on or after January 1, 2015, such Participant has at least one (1) year of Credited Service with the Employer. This one (1) year minimum shall not apply with respect to a Participant,

(1) whose immediate prior employment was with another GMEBS Employer, and under whose Plan in effect prior to January 1, 2015, the Participant was subject to a waiting period and the Participant had satisfied such waiting period prior to his Termination of Employment with such prior GMEBS Employer, or

(2) (A) who is not described in paragraph 9.05(a)(1) above, and whose Employer's Plan contains an Addendum provision which was in effect prior to January 1,

2015, which provides for a waiting period of less than one (1) year to commence participation in the Plan, and (B) who was employed with said Employer prior to January 1, 2015 and satisfies such time limitation prior to Termination. With respect to an Employee described in this paragraph 9.05(a)(2), this Section shall become applicable to such Employee once he or she has satisfied such waiting period.

(b) Subject to any limitations or conditions contained in the Employer's Adoption Agreement, in determining whether a Participant has satisfied the minimum service requirements for Vesting and the minimum service requirements for Retirement and, for Participants who terminate on or after September 26, 2014, pre-retirement death benefit eligibility, under the Adoption Agreement of any GMEBS Adopting Employer, the Participant's Total Credited Service with all other of the Participant's past and future Adopting Employers shall be taken into account. In no event, however, shall service with one GMEBS Employer be used to calculate the benefit amount due the Participant from another GMEBS Employer. Prior to January 1, 2015, except as otherwise provided in Section 4.02(c)(7) concerning immediate participation for Participants who transfer from one GMEBS Adopting Employer to another, service with one GMEBS Adopting Employer may not be used to establish participation in another Adopting Employer's plan.

**Section 9.06. Forfeiture of Benefits for Public-Employment Related Crimes, Other Crimes.**

(a) Benefits otherwise payable under the Plan shall be reduced or forfeited, as applicable, upon final conviction for a public employment-related crime or final conviction for a drug-related crime, in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. § 47-1-20 through 47-1-25 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). The terms of

O.C.G.A. § 47-1-20 et seq. are incorporated herein by reference, including any future amendments thereto.

(b) Survivor benefits or refunds otherwise payable to a person upon the death of a Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or beneficiary shall be forfeited if the person commits or conspires to commit murder or involuntary manslaughter against a Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or beneficiary, in accordance with and subject to the applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. § 47-1-24 (a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto). The terms of said code section are incorporated herein by reference, including any future amendments thereto.

(c) If the Adopting Employer receives information that a Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant or beneficiary has been convicted of any crime referenced in this Section which could potentially result in reduction or forfeiture of benefits, the Adopting Employer shall notify the Administrator when it receives notice of such conviction.

**Section 9.07. Forfeitures.**

(a) Effective on and after January 1, 2014, if the Adopting Employer is unable to determine the whereabouts of and payment information for any Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse to whom a payment (e.g., a payment of Retirement, Disability or Death benefits) is due and provide such information to the Administrator within a period of six (6) months from the later of: 1) the date on which the Administrator became aware that such payment became due and payable, or 2) the date on which the Administrator became unable to continue processing payments to the Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse due to changes in his or her bank account, address, or other necessary information, the Administrator shall direct that the payment and all remaining payments, if any, otherwise due to the Participant, beneficiary

or surviving Spouse be cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture. Likewise, if the Adopting Employer is unable to determine the whereabouts of and payment information for any Participant, surviving Spouse or estate, as applicable, to whom a return of Employee Contributions due pursuant to Section 13.03 or Section 13.06 of this Master Plan or pursuant to the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto and provide such information to the Administrator within a period of six (6) months from such Participant's Termination of Employment (for non-vested Participants and for vested Participants whose Employee Contributions are required to be refunded following termination provided a refund to vested Participants does not result in forfeiture of Credited Service under the Plan), a vested Participant's request for a return of contributions, or, in a case of failure to exhaust, the date of a Participant's death, the Administrator shall direct that the return of Employee Contributions otherwise due to the Participant, surviving Spouse or estate, as applicable, be cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture and placed in the Employer's GMEBS Trust Fund.

(b) In the event that a payment (e.g., a return of Employee Contributions, or a payment of Retirement, Disability or Death benefits) is due to the estate of a Participant or beneficiary but the Administrator is unable to process such payment due to the absence of said estate or lack of information needed to process payment to said estate, or, following the expiration of six (6) months after the date on which the payment is issued the payment remains outstanding, the Administrator shall so notify the Adopting Employer. The Adopting Employer shall attempt to locate documents establishing such estate, a correct address or bank account or other necessary information to process such payment. If the Adopting Employer is unable to ascertain such documentation or information within six (6) months after receiving notice from

the Administrator of the outstanding payment, the Administrator shall direct that the payment be cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof be treated as a forfeiture.

(c) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, if a Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse whose whereabouts or payment information is unknown and whose benefits are forfeited pursuant to this Section subsequently claims such benefits on the Applicable Form, such forfeited benefit shall be reinstated and shall be paid retroactively, without interest, to the date of the first cancelled payment. Likewise, if the executor of an estate to which a payment was forfeited pursuant to paragraph (b) above subsequently claims such benefits on the Applicable Form, the forfeited benefit shall be reinstated and shall be paid, without interest, to the estate.

(d) Forfeitures arising from the inability to determine the whereabouts of or payment information for a Participant, beneficiary or surviving Spouse, or arising from Termination of Employment, withdrawal or any other reason may not be applied to increase the benefits any individual would otherwise receive under the Plan. Forfeitures will remain Trust assets, and as such, may be used to reduce an Adopting Employer's contribution.

(e) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, in the event that a return of Employee Contributions otherwise due to a Participant, to a surviving Spouse, to the estate of a Participant or of a Pre-Retirement or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, or to another individual or estate, as applicable, is cancelled on the records of the Plan and the amount thereof is treated as a forfeiture pursuant to this Section 9.07, including subsection (c), interest on such Employee Contributions shall cease to accrue as of the date on which the Administrator directs that the return of Employee Contributions be cancelled.

**ARTICLE X.**

**DISTRIBUTION AND ROLLOVER RULES**

**Section 10.01. Distribution Rules Imposed by Federal Law.** Notwithstanding any provision of this Plan to the contrary, any distribution under the Plan shall be made in accordance with Code Section 401(a)(9) and the Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, including the incidental benefit rules under Code Section 401(a)(9)(G), and shall comply with the following rules:

(a) With respect to distributions under the Plan made for calendar years beginning on or after January 1, 2002, the Plan shall apply the minimum distribution requirements of Code Section 401(a)(9) in accordance with the Final Regulations under Code Section 401(a)(9) that were issued on April 17, 2002, and June 15, 2004, notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary. GMEBS is coordinating the compliance with the Final Regulations to comply with the good faith reasonable standard of Pension Protection Act of 2006 Section 823.

(b) A Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, to the Participant no later than the Participant's required beginning date. For purposes of this Section, "required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of (i) the calendar year in which the Participant reaches age seventy and one-half (70½), or (ii) the calendar year in which the Participant Retires.

(c) If the Participant dies before distributions begin, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed, or begin to be distributed, no later than as follows:

(1) If the Participant's surviving spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary, then distributions to the surviving spouse will begin by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the Participant died, or

by December 31 of the calendar year in which the Participant would have attained age seventy and one-half (70½), if later.

(2) If the Participant's surviving spouse is not the Participant's sole designated beneficiary, then distributions to the designated beneficiary will begin by December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the Participant died, over the life of the designated beneficiary or over a period certain not exceeding:

(A) unless the annuity starting date is before the first distribution calendar year, the life expectancy of the designated beneficiary determined using the beneficiary's age as of the beneficiary's birthday in the calendar year immediately following the calendar year of the Participant's death; or

(B) if the annuity starting date is before the first distribution calendar year, the life expectancy of the designated beneficiary determined using the beneficiary's age as of the beneficiary's birthday in the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date.

(3) If there is no designated beneficiary as of September 30 of the year following the year of the Participant's death, the Participant's entire interest will be distributed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the Participant's death.

(4) If the Participant's surviving spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary and the surviving spouse dies after the Participant but before distributions to the surviving spouse begin, this subsection (c), other than (c)(1), will apply as if the surviving spouse were the Participant.



If annuity payments irrevocably commence to the Participant before the Participant's required beginning date (or to the Participant's surviving spouse before the date distributions are required to begin to the surviving spouse under this subsection (c)), the date distributions are considered to begin is the date distributions actually commence.

(d) The amount that must be distributed on or before the Participant's required beginning date (or, if the Participant dies before distributions begin, the date distributions are required to begin under subsection (c)) is the payment that is required for one payment interval. The second payment need not be made until the end of the next payment interval even if that payment interval ends in the next calendar year. Payment intervals are the periods for which payments are received, e.g., bi-monthly, monthly, semi-annually, or annually. All of the Participant's benefit accruals as of the last day of the first distribution calendar year will be included in the calculation of the amount of the annuity payments for payment intervals ending on or after the Participant's required beginning date.

(e) Any additional benefits accruing to the Participant in a calendar year after the first distribution year will be distributed beginning with the first payment interval ending in the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which such amount accrues.

(f) If the Participant's interest is being distributed in the form of a joint and survivor annuity for the joint lives of the Participant and a non-spouse beneficiary, annuity payments to be made on or after the Participant's required beginning date to the designated beneficiary after the Participant's death must not at any time exceed the applicable percentage of the annuity payment for such period that would have been payable to the Participant using the applicable table set forth in the Treasury Regulations. If the form of distribution combines a joint and survivor annuity for the joint lives of the Participant and a non-spouse beneficiary and a period certain

annuity, the requirement in the preceding sentence will apply to annuity payments to be made to the designated beneficiary after the expiration of the period certain.

(g) Unless the Participant's spouse is the sole designated beneficiary and the form of distribution is a period certain and no life annuity, the period certain for an annuity distribution commencing during the Participant's lifetime may not exceed the applicable distribution period for the Participant under applicable simple life table set forth in the Treasury Regulations for the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date. If the annuity starting date precedes the year in which the Participant reaches age seventy (70), the applicable distribution period for the Participant is the distribution period for age seventy (70) under the applicable single life table as set forth in the Treasury Regulations plus the excess of seventy (70) over the age of the Participant as of the Participant's birthday in the year that contains the annuity starting date. If the Participant's spouse is the Participant's sole designated beneficiary and the form of distribution is a period certain and no life annuity, the period certain may not exceed the longer of the Participant's applicable distribution period, as determined under this Section, or the joint life and last survivor expectancy of the Participant and the Participant's spouse as determined under the applicable joint life table set forth in the Treasury Regulations, using the Participant's and spouse's attained ages as of the Participant's and spouse's birthdays in the calendar year that contains the annuity starting date.

(h) A Participant or beneficiary eligible for benefits from an Adopting Employer's Plan must complete and return the Applicable Form provided for such purpose in order to commence distribution of benefits. Any excise tax under Code Section 4974 that results from a failure to timely apply for distribution of benefits under the Plan shall be the responsibility of the Participant or beneficiary, as applicable.

**Section 10.02. Rollover of Distributions.** Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary that would otherwise limit a Distributee's election under this Section, a Distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator, to have any portion of an Eligible Rollover Distribution paid directly to an Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee in a Direct Rollover. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:

(a) An "Eligible Rollover Distribution" is any distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the Distributee, except that an Eligible Rollover Distribution does not include: (i) any distribution that is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) made for the life (or life expectancy) of the Distributee or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of the Distributee and the Distributee's designated beneficiary, or for a specified period of ten (10) years or more; (ii) any distribution to the extent such distribution is required under Code Section 401(a)(9); (iii) the portion of any distribution that is not includible in gross income; or (iv) any other distributions which the Internal Revenue Service does not consider eligible for rollover treatment, such as certain corrective distributions necessary to comply with the provisions of Code Section 402(g) or 415. Effective January 1, 2002, an Eligible Rollover Distribution also includes a distribution to a surviving spouse. Effective January 1, 2002, a portion of a distribution will not fail to be an Eligible Rollover Distribution merely because the portion consists of after-tax Employee Contributions that are not includible in gross income. However, such portion may be transferred only to a (1) traditional individual retirement account or annuity described in IRC 408(a) or (b) (a "traditional IRA") or a Roth individual retirement account or annuity described in IRC 408(A) (a "Roth IRA"), or (2) to a qualified defined contribution defined benefit or annuity plan described in IRC 401(a) or 403(a) or to an annuity contract described in IRC 403(b), if such plan or contract provides for

separate accounting for amounts so transferred (including interest thereon), including separately accounting for the portion of such distribution which is includible in gross income and the portion of such distribution which is not so includible.

(b) An "Eligible Retirement Plan" is any one of the following that accepts the Distributee's Eligible Rollover Distribution: (i) a traditional IRA; (ii) a Roth IRA; (iii) an annuity plan described in Code Section 403(a); or (iv) a qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plan described in Code Section 401(a). Effective for distributions made after December 31, 2001, an Eligible Retirement Plan will also include an eligible deferred compensation plan described in Code Section 457(b) which is maintained by an eligible employer described in Code Section 457(e)(1)(A) that agrees to separately account for amounts transferred into that plan; or an annuity plan described in Code Section 403(b); and effective for distributions made after December 31, 2007, an Eligible Retirement Plan will also include a Roth IRA described in Code Section 408A. The portion of an Eligible Rollover Distribution that is not includible in gross income may be transferred only to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity described in Code Sections 408(a) or 408(b), a qualified defined contribution plan described in Code Section 401(a), a qualified plan described in Code Section 403(a), or on or after January 1, 2007, to a qualified defined benefit plan described in Code Section 401(a) or an annuity contract described in Code Section 403(b), that agrees to separately account for amounts so transferred, including separately accounting for the portion of such distribution which is includible in gross income and the portion of such distribution which is not so includible.

(c) A "Distributee" includes an employee or former employee. A Distributee also includes the employee's or former employee's surviving spouse. Effective January 1, 2008, a

Distributee further includes a nonspouse beneficiary who is a designated beneficiary as defined by Code Section 401(a)(9)(E). However, a nonspouse beneficiary may only make a direct rollover of the distribution to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity established for the purpose of receiving the distribution, and the account or annuity will be treated as an "inherited" individual retirement account or annuity.

(d) A "Direct Rollover" is a payment by the Plan to the Eligible Retirement Plan specified by the Distributee.

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if an Eligible Rollover Distribution is expected to total less than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) during a year, such payment may not be directly rolled over.

**Section 10.03. Acceptance of Eligible Rollover Distributions.** To the extent permitted by the applicable provisions of the Code and regulations issued thereunder, for the purpose of purchasing Credited Service or repaying withdrawn Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, as applicable) as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement (i) a Participant may contribute to the Plan as a rollover contribution a qualified rollover amount from a qualified plan under Code Section 401(a), an annuity plan under Code Section 403(a), an individual retirement account or annuity under Code Sections 408(a) or (b), a governmental deferred compensation plan under Code Section 457(b), or a tax-sheltered annuity under Code Section 403(b), that is includible in taxable income; or (ii) effective as of June 24, 2009, a Participant may make a direct rollover to the Plan of a qualified rollover amount from a qualified plan under Code Section 401(a) consisting of after-tax employee contributions that is not includible in taxable income provided that such amount will be separately accounted for under the Plan; provided, further, that the

Administrator, in its discretion, determines that the contribution satisfies all applicable requirements of the Code. Such rollovers will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance the Administrator deems appropriate.

**Section 10.04. Acceptance of Trustee-to-Trustee Transfers.** A Participant may make a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer from another Code Section 401(a) qualified retirement plan, a governmental deferred compensation plan under Code Section 457(b), or a tax-sheltered annuity under Code Section 403(b) for the purchase of permissive service credit, as defined in Code Section 415(n)(3)(A) and as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement, or for a repayment to which Code Section 415 does not apply by reason of Code Section 415(k)(3), as permitted under the Plan and the Employer's Adoption Agreement. Such transfers will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance the Administrator deems appropriate.

## **ARTICLE XI.**

### **LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS**

**Section 11.01. Effective Date.** The Plan shall be administered so as to comply with this Article for limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, except as otherwise provided herein.

**Section 11.02. Limitation on Annual Benefit.**

(a) In no event shall the aggregate annual benefit for a calendar year (the "limitation year") provided under this Plan and all other defined benefit plans (without regard to whether the plan has terminated) of the Employer for any Participant exceed an amount equal to One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) as adjusted pursuant to Code Section 415(d)(1)(A).

(b) Adjustment for Benefits Commencing Before Age 62.

(1) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-two (62) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) with actuarial equivalence computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table for the retirement income benefit commencement date (expressing the Participant's age based on completed calendar months as of the retirement income benefit commencement date).

(2) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-two (62) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the lesser of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) and the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's

retirement income benefit commencement date to the annual amount of the immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at age sixty-two (62), both determined without applying the limitations of this Article.

(3) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins before age sixty-two (62) and occurs in a limitation year that begins on or after January 1, 2002, but prior to July 1, 2007, the determination as to whether the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) limitation has been satisfied shall be made by reducing the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) limitation so that such limitation (as so reduced) equals an annual benefit (beginning when such retirement income benefit begins) which is equivalent to a One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) annual benefit beginning at age sixty-two (62). The age reduced dollar limit shall be the lesser of the equivalent amount computed using the actuarial table in Section 12.01 of the Plan for actuarial equivalence for early retirement benefits, and the amount computed using five percent (5%) interest and the applicable mortality table (to the extent that the mortality decrement is used prior to age sixty-two (62)).

(c) Adjustment for Benefits Commencing After Age 65.

(1) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan does not have an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-five (65) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the



actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required), with actuarial equivalence computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table for that retirement income benefit commencement date as specified in Section 11.02(e)(2)(B) of the Plan (expressing the Participant's age based on completed calendar months as of the retirement income benefit commencement date).

(2) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, and the Plan has an immediately commencing straight life annuity payable at both age sixty-five (65) and the age of benefit commencement, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the lesser of the limitation determined under paragraph (1) and the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) multiplied by the ratio of the annual amount of the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date to the annual amount of the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at age sixty-five (65), both determined without applying the limitations of this Article. For this purpose, the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity under the Plan at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of such annuity payable to the Participant, computed disregarding the Participant's accruals after age sixty-five (65) but including actuarial adjustments even if those actuarial adjustments are used to offset accruals; and the adjusted immediately commencing straight life annuity

under the Plan at age sixty-five (65) is the annual amount of such annuity that would be payable under the Plan to a hypothetical Participant who is age sixty-five (65) and has the same accrued benefit as the Participant.

(3) If the retirement income benefit under the Plan begins after age sixty-five (65) and occurs in a limitation year that begins on or after January 1, 2002, but prior to July 1, 2007, the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date is the annual amount of a benefit payable in the form of a straight life annuity commencing at the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date that is the actuarial equivalent of the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation (adjusted under subsection (h) for years of participation less than ten (10), if required) with actuarial equivalence computed using whichever of the following produces the smaller annual amount: (i) the actuarial increase factors specified in Section 12.05 of the Plan; or (ii) a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table as specified in Section 11.02(e)(2)(B) of the Plan.

(d) Notwithstanding the other requirements of this section, in adjusting the dollar limitation for the Participant's retirement income benefit commencement date under subsection (b) or (c), as applicable, no adjustment shall be made to the One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollar (\$160,000) limitation to reflect the probability of a Participant's death between the retirement income benefit commencement date and age sixty-two (62), or between age sixty-five (65) and the retirement income benefit commencement date, as applicable, if benefits are not forfeited upon the death of the Participant prior to the retirement income benefit commencement. To the extent benefits are forfeited upon death before the retirement income benefit commencement

date, such an adjustment shall be made. Furthermore, notwithstanding the requirements of this section, the adjustments provided for in subsections (b) and (c) shall not apply (i) in the event the Participant's benefit is based on at least fifteen (15) years of service as a full-time employee of any police or fire department or on fifteen (15) years of military service, or (ii) in the case of pre-retirement disability benefits or pre-retirement death benefits.

(e) Adjustment for Form Not Subject to Code Section 417(e)(3). For distributions made in any form other than a straight life annuity or a qualified joint and survivor annuity to which Code Section 417(e)(3) does not apply [generally, a monthly benefit], such benefit shall be adjusted to a straight life annuity, beginning at the same age, which is the actuarial equivalent of such benefit.

(1) For limitation years beginning before July 1, 2007, the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity for purposes of applying the limitations under Code Section 415(b) to benefits is equal to the greater of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit commencement date which is the "lesser of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(A) the equivalent annual benefit computed using the interest rate and mortality table, or tabular factor, specified in Article XII of the Plan for actuarial equivalence for the particular form of benefit payable, and

(B) the equivalent annual benefit computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table described in Internal Revenue Service guidance (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 or Revenue Ruling 2001-62 on or after January 1, 2003).

(2) For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity is equal to the greater of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit commencement date which is the "lesser of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(A) the annual amount of the straight life annuity (if any) payable to the Participant under the Plan commencing at the same retirement income benefit commencement date as the Participant's form of benefit; and

(B) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the Participant's form of benefit, computed using a five percent (5%) interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table described in Internal Revenue Service guidance (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 2001-62 on or after January 1, 2003, or Internal Revenue Service Notice 2008-85 for years after December 31, 2008).

(f) Adjustment for Form Subject to Code Section 417(e)(3). As required by final Treasury Regulations, for distributions made in any form to which Code Section 417(e)(3) applies [generally, a lump sum benefit], such benefit shall be adjusted to a straight life annuity, beginning at the same age, which is the actuarially equivalent straight life annuity benefit which is the greatest of (or the reduced limitation applicable at the retirement income benefit commencement date which is the "least of" when adjusted in accordance with the following assumptions):

(1) The annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value

as the particular form of benefit payable, computed using the interest rate and mortality table, or tabular factor, specified in Article XII of the Plan for actuarial experience;

(2) The annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the particular form of benefit payable, computed using a five and five-tenths percent (5.5%) interest assumption (or the applicable statutory interest assumption) and (i) for years prior to January 1, 2009, the applicable mortality tables for the distribution under Treasury Regulation Section 1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 and Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62) and (ii) for years after December 31, 2008, the applicable mortality tables described in Code Section 417(e)(3)(B) (Notice 2008-85 or any subsequent Internal Revenue Service guidance implementing Code Section 417(e)(3)(B)); or

(3) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the retirement income benefit commencement date that has the same actuarial present value as the particular form of benefit payable computed using the applicable interest rate for the distribution under Internal Revenue Service guidance (the 30-year Treasury rate prior to January 1, 2008, using the rate in effect for the month prior to retirement; on and after January 1, 2008, using the rate in effect for the first day of the plan year with a one-year stabilization period; and on and after January 1, 2015, using the rate in effect for the September prior to the plan year of distribution with a one-year stabilization period) and (i) for years prior to January 1, 2009, the applicable mortality tables for the distribution under Treasury Regulation Section 1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (the mortality table specified in

Revenue Ruling 98-1 prior to 2003 and Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62), and (ii) for years after December 31, 2008, the applicable mortality tables described in Code Section 417(e)(3)(B) (Notice 2008-85 or any subsequent Internal Revenue Service guidance implementing Code Section 417(e)(3)(B)), divided by one and five-one-hundredths (1.05). However, effective for benefits commencing during limitation years beginning after December 31, 2008, this paragraph (3) does not apply to a Plan maintained by an eligible employer as defined under Code Section 408(p)(2)(C)(i) (generally, an Employer that had no more than one hundred (100) employees who received at least Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) of compensation from the Employer during the preceding year).

(g) Limitations on benefits under this Article shall not apply where the total annual benefits payable to a Participant under this Plan and all other qualified defined benefit plans (whether or not terminated) of the Employer do not exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) in the aggregate. This minimum limitation is not applicable for a Participant whose Employer maintains or has maintained a defined contribution plan in which such Participant participated.

(h) The Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) minimum limitation, if provided, must be reduced where a Participant has less than ten (10) years of service with the Employer at the time the Participant begins to receive retirement benefits under the Plan, and the maximum dollar limitation must be reduced where a Participant has less than ten (10) years of participation when retirement benefits under the Plan commence. These adjustments are made by multiplying the applicable limitations by the appropriate fraction:

(A) For the Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) minimum limitation – Years of service with the employer as of and including, the current limitation year divided by ten (10); or

(B) For the maximum dollar limitation – Years of participation with the employer as of and including, the current limitation year divided by ten (10).

(i) For purposes of applying the limits under Code Section 415(b) (Limit), the following will apply:

(1) prior to any limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007, adjustments under Section 6.05, will be taken into consideration when determining a Participant's applicable Limit;

(2) for any limitation year beginning on or after July 1, 2007:

(A) a Participant's applicable Limit will be applied to the Participant's annual benefit in the Participant's first limitation year without regard to any automatic cost of living adjustments under Section 6.05;

(B) to the extent the Participant's benefit equals or exceeds the Limit, the Participant will no longer be eligible for cost of living adjustments under Section 6.05 until such time as the benefit plus the accumulated adjustments under Section 6.05 are less than the Limit;

(C) thereafter, in any subsequent limitation year, a Participant's annual benefit, including any automatic cost of living increases under Section 6.05, shall be tested under the then applicable benefit Limit including any adjustment to the Code Section 415(b)(1)(A) dollar limit under Code Section 415(d), and the regulations thereunder; but

(D) in no event shall a Participant's benefit payable under the Plan in any limitation year be greater than the Limit applicable at the annuity starting date, as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Code Section 415(d) and the regulations thereunder. If the form of benefit without regard to the automatic benefit increase feature is not a straight life annuity, then the preceding provisions are applied by reducing the Code Section 415(b) limit applicable at the annuity starting date to an actuarially equivalent amount (determined using the assumptions specified in Treasury Regulation Section 1.415(b)-1(c)(2)(ii)) that takes into account the death benefits under the form of benefit.

**Section 11.03. Limitation on Annual Additions.**

(a) Effective beginning on and after January 1, 2002, to the extent required under Code Section 415(c), in no event shall the "annual addition" for a Participant for any calendar year (the "limitation year"), exceed the lesser of:

(1) Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000), as adjusted for increases in the cost of living under Code Section 415(d); or

(2) One hundred percent (100%) of the "compensation" of such Participant received from an Adopting Employer during the limitation year.

(b) For purposes of this Section, "compensation" means all of a Participant's wages as defined in Code Section 3401(a) for the purposes of income tax withholding at the source but determined without regard to any rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based on the nature or location of the employment or the services performed (such as the exception for agricultural labor in Code Section 3401(a)(2)); provided, however, for limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, compensation shall also include the amount of any elective deferrals,



as defined in Code Section 402(g)(3), and any amount contributed or deferred by the Adopting Employer at the election of the Employee and which is not includable in the gross income of the Employee by reason of Code Section 125 or 457, but shall exclude Employee contributions picked up under Code Section 414(h)(2). For limitation years beginning after December 31, 2000, compensation shall also include any amount deferred by the Adopting Employer at the election of the Employee which is not includable in the gross income of the Employee by reason of Code Section 132(f)(4). For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, the following types of payments, if paid by the later of (i) two and one-half (2½) months following a Participant's Termination of Employment, or (ii) the last day of the limitation year that includes the Participant's Termination of Employment, will be included as compensation for purposes of this Section: payments that, absent a Termination of Employment, would have been paid to the Participant while he or she continued in employment and that are regular compensation for services rendered, and payments of accrued bona fide sick, vacation, or other leave, but only if the Participant would have been able to use the leave if employment had continued. Any payments not described in the preceding sentence are not considered compensation if paid after severance from employment, even if they are paid within two and one-half (2½) months following severance from employment, except for payments to the individual who does not currently perform services for the Employer by reason of qualified military service (within the meaning of Code Section 414(u)(1)) to the extent these payments do not exceed the amounts the individual would have received if the individual had continued to perform services for the Employer rather than entering qualified military service. An Employee who is in qualified military service (within the meaning of Code Section 414(u)(1)) shall be treated as receiving compensation from the Employer during such period of qualified military service equal to (i) the

compensation the Employee would have received during such period if the Employee were not in qualified military service, determined based on the rate of pay the Employee would have received from the Employer but for the absence during the period of qualified military service, or (ii) if the compensation the Employee would have received during such period was not reasonably certain, the Employee's average compensation from the Employer during the twelve (12) month period immediately preceding the qualified military service (or, if shorter, the period of employment immediately preceding the qualified military service). For limitation years beginning on or after July 1, 2007, a Participant's compensation for purposes of this Section shall not exceed the annual limit under Code Section 401(a)(17).

(c) For purposes of this Section, "annual addition" means the sum of the following amounts credited to a Participant's accounts for the limitation year under this Plan and any other plan maintained by an Employer: (i) employer contributions; (ii) employee contributions; (iii) forfeitures; and (iv) allocations under a simplified employee pension plan. Amounts allocated after March 31, 1984, to an individual medical account, as defined in Code Section 415(l)(2), which is part of a pension or annuity plan maintained by an Employer are treated as annual additions to a defined contribution plan. Also, amounts derived from contributions paid or accrued after December 31, 1985, in taxable years ending after such date, which are attributable to post-retirement medical benefits, allocated to the separate account of a key employee, as defined in Code Section 419A(d)(3), under a welfare benefit fund, as defined in Code Section 419(e), maintained by an Employer are treated as an annual additions to a defined contribution plan.

(d) If the annual addition for a Participant under the Plan would be greater than the annual addition for such Participant as limited by subsection (a), then the excess shall be

corrected as permitted under the IRS Employee Plans Compliance Resolution System (currently set forth in Revenue Procedure 2008-50).

**Section 11.04. Code Section 415(e) Limits.** For limitation years beginning on and after January 1, 2000, any benefit limitations applied pursuant to Code Section 415(e) shall no longer apply for employees or former employees who are Participants with an accrued benefit under the Plan on or after January 1, 2000.

**Section 11.05. Limitations on Service Credit Purchases.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if an Adopting Employer adopts an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement that provides for service credit purchases, the Administrator may modify a request by a Participant to make an Employee Contribution if the amount of the Contribution would exceed the limits provided in Code Section 415 by using the following methods:

(1) If the law requires a lump sum payment for the purchase of service credit, the Administrator may establish a periodic payment plan for the Participant to avoid a contribution in excess of the limits under Code Sections 415(c) or 415(n).

(2) If payment pursuant to paragraph (1) will not avoid a contribution in excess of the limits imposed by Code Section 415(c), the Administrator may either reduce the Employee Contribution to an amount within the limits of that section or refuse the Participant's Contribution.

(b) Effective for any permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, if a Participant makes one (1) or more contributions to purchase permissive service credit under an Adopting Employer's Plan, then the requirements of this Section will be treated as met only if:

(1) the requirements of Code Section 415(b) are met, determined by treating the accrued benefit derived from all such Contributions as an annual benefit for purposes of Code Section 415(b), or

(2) the requirements of Code Section 415(c) are met, determined by treating all such Contributions as annual additions for purposes of Code Section 415(c).

(3) For purposes of applying paragraph (1), the Plan will not fail to meet the reduced limit under Code Section 415(b)(2)(C) solely by reason of this paragraph (3), and for purposes of applying paragraph (2), the Plan will not fail to meet the percentage limitation under Code Section 415(c)(1)(B) solely by reason of this subsection (b).

(4) For purposes of this subsection (b) the term "permissive service credit" means service credit—

(A) recognized by the Plan for purposes of calculating a Participant's benefit under the Plan,

(B) which such Participant has not received under the Plan, and

(C) which such Participant may receive only by making a voluntary additional contribution, in an amount determined under the Plan, which does not exceed the amount necessary to fund the benefit attributable to such service credit.

Effective for permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, such term may include service credit for periods for which there is no performance of service, and, notwithstanding subparagraph (B), may include service credited in order to provide an increased benefit for service credit which a Participant is receiving under the Plan.

(5) The Plan will fail to meet the requirements of this subsection (b) if—

(A) more than five (5) years of nonqualified service credit are taken into account for purposes of this paragraph (5), or

(B) any nonqualified service credit is taken into account under this subsection (b) before the Participant has at least five (5) years of participation under the Plan.

(6) For purposes of paragraph (5), effective for permissive service credit contributions made in limitation years beginning after December 31, 1997, the term "nonqualified service credit" means permissive service credit other than that allowed with respect to—

(A) service (including parental, medical, sabbatical, and similar leave) as an employee of the Government of the United States, any State or political subdivision thereof, or any agency or instrumentality of any of the foregoing (other than military service or service for credit which was obtained as a result of a repayment described in Code Section 415(k)(3)),

(B) service (including parental, medical, sabbatical, and similar leave) as an employee (other than as an employee described in subparagraph (A)) of an education organization described in Code Section 170(b)(1)(A)(ii) which is a public, private, or sectarian school which provides elementary or secondary education (through grade 12), or a comparable level of education, as determined under the applicable law of the jurisdiction in which the service was performed,

(C) service as an employee of an association of employees who are described in subparagraph (A), or

(D) military service (other than qualified military service under Code Section 414(u)) recognized by such governmental plan.

In the case of service described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), such service will be nonqualified service if recognition of such service would cause a Participant to receive a retirement benefit for the same service under more than one Plan.

(7) In the case of a trustee-to-trustee transfer after December 31, 2001, to which Code Section 403(b)(13)(A) or 457(e)(17)(A) applies (without regard to whether the transfer is made between plans maintained by the same employer)—

(A) the limitations of paragraph (6) will not apply in determining whether the transfer is for the purchase of permissive service credit, and

(B) the distribution rules applicable under federal law to the Plan will apply to such amounts and any benefits attributable to such amounts.

(8) For an eligible Participant, the limitation of Code Section 415(c)(1) shall not be applied to reduce the amount of permissive service credit which may be purchased to an amount less than the amount which was allowed to be purchased under the terms of the Plan as in effect on August 5, 1997. For purposes of this paragraph (8), an eligible Participant is an individual who first became a Participant in the Plan before January 1, 1998.

**Section 11.06. Interpretation of this Article.**

(a) The annual additions and annual benefit of a Participant shall be adjusted pursuant to this Article so as to produce the maximum annual benefit and maximum annual additions permissible for such Participant.

(b) For purposes of this Section and subject to Code Section 415(h), all defined benefit plans of an Adopting Employer, whether or not terminated, are to be treated as a single defined benefit plan, and all defined contribution plans of an Adopting Employer are to be treated as a single defined contribution plan. However, Adopting Employers shall be considered as separate Employers in accordance with State law.

**ARTICLE XII.**

**ACTUARIAL EQUIVALENT CONVERSION TABLES**

**Section 12.01. Early Retirement Reduction Table.** Unless otherwise elected in the Adoption Agreement or an Addendum thereto, the following early retirement reduction table is to be used:

<u>Number of Years Before Normal Retirement*</u>	<u>Percentage of Normal Retirement Benefit</u>
0	1.000
1	.933
2	.867
3	.800
4	.733
5	.667
6	.633
7	.600
8	.567
9	.533
10	.500

\*Interpolate for whole months.

**Section 12.02. Option B Tables.**

(a) Participant Same Age Or Older – The following table is to be used for a Participant who is the same age or older than his Beneficiary:

Participant Age – Beneficiary Age	Contingent Annuity Factor			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>
0	.833	.870	.909	.952
1	.826	.864	.905	.950
2	.819	.857	.900	.947
3	.811	.851	.896	.945
4	.804	.845	.891	.943
5	.797	.839	.887	.940
6	.790	.833	.882	.938
7	.783	.828	.878	.935
8	.776	.822	.874	.933
9	.769	.816	.870	.930
10	.763	.811	.866	.928
11	.757	.806	.861	.926
12	.751	.800	.858	.923
13	.745	.795	.854	.921
14	.739	.791	.850	.919
15	.733	.786	.846	.917
16	.728	.781	.843	.915
17	.723	.777	.839	.913
18	.718	.772	.836	.911
19	.713	.768	.833	.909
20	.708	.764	.830	.907
21 or more	*	*	*	*

\*Factor for twenty (20) year age difference minus extrapolation factor below times number of years in excess of twenty (20) that Participant's age exceeds his Beneficiary's age.

<u>Contingent Annuity Percentage</u>	<u>Extrapolation Factor</u>
100%	.005
75%	.004
50%	.003
25%	.002

(b) Participant Younger – The following table is to be used for a Participant who is younger than his Beneficiary:

Beneficiary Age – Participant Age	Contingent Annuity Factor			
	<u>100%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>50%</u>	<u>25%</u>



<u>Beneficiary Age – Participant Age</u>	<u>Contingent Annuity Factor</u>			
1	.841	.876	.914	.955
2	.848	.882	.918	.957
3	.856	.888	.922	.960
4	.863	.894	.926	.962
5	.870	.899	.931	.964
6	.877	.905	.935	.966
7	.885	.911	.939	.968
8	.892	.916	.943	.970
9	.898	.922	.947	.973
10	.905	.927	.950	.974
11	.912	.932	.954	.976
12	.918	.937	.957	.978
13	.924	.942	.960	.980
14	.930	.946	.964	.981
15	.935	.951	.967	.983
16	.941	.955	.969	.984
17	.945	.959	.972	.986
18	.950	.962	.974	.987
19	.955	.966	.977	.988
20	.959	.969	.979	.989
21 or more	.960	.970	.980	.990

**Section 12.03. Option C Table.**

<u>Period</u>	<u>Factor</u>
5 Years	.973
10 Years	.911
15 Years	.842
20 Years	.780

**Section 12.04. Life Annuity Factors to be Used in Computing Actuarial Reserve**

**Death Benefit.**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>
21	12.5773	43	11.4236
22	12.5567	44	11.3274
23	12.5337	45	11.2264
24	12.5082	46	11.1207
25	12.4804	47	11.0102
26	12.4501	48	10.8952
27	12.4170	49	10.7755
28	12.3809	50	10.6509

<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>
29	12.3416	51	10.5213
30	12.2994	52	10.3869
31	12.2541	53	10.2479
32	12.2056	54	10.1041
33	12.1535	55	9.9552
34	12.0976	56	9.8010
35	12.0383	57	9.6415
36	11.9754	58	9.4769
37	11.9088	59	9.3076
38	11.8384	60	9.1331
39	11.7640	61	8.9537
40	11.6855	62	8.7698
41	11.6026	63	8.5818
42	11.5154	64	8.3903
		65	8.1958

**Section 12.05. Late Retirement Actuarial Increase Factors.**

<u>Current Age</u>	<u>Factor</u>
65	1.0000
66	1.1317
67	1.2850
68	1.4645
69	1.6755
70	1.9246
71	2.2204
72	2.5734
73	2.9967
74	3.5073
75	4.1274

Figure factor using years and months. Divide difference between next highest age factor and age factor lower, by twelve (12), then multiply by number of months. Add this onto age for years factor to arrive at correct factor. (Round off to 4 decimals). Note: If normal retirement age differs from sixty-five (65), factors must be supplied by Actuary.

**Section 12.06. Other Annuity Forms.** Conversion factors for other annuity forms shall be computed by an enrolled Actuary on an actuarially equivalent basis assuming that the Participant is retiring at age sixty-five (65) and using the RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for males and one (1) year for females and with interest of seven and seventy-five

one hundredths percent (7.75%), regardless of the actual age and sex of any Participant or Beneficiary. If appropriate, such factors may vary by the difference between the Participant's age and the beneficiary's age. The value of Retirement benefits received by a Participant for purposes of Section 6.06 shall be determined using the RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for males and one (1) year for females and with interest of seven and seventy-five one hundredths percent (7.75%). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the UP 1984 Mortality Table without age setback and with interest of eight percent (8.0%) was applied for the purpose of computing other annuity forms and calculating the value of Retirement benefits received by a Participant for purposes of Section 6.06 on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to September 26, 2014.

**Section 12.07. Lump Sum Payments.** Effective January 1, 2001, a single sum distribution of benefits payable under Section 7.05, or upon plan termination, or if required for compliance with Code Section 401(a)(9), shall be computed on the basis of the actual age of the Participant and/or Beneficiary at the time of distribution and under the following actuarial assumptions:

(a) **Interest:** The applicable interest rate established by the Internal Revenue Service under Code Section 417(e)(3) and accompanying regulations, without regard to updates under the Pension Protection Act of 2006, as in effect for the month of September preceding the calendar year during which the distribution is paid.

(b) **Mortality:** The applicable mortality table established by the Internal Revenue Service pursuant to IRC Section 417(e)(3) and accompanying regulations, without regard to updates under the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

(c) Age at Which Payments Begin: The greater of the Normal Retirement Date or the age at the time of distribution to the Participant and/or Beneficiary.

### **ARTICLE XIII.**

#### **CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Section 13.01. Adopting Employer Contributions.** The Adopting Employer shall make the necessary Contributions to fund the Plan. The amount of these Contributions shall be based upon the actuarial assumptions adopted by the Board of Trustees, the benefits provided in the Plan, and the number of Participants and their respective ages, Earnings, and lengths of Creditable Service and such other factors as the Board of Trustees shall deem appropriate to assure proper funding of the Plan. Contributions by the Adopting Employer shall be applied as necessary to assure the payment of Accrued Benefits to Participants and Beneficiaries. Employer Contributions received by GMEBS by the last day of any month shall accrue Interest from the first day of the following month.

**Section 13.02. Employee Contributions.** Participants or certain classes of Participants may be required to make Contributions to the Plan as specified in the Adoption Agreement. Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer, Employee Contributions shall accrue interest at the same rate and in the same manner as Employer Contributions. When elected by the Adopting Employer to be picked up, the Adopting Employer shall pick up and pay contributions in accordance with Code Section 414(h)(2) as follows:

(1) The contributions, although designated as Employee contributions, shall be paid by that Adopting Employer in lieu of contributions by the Employee as elected by the Adopting Employer in the Adoption Agreement, which shall be effective on a prospective basis and constitute written formal action to implement the pick-up, and

(2) The Employee must not be given the option, on or after the effective date of the pick-up, to have a cash or deferred election right (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.401(k)-1(a)(3)) with respect to designated Employee contributions, which includes not having the option of receiving the amounts directly instead of having them paid to the Plan.

**Section 13.03. Withdrawal of Employee Contributions.**

(a) Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if a non-vested Participant's employment is terminated for any reason other than death, he shall request that his Employee Contributions plus interest, if any, be withdrawn.

(b) Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, if a vested Participant's employment is terminated for any reason other than death or Retirement, he may request that his Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit) plus interest be withdrawn, unless he chooses to claim his vested benefit, in which case his Employee Contributions shall not be withdrawn.

(c) Upon the Participant's termination, the Pension Committee shall provide notice to the Participant of his opportunity to withdraw his Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto), and the Participant shall have sixty (60) days after receipt of such notice to submit a request for withdrawal on an Applicable Form provided for that purpose. Failure to make such a request within this sixty (60) day period shall result in the forfeiture of a vested Participant's right to request withdrawal upon termination and shall result in forfeiture of a non-vested Participant's right to the accrual of further interest. Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, upon withdrawal of Employee Contributions

(including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) pursuant to this Section, the Participant shall forfeit for himself, his heirs and assigns all his rights, title, and interest in the Plan, except as provided in subsection (d) below. Employee Contributions shall be returned to the Participant within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the Participant's request. A Participant may not withdraw his Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) as long as he remains in the employment of the Adopting Employer and he may not borrow against Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) at any time. A partial withdrawal of Employee Contributions is not permitted. Unless otherwise provided in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Participant who has made both mandatory Employee Contributions and Contributions to purchase prior service credit withdraws any of such Contributions, all mandatory Employee Contributions and Contributions to purchase prior service credit shall be withdrawn.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in the Employer's Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto, if a Participant withdraws Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit, if permitted under the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto) in accordance with this Section, and if such Participant later resumes employment with the Adopting Employer in an Eligible Employee class, then any service credit or benefit amount forfeited by virtue of the withdrawal may be reinstated upon the Participant's reemployment with the Adopting Employer, provided: (1) the Participant repays within six (6) months following the reemployment date and prior to Termination of Employment with the

Adopting Employer all amounts previously withdrawn plus interest at the assumed actuarial rate of return for the GMEBS Retirement Fund established by the Board as of date of repayment, compounded annually from the date of return of contributions through the date of repayment; and (2) provided the Participant satisfied the break in service rules, as applicable. Repayment of Employee Contributions (including any Contributions made to purchase prior service credit) under this subsection shall be made in a single lump sum, by a rollover or transfer of pre-tax funds described in Sections 10.03 and 10.04 of this Plan, a lump sum payment of after-tax funds, after-tax payroll deductions, or any other method established by the Board, subject to any limitations included in the Adoption Agreement or any Addendum thereto. With respect to the repayment of Withdrawn Employee Contributions prior to September 26, 2014, in the event that withdrawal of Contributions made to purchase prior service credit is permitted by an Employer's Adoption Agreement or Addendum, repayment will be permitted only to the extent permitted by the Adoption Agreement or Addendum, and in accordance with any re-purchase or other repayment restrictions specified in the Adoption Agreement or Addendum.

(e) For purposes of this Section, the amount of "interest" shall be determined as of the date that the withdrawal under this Section is made, and the amount of interest shall comply with any applicable provisions of Section 4(i)(10)(B)(i) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA").

**Section 13.04. Cessation of Contributions Without Penalty.** The Employer may provide in the Adoption Agreement that Participants who have met certain retirement benefit eligibility requirements shall no longer be required to make contributions to the Plan. Effective on or after October 1, 2016, Participants who are receiving an In-Service Distribution or who are

otherwise receiving Retirement benefits while employed with the Adopting Employer shall not be required to make contributions to the Plan.

**Section 13.05. Continued Contributions During Leave of Absence.** Subject to the applicable limits of Code Section 415, if the terms of an authorized leave of absence permit the Participant to continue accumulating Credited Service during said leave of absence, the Participant shall be required to continue making Employee Contributions in the same amount and at the same rate as immediately prior to the commencement of the leave of absence.

**Section 13.06. Return of Contributions Upon Failure to Exhaust.**

(a) **Death of a Retired Participant.** If a Retired Participant elects the Option A form of benefit payment, and if upon the death of the Participant the sum of all benefits paid to the Participant does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, then a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference, less any amounts paid to the Retired Participant's surviving Spouse or to the Retired Participant's estate pursuant to Section 8.12, shall be paid as follows: (1) in the event the Participant dies on or after January 1, 2014, to the Retired Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (a), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Retired Participant's estate, or (2) in the event the Participant dies on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to January 1, 2014, to the Retired Participant's estate. In the event that 1) a Retired Participant elects retirement benefit payment Option B or C, 2) the Post-Retirement Beneficiary predeceases the Participant, and 3) upon the death of the Retired Participant, the sum of all benefits paid does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, then a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference shall be paid as follows: (A) in the event the Retired Participant dies on or after January 1, 2014, to the Retired Participant's designated beneficiary as



defined in this subsection (a), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate, or (B) in the event the Retired Participant dies on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to January 1, 2014, to the Retired Participant's estate. In the event that 1) a Retired Participant elects retirement benefit payment Option B or C, 2) the Post-Retirement Beneficiary survives the Retired Participant and dies after such Beneficiary has begun receiving survivor benefit payments, and 3) the sum of all benefits paid does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's Employee contributions plus interest posted thereon, said lump sum payment shall be paid as follows: (A) in the event the Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies on or after September 26, 2014, to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (a) or, if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate, or (B) in the event the Post-Retirement Beneficiary dies on or after January 1, 2013 and prior to September 26, 2014, to the Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Retired Participant or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(b) In-Service Death of Participant Before Satisfying Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Eligibility Requirements; Death of Terminated Vested Participant Where No Terminated Vested Death Benefit Is Payable. If a Participant dies in the Service of an Adopting Employer before he satisfies the eligibility requirements for an in-service death benefit, his Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (b), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate. If a Terminated Vested Participant dies before Retirement and the Plan does not provide

for Terminated Vested death benefits to be payable upon the death of such Participant, his Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, if any, shall be paid to the Participant's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (b), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the Participant's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Participant and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Participant by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) Death of a Participant or Terminated Vested Participant After Satisfying Pre-Retirement Death Benefit Eligibility Requirements. The following provision shall apply in the event that a Participant or Terminated Vested Participant who has satisfied the eligibility requirements for a pre-retirement death benefit dies before Retirement, and payments are made to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary under the Plan. In the event the sum of all pre-retirement benefits paid to a Pre-Retirement Beneficiary(ies) by virtue of the death of a Participant or Terminated Participant, as applicable, does not equal or exceed the amount of the Participant's or Terminated Participant's Employee Contributions plus interest posted thereon, a lump sum payment in the amount of the difference shall be paid to the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary as defined in this subsection (c), or if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the estate of the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary (or the designated beneficiary or estate of the last Pre-Retirement Beneficiary receiving payment, as applicable with respect to Plans that permit payment to multiple Pre-Retirement Beneficiaries). For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Pre-Retirement Beneficiary by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(d) For purposes of this Section, the amount of "interest posted" shall be determined as of the date that the lump sum payment payable under this Section is distributed, and the amount of interest posted shall comply with any applicable provisions of Section 4(i)(10)(B)(i) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act ("ADEA").

#### **ARTICLE XIV.**

#### **PENSION COMMITTEE**

**Section 14.01. Creation and Composition.** There shall be a Pension Committee for each Adopting Employer. Unless otherwise specified in the Adoption Agreement, the Pension Committee shall be composed of the following:

For Municipal Corporations:

- (a) City Clerk and City Manager.
- (b) Two (2) Employee representatives appointed by the Governing Authority.
- (c) Three (3) appointed members of the Governing Authority.

For Other Adopting Employers:

- (a) Executive Director.
- (b) Two (2) Employee representatives appointed by the Governing Authority.
- (c) Four (4) appointed members of the Governing Authority.

**Section 14.02. Responsibilities.** The Pension Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

(a) In its dealings with GMEBS or its duly appointed representatives, the Pension Committee shall:

- (1) Assure that accurate and complete information is furnished to GMEBS with respect to eligibility for participation, Total Credited Service, Earnings, and Final Average Earnings of Eligible Employees, including elected or appointed members of the

Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are designated as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement.

(2) Assure the collection and remittance to GMEBS of all required Contributions (including Employee Contributions, if applicable).

(3) Collect, and furnish to GMEBS, in accordance with its rules and regulations, all reports, forms, and other records required or necessary to administer the Plan, including but not limited to completed applications for participation (if applicable), employee elections to participate (if participation is optional for a particular class), employee census reports reflecting information necessary to complete the annual plan valuation, completed pre-retirement beneficiary designation forms, completed leave of absence reports, and completed retirement applications (including disability retirement applications, if the Adopting Employer has elected in its Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits).

(4) Provide reasonable prior notice to GMEBS of any amendments that the Adopting Employer intends to make to the Adoption Agreement.

(5) Notify GMEBS of the termination of Participating Employees, and, if they are permitted in the Adoption Agreement to participate in the Plan, the vacation of office by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers. Said notification should indicate whether the Employee has been involuntarily terminated without cause (see Section 9.04 concerning 5-year vesting for Employees involuntarily terminated without cause).

(6) Notify GMEBS when the Adopting Employer learns that an Eligible Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant or Beneficiary

has been convicted of a public employment-related crime or other crime which could result in a reduction or forfeiture of benefits (see Section 9.06).

(7) If the Adopting Employer has elected in the Adoption Agreement to provide disability retirement benefits, notify GMEBS of determinations made by the Pension Committee with respect to disability (see Section 2.23(b)) or continuation of disability (see Section 6.06(e)).

(8) Notify GMEBS when the Adopting Employer learns of the death of an Eligible Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant, or Beneficiary.

(b) In dealing with those persons participating or eligible to participate in the Plan, the Pension Committee shall:

(1) Be responsible for the enrollment of Eligible Employees, including elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers if they are included as Eligible Employees in the Adoption Agreement.

(2) Handle distribution of all reports, forms, or other plan-related materials to Participants, including but not limited to plan summary booklets and annual participant statements.

(3) Handle disputes between the Adopting Employer and Participants in all matters regarding the Plan and notify GMEBS of same.

(4) Handle and distribute as necessary any notices of eligibility, benefits, available options, and any other notices required by this Plan, Contract, or rules and regulations of GMEBS.

(5) Address Employee inquiries concerning eligibility for participation in the Plan, enrollment, eligibility for retirement, disability, and/or death benefits, benefit payment options, and other terms, conditions, and features of the Plan.

(c) The Pension Committee is not authorized to interpret the Master Plan document, or matters of State and federal law as they relate to interpretation of the Master Plan document. These matters are reserved for the sole discretion of the Board.

**Section 14.03. Secretary.** The Adopting Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement a Pension Committee Secretary who shall have full authority to represent the Pension Committee in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees, including elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and Municipal Legal Officers.

**Section 14.04. Legal Assistance.** The City Attorney or other attorney appointed by the Governing Authority shall furnish legal advice to the Pension Committee with respect to the Plan and the Committee's assigned responsibilities hereunder.

**Section 14.05. Plan Representative.** The Adopting Employer shall designate in the Adoption Agreement an individual to serve as Plan Representative. The Plan Representative shall have full authority to represent the Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and the Adopting Employer's Employees. The Pension Committee Secretary may serve as the Plan Representative.

## **ARTICLE XV.**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Section 15.01. Definitions.** As used in this Article, "Act" refers to the Act of the General Assembly creating the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit

System (O.C.G.A. § 47-5-1 et seq., a copy of which is included in the Appendix hereto), as amended.

**Section 15.02. Powers.** The powers of the Board of Trustees as fixed by the Act are hereby incorporated as part of the Plan. The Adopting Employer agrees that, in the administration of the Plan, it will comply with all rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees under its authority as granted by the Act.

**Section 15.03. Composition and Election.** The composition of the Board of Trustees and the election of its members shall be as provided by the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 15.04. Officers.** The election of officers by the Board of Trustees shall be conducted as may be prescribed by the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 15.05. Notice of Elections.** The Board of Trustees shall provide through its bylaws for the giving of notice of elections, notice of any vacancy on the Board, the method or manner in which votes may be cast, and any other matter necessary or incident to the election of members of the Board. The Board may also provide for a proxy vote, and may determine how, when, and in what manner voting by proxy may be had in accordance with the Act and as may be provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 15.06. Voting.** Each Adopting Employer shall be entitled to vote in any election or other matter placed before the membership as provided in the bylaws of the Board of Trustees.

**Section 15.07. Voting Representative for the Adopting Employer.** The Pension Committee Secretary or other designated representative of the Pension Committee shall be the

official representative of the Adopting Employer to cast the Adopting Employer's vote in any election of members of the Board of Trustees and in any other matters which the membership has the authority and responsibility for resolving, unless the Adopting Employer notifies GMEBS to the contrary in writing.

**Section 15.08. Qualified Public Accountant.** The Administrator may engage on behalf of all Participants an independent qualified public accountant to conduct such an examination of any financial statements of the Plan, and of other books and records of the Plan, as the qualified public accountant may deem necessary to enable him to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements and schedules required to be included in the annual report of the Plan are presented fairly in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to a governmental plan, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding Plan Year and who shall perform such other services for the Plan as the Administrator may require.

**Section 15.09. Fiduciary Insurance.** The Board of Trustees may purchase fiduciary liability insurance for any of its fiduciaries, or for itself, to cover liability or losses occurring by reason of the act or omission of a fiduciary.

## **ARTICLE XVI.**

### **GMEBS TRUST AGREEMENT**

**Section 16.01. General Provisions.** All contributions under the Plan shall be transferred to the Trust to be held, managed, invested, and distributed as part of the Trust Fund by the Board in accordance with the provisions of the Plan and GMEBS Trust Agreement. All benefits under the Plan shall be distributed solely from the Trust Fund. The Board shall distribute the corpus and income of the Trust Fund to the Participants and their Beneficiaries in accordance with applicable state and federal law and the Plan. At no time prior to the satisfaction of all liabilities with respect to Participants and their Beneficiaries shall any part of the corpus or



income be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than the exclusive benefit of the Participants and their beneficiaries.

**Section 16.02. Group Trust Participation.**

(a) If the investment is otherwise a permitted investment under Chapters 5 and 20 of Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., the Board may, unless otherwise restricted by law, transfer all or any portion of the assets of the Trust to a collective or common group trust, as permitted under Revenue Ruling 81-100, as modified by Revenue Rulings 2004-67 and 2011-1 (or subsequent guidance), that is operated or maintained exclusively for the commingling and collective investment of monies, and in such case the group trust agreement shall be deemed adopted as part of the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Trust Agreement without further action by the Board.

(b) The separate account maintained by the group trust for an Adopting Employer's Plan pursuant to subsection (a) above shall not be used for, or diverted to, any purpose other than for the exclusive benefit of the Participants and beneficiaries of the Adopting Employer's Plan, subject to the provisions in Article XVIII of the GMEBS Master Plan relating to the distribution of excess assets in the event of a plan termination.

(c) For purposes of valuation, the value of the separate account maintained by the group trust for an Adopting Employer's Plan shall be the fair market value of the portion of the group trust held for the Adopting Employer's Plan, determined in accordance with generally recognized valuation procedures.

**ARTICLE XVII.**

**CLAIMS AND LITIGATION**

**Section 17.01. Disputes.** In the event of disagreement between a Participant and the Adopting Employer with respect to any rights, claims, or responsibilities under the Plan which

cannot be resolved by the Pension Committee as provided under Article XV, the Participant may make an appeal regarding such rights, claims, or responsibilities to the Governing Authority. In the event that any such rights, claims, or responsibilities result in a suit or other legal action by a Participant or Beneficiary, such action shall be defended in the same manner as other suits against the Adopting Employer. Any legal action on behalf of the Adopting Employer with regard to the Plan shall be first authorized by the Governing Authority and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by the Governing Authority. GMEBS shall have no responsibility to defend or pursue legal action arising under the Plan.

**Section 17.02. Disputes involving Federal or State Law Compliance.** In the event there is a dispute involving federal or state law compliance, between a Participant or Beneficiary and the Governing Authority or the Trustees, or between an Adopting Employer and the Trustees, GMEBS is a necessary party to any such dispute, or suit, settlement, or release arising therefrom.

**Section 17.03. Failure to Act.** GMEBS shall not be responsible for the failure of the Adopting Employers to perform any of their obligations under the Plan, including the duty to remit payments to GMEBS, to provide necessary records concerning Participants and their Earnings to GMEBS, or to perform any other functions required of the Adopting Employers by applicable law, the Master Plan, the Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), the GMEBS Trust Agreement, or by the rules and regulations of GMEBS. To the extent permitted under state and federal law, each Adopting Employer shall indemnify and hold GMEBS harmless for any failure to pay, delay in payment or other errors in processing benefits pursuant to this Plan due to the Adopting Employer's failure to perform its obligations under the Plan or provide accurate data to GMEBS for the purpose of administering the Plan.

## ARTICLE XVIII.

### AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION

**Section 18.01. Amendment of the Plan by an Adopting Employer.** The Governing Authority shall have the right at any time, and from time to time, to amend, in whole or in part, any or all of its elections in the Adoption Agreement; provided, however, that no such amendment shall:

- (a) Reduce the previously Accrued Benefit of any Participant or Beneficiary; or,
- (b) Authorize or permit any part of the Trust Fund held by the Board to be diverted to purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of Participants and their Beneficiaries; or,
- (c) Operate to deprive any Participant or Beneficiary of any rights or benefits irrevocably Vested in him under the Plan prior to such amendment, except that the Governing Authority may make any and all changes or modifications to the Adoption Agreement necessary to qualify the Plan or to keep the Plan qualified under the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder, or any amendment thereto; or,
- (d) Become effective until approved by the Administrator. In order to be approved by the Administrator, any amendment must comply with all applicable state and federal laws and the Master Plan. If the Administrator does not approve an amendment, the Administrator shall continue to administer the Plan as if such amendment had not been made.

In no event may an Adopting Employer amend the Master Plan or the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

**Section 18.02. Amendment of Plan by GMEBS.**

(a) It is the intent of the Board that the Master Plan, Adoption Agreement form and Addendum form (collectively referred to for purposes of this Section 18.02 as "Plan") shall be and remain qualified for tax purposes under the Code. The Administrator shall timely submit the

Plan for approval under the Code as necessary, and all expenses incident thereto shall be borne by the GMEBS Investment Fund.

(b) GMEBS will maintain a record of the Participating Employers, and GMEBS will make reasonable and diligent efforts to ensure that Adopting Employers have actually received and are aware of all Plan amendments and that such Adopting Employers adopt new documents when necessary. The provisions of this subsection shall supersede other provisions of the Plan to the extent those other provisions are inconsistent.

(c) The Board or the Practitioner, as directed by the Board, hereby reserves the right to amend the Plan without the consent of the Adopting Employers or of Participants (or any Beneficiaries thereof) to make desired changes in the design of the Plan. A true copy of the resolution of the Board approving such amendment shall be delivered to the Administrator and the Adopting Employers. The Plan shall be amended in the manner and effective as of the date set forth in such resolution, and the Adopting Employers, Employees, Participants, Beneficiaries, the Administrator, and all others having any interest under the Plan shall be bound thereby.

(d) On and after February 17, 2005, the Practitioner shall have the authority to advise and prepare amendments to the Plan, for approval by the Board, on behalf of all Adopting Employers, including those Adopting Employers who have adopted the Plan prior to the January 1, 2013, restatement of the Plan, for changes in the Code, the regulations thereunder, revenue rulings, other statements published by Internal Revenue Service, including model, sample, or other required good faith amendments (but only if their adoption will not cause such Plan to be individually designed), and for corrections of prior approved plans. These amendments shall be applied to all Adopting Employers. Employer notice and signature requirements have been met for all Adopting Employers before the effective date of February 17,

2005. In any event, any amendment prepared by the Practitioner and approved by the Board will be provided by the Administrator to Adopting Employers.

(e) Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraphs (c) and (d), effective on or after January 1, 2016, for any Adopting Employer as of either:

(1) the date the Internal Revenue Service requires the Adopting Employer to file Form 5300 as an individually designed plan as a result of an amendment by the Adopting Employer to incorporate a type of Plan not allowable in a volume submitter plan, or

(2) as of the date the Plan is otherwise considered an individually designed plan due to the nature and extent of the amendments,

such Adopting Employer shall execute a resolution to adopt any amendments that are approved by the Board after the date under subparagraph (1) or (2) above, as applicable, within the earlier of (i) ninety (90) days after such Board approval, or (ii) if applicable, the remedial amendment period under Code Section 401(b) as applicable to governmental plans. If the Adopting Employer is required to obtain a determination letter for any reason in order to maintain reliance on the advisory letter, the Practitioner's authority to amend the Plan on behalf of the Adopting Employer is conditioned on the Plan receiving a favorable determination letter.

**Section 18.03. Termination by Adopting Employer.**

(a) The Adopting Employer expects the Plan to be continued indefinitely but, of necessity, reserves the right to terminate its Plan and Contributions thereunder at any time by action of the Governing Authority, subject to the Administrator's approval. Such termination shall be accomplished by the adoption of an ordinance or resolution (as applicable) by the Governing Authority terminating the Plan. Such ordinance or resolution (as applicable) shall

conform to the rules and regulations of the Board governing Plan termination to the extent they are consistent with this provision.

(b) Upon full or partial termination or a complete discontinuance of Employer contributions, all affected Eligible Employees shall be deemed to be Participants, and the Accrued Benefits of such Participants shall be Vested to the extent funded required by federal law. The Pension Committee shall notify Participants, Terminated Vested Participants, Retired Participants, and Beneficiaries of the full termination of the Plan, and shall provide a copy of such notice and the names and addresses of the persons notified to the Administrator.

(c) Upon termination, the Adopting Employer shall provide to the Administrator current Participant information necessary to calculate Accrued Benefits. Upon receipt of such information, the Administrator shall prepare a list of all the Adopting Employer's Participants, Retired Participants, Terminated Vested Participants, and Beneficiaries, showing for each the present value of his Accrued Benefit, as determined by the GMEBS Actuary as of the date of termination.

(d) The Administrator, in accordance with the Board's current rules and regulations, and with generally accepted accounting practices, shall determine the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the termination date. All mandatory Employee Contributions, if any, plus interest, and all Contributions made to purchase service credit, if any, plus any applicable interest, shall be paid from the Trust Fund to the Participants, to the extent of available Trust Fund assets. The Administrator shall then deduct from the Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in terminating the Plan. The Administrator, pursuant to the Board's rules and regulations, shall then allocate the remaining assets for distribution of the present value of Accrued Benefits in lump sums to the classes listed

below. The benefits of each class shall be satisfied before proceeding to the next class. If at any time the remaining Plan assets would be insufficient to provide the present value of Accrued Benefits for the class in question, the remaining assets shall be applied on a pro rata basis within that class, and all subsequent classes shall receive no benefit. The pro rata allocation referred to above will be determined based upon the comparative value of each class member's Accrued Benefit (present value expressed in a lump sum) when measured against the lump sum present value of Accrued Benefits for the class as a whole.

CLASS A – Retired Participants or Beneficiaries who are receiving payments as of the termination date.

CLASS B – Participants delaying Retirement beyond the Normal Retirement Date.

CLASS C – Participants eligible for Early Retirement.

CLASS D – Other Participants, terminated or active, who have met the requirements for vesting as of the termination date.

CLASS E – All other Participants on a pro rata basis. Payment of benefits to Retired Participants, Beneficiaries, and Participants by the Administrator as a result of a Plan termination shall be limited solely to the assets available in the Trust Fund.

(e) In its termination ordinance, the Governing Authority shall instruct the Administrator as to the distribution of excess assets, if any, remaining after the satisfaction of Accrued Benefits for the classes enumerated herein. In the absence of such instructions, any excess assets shall be distributed to the Adopting Employer.

(f) Upon distribution of the assets as specified above, the Adoption Agreement, Master Plan, and GMEBS Trust Agreement shall be regarded as terminated as to that Adopting Employer and no Participant or Beneficiary shall have any further rights or claim herein.

**Section 18.04. Amendment of the Plan to Transfer Assets; Termination of Contract.**

(a) The Adopting Employer may amend the Adoption Agreement by ordinance or resolution (as applicable) so as to provide for the transfer of assets to a successor trustee and to terminate the existing Contract between the Adopting Employer and the Board. Any such ordinance or resolution shall comply with Section 18.01 and with the requirements of the rules and regulations of the Board regarding amendment and transfer of Plan assets, to the extent they are consistent with this Section.

(b) In addition to other requirements, such ordinance or resolution shall:

(1) Designate a new trustee or trustees to replace the Board;

(2) Establish a month-end termination date, which shall be used for purposes of valuing the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets and which shall be fixed by the Administrator, taking into account the time reasonably required to liquidate GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund assets (if necessary) for purposes of the termination and transfer, the impact of the termination on the financial integrity of the Retirement System, and the time reasonably required for GMEBS and the terminating Employer to complete necessary administrative tasks associated with the termination. The termination date will be no earlier than forty-five (45) days after the Adopting Employer provides written notice to the Administrator of its intent to terminate;



(3) Provide that after the established termination date, GMEBS shall have no further responsibility or obligation to administer the terminating Employer's retirement plan, except as otherwise agreed and provided for by GMEBS and the terminating Employer in the ordinance or resolution;

(4) Provide that the value of assets of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the established termination date shall be determined based upon the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as reflected in the unaudited financial statements for the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund as of the established termination date, subject to verification and reconciliation against the most recent GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund audit coinciding with or following the termination date.

(5) Provide for the transfer of assets held in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund to the successor trustee as follows:

(A) that no transfer shall take place until a successor Code Section 401(a) retirement plan and trust document have been adopted by the Adopting Employer and furnished to GMEBS, together with a current IRS determination letter or an opinion letter from an attorney confirming that the successor retirement plan is tax qualified under Code Section 401(a);

(B) that as soon as reasonably practicable after the established termination date, the Administrator will make an initial transfer to the successor trustee of an amount to be determined by the Administrator in its sole discretion, but in no event more than eighty-five percent (85%) of the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund, as reflected in the then most recently completed unaudited monthly financial statement for the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund;

and that prior to the completion of the initial transfer, the Administrator shall deduct from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in effecting the termination of the Adopting Employer's participation in GMEBS and the transfer of assets to the successor trustee;

(C) that as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of the GMEBS Retirement Fund unaudited financial statement for the month including the established termination date, the Administrator will make a second transfer to the successor trustee in an amount equal to the remainder of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets, if any; and that in any event distribution of assets to the successor trustee shall be completed within the time limits specified in the GMEBS Trust Agreement;

(D) that after the established termination date, any funds remaining in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund shall not share in the gains or losses of the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund, notwithstanding any provision of the GMEBS Master Plan or Trust Agreement to the contrary; and that any investment gains or losses that would otherwise be credited to or debited from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund after the established termination date shall not be taken into account. Rather, after the established termination date through completion of the transfer of assets, any amount remaining in the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund shall earn interest at the same rate as the GMEBS active cash management account which shall be credited monthly until the transfer of assets is completed; and,

(E) that if the audit of the GMEBS Retirement Trust Fund for the year including the established termination date reflects that the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund on the termination date was understated or overstated in the unaudited financial statement relied upon, then GMEBS or the Adopting Employer shall remit to the other the amount of any overpayment or underpayment, unless said amount is less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000). Such remittance shall be made in a lump sum with interest. Said interest shall be calculated at the same rate as the GMEBS active cash management account and credited monthly as of the last day of each month following the established termination date up until the date of the remittance.

(6) Provide that the assets of the Plan will continue to be held by the successor trustee for the exclusive benefit of Participants and Beneficiaries.

(7) State that the existing retirement rights of Employees, Participants, and Beneficiaries shall not be impaired.

(8) Provide that upon completion of the transfer of assets, the GMEBS Board of Trustees shall have no further fiduciary responsibility for investment of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund assets or payment of liabilities, and the Adopting Employer's Contract and participation under the GMEBS Trust Agreement shall be considered terminated.

(9) Provide that, to the extent permitted by federal, state or local law, the Adopting Employer agrees to indemnify the Board of Trustees and the Administrator from and against any loss, liability or claim arising out of the Employer's maintenance of the Plan from and after the date of the final transfer of assets.

(10) Provide that the surviving plan must provide each Participant on whose behalf Plan assets are transferred a benefit equal to or greater than the benefit he had accrued, if any, immediately before transfer of assets.

**Section 18.05. Involuntary Termination.**

(a) The Board may involuntarily terminate the Plan as to an Adopting Employer in the event of any of the following occurrences:

(1) Failure of the Employer to comply with the terms of the Master Plan, Adoption Agreement, or GMEBS Trust Agreement including, but not limited to, failure to pay required Contributions in a timely manner;

(2) Failure of the Adopting Employer to provide to GMEBS or respond to requests from GMEBS for information necessary for GMEBS to administer the Plan;

(3) Failure of the Adopting Employer to adequately fund the Plan in accordance with the GMEBS funding policy, or to adopt or abide by a funding action plan approved by the Board;

(4) Receipt of written notice from an Adopting Employer's Governing Authority of its intent to discontinue further Contributions;

(5) Insistence by the Employer on enforcing an amendment to the Adoption Agreement which the Board has disapproved; or

(6) Failure of the Adopting Employer to maintain qualification status under Code Sections 401(a) and 414(d).

(b) The rights, benefits, and entitlements under the Plan of any Participant, including those of his Beneficiary, any other provision of the Plan notwithstanding, before or after Retirement, death, or other termination of employment shall, upon the failure of the Adopting

Employer to pay and to continue to pay its required Contributions, be limited as specified in this Article.

(c) In the event of an involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board may in its sole discretion adopt a resolution providing for: (i) designation of the members of the Employer's Governing Authority as successor trustees for the Plan; (ii) designation of a person or entity other than the Employer's Governing Authority as successor trustee for the Plan; or (iii) outright termination of the Plan and distribution of assets to Participants and Beneficiaries. The specific terms and conditions associated with involuntary termination shall be as provided in the Board resolution. Neither the Administrator nor the GMEBS Board shall be subject to lawsuit or liability arising from the exercise of its discretion as provided herein.

(d) The Administrator shall notify the Governing Authority, Participants, and Beneficiaries in writing of an involuntary termination and the reasons therefor. Said notice shall also fix a termination date. Upon the request of the Administrator, the Employer shall within a reasonable period provide the Administrator with the last known addresses of Participants and Beneficiaries for this purpose. Neither the Administrator nor the GMEBS Board shall be subject to lawsuit or liability for non-compliance with this paragraph arising from the failure of the Employer to provide such information to the Administrator.

(e) The Administrator shall determine the value of the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund as of the termination date in accordance with the procedures described in Section 18.05(b)(4) of this Article. The Board shall deduct from the Trust Fund a termination fee established by GMEBS for services provided in effecting termination of the Adopting Employer's participation in GMEBS.

(f) Successor Trustee.

(1) Governing Authority as Successor Trustee. If upon voluntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution designates the members of the Employer's Governing Authority as successor trustees, the Adopting Employer shall be obligated to furnish GMEBS with a successor retirement plan and related documents as provided in Section 18.04(b)(5)(A). Distribution of assets to the Governing Authority or to a designee specified by the Governing Authority in writing, as successor trustee, shall then occur in accordance with the transfer procedures described in Section 18.04(b)(5). Payment of benefits to Retired Participants and Beneficiaries shall become the responsibility of the Governing Authority, as successor trustees, as of the termination date, except as otherwise provided in the Board's termination resolution.

(2) Other Entity as Successor Trustee. If upon involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution designates a successor trustee other than the members of the Employer's Governing Authority, distribution of assets to the successor trustee shall occur in accordance with the transfer procedures described in Section 18.04(b)(5) upon the Board's receipt of retirement plan and related documents as described in Section 18.04(b)(5)(A), and any other information reasonably requested by the Board. Payment of benefits to the Retired Participants and Beneficiaries shall become the responsibility of the successor trustee as of the termination date, except as otherwise provided in the Board's termination resolution.

(3) Termination without Successor Trustee. If upon involuntary termination, the GMEBS Board by resolution terminates the Employer's Plan outright, the assets of the Employer's Trust Fund will not be transferred to a successor trustee, but will be

distributed to Participants and Beneficiaries in accordance with and subject to the termination provisions of Section 18.03(b)-(f), except as otherwise provided in this subsection. The Employer shall provide current Participant information necessary to calculate Accrued Benefits as required under Section 18.03(c), within a reasonable period after the Administrator's request for such information. Any excess assets remaining after satisfaction of Accrued Benefits and payment of the termination fee shall be distributed to the Employer.

(g) Freezing of Benefit Accruals. In the event of an Employer's failure to pay required Contributions, the GMEBS Board may by resolution freeze benefit accruals under the Employer's Plan, as an alternative to involuntary termination. If the Board adopts such a resolution, the Employer's Plan must continue to be maintained as a qualified plan and the Employer will be responsible for funding benefits as determined under the frozen Plan's provisions. The Board's resolution to freeze benefit accruals shall specify the extent to which Service and Earnings after the freeze date will or will not be counted for purposes of computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan, and for purposes of meeting the minimum service requirements for vesting and benefit eligibility under the Plan. The resolution shall also specify the conditions for recommencing benefit accruals under the Plan. The resolution may also provide that, in the event of an Employer's continued failure to pay required Contributions, the Employer's Plan will be terminated outright as of a date certain or upon the Board's adoption of a resolution providing for outright termination, consistent with the provisions of subsection (f)(3).

(h) The Board in its discretion may require an Employer to obtain appropriate IRS approval of the qualified status of the terminating Plan or a successor plan.

(i) In the event that an Adopting Employer fails to comply with the terms of the Master Plan, Adoption Agreement, or GMEBS Trust Agreement including, but not limited to, failure to pay required Contributions in a timely manner, the Board may in its sole discretion pursue any other legal or equitable means that it deems appropriate, including the filing of a writ of mandamus, to facilitate such compliance.

**Section 18.06. Termination of the Master Plan by the Board.** The Board reserves the right to completely terminate the Master Plan and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. In such an event, the provisions of Section 18.03 shall be applied to each Adopting Employer.

#### **ARTICLE XIX.**

#### **NON-ALIENATION OF BENEFITS**

(a) None of the benefits, payments, proceeds, or distributions payable under the Plan shall be subject to the claim of any creditor of any Participant or to the claim of any creditor of any Beneficiary hereunder, or to any legal process of levy or attachment by any creditor of any such Participant or Beneficiary; and no such benefits shall be in any manner liable for or subject to the debts, liabilities, engagements, or torts of any Participant or Beneficiary; and neither shall any such Participant or Beneficiary have any right to alienate, commute, anticipate, transfer, encumber, pledge, or assign any of the benefits, payments, proceeds, or distributions under this Plan.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to preclude the Administrator, subject to any terms and conditions set by the Administrator, from making a deduction and direct payment to the Adopting Employer or GMEBS on behalf of a Retired Participant for the limited purpose of paying for a contribution or premium for a post retirement benefit offered by the Adopting Employer or GMEBS, if the Retired Participant elects to have such deduction and



direct payment made. An election by the Retired Participant for such deduction and direct payment may be revoked at any time.

(c) Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to preclude the Administrator, subject to any terms and conditions set by the Administrator, from making a deduction and direct payment on behalf of a Retired Participant as provided under Section 845(a)(4)(D) of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 in its current form or as amended, and as interpreted by the Internal Revenue Service, for the limited purpose of paying premiums for coverage for an eligible retired public safety officer, his spouse, and dependents, by an accident or health insurance plan or qualified long-term care insurance contract as defined in Section 7702B(b) of Title 26 of the United States Code, if the Retired Participant elects to have such deduction and direct payment made. An election by a Retired Participant for such deduction and direct payment may be revoked at any time.

## **ARTICLE XX.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Section 20.01. Construction.**

(a) Words used in this Plan in the masculine gender shall be construed to include the feminine gender where appropriate, and words used in this Plan in the singular or plural shall be construed as being in the plural or singular where appropriate.

(b) The Plan shall be construed, enforced, and administered and the validity thereof determined in accordance with the Code, and, when not inconsistent with the Code, the laws of the State of Georgia and the bylaws of the Board.

(c) In resolving any conflict between provisions of the Plan and in resolving any other uncertainty as to the meaning or intention of any provision of the Plan, the interpretation that (i) causes the Plan to constitute a qualified governmental retirement plan under the

provisions of Code Sections 401 and 414(d) and the Trust as exempt from tax under Code Sections 501 and 115, and (ii) causes the Plan to comply with all applicable requirements of the Code and federal law shall prevail over any different interpretation.

(d) In resolving any conflict between the Plan and any policy or contract issued under the Plan, the provisions of the Plan shall prevail.

(e) The headings and subheadings in the Plan are inserted for convenience of reference only and are not to be considered in the construction of any provision of the Plan.

(f) The terms of this Master Plan document shall control except as otherwise provided in an Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, if applicable), as accepted by or on behalf of the GMEBS Board, in which case the terms of the Adopting Employer's Adoption Agreement (including any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement) shall control.

(g) Neither the establishment nor maintenance of the Plan nor any amendment thereof, nor any act or omission under the Plan or resulting from the operation of the Plan shall be construed:

(1) as conferring upon any Participant, beneficiary, or any other person a right or claim against the GMEBS Investment Fund, the Trust Fund, the Trustees, the Adopting Employer, or the Administrator, except to the extent that such right or claim shall be specifically expressed and provided in the Plan;

(2) as a contract or Agreement between the Adopting Employer and any Participant or other person;

(3) as being consideration for, or an inducement or condition of, employment of any Participant or other person, or as affecting or restricting in any manner or to any

extent whatsoever the rights or obligations of the Adopting Employer or any Participant or other person to continue or terminate the employment relationship at any time; or

(4) as giving any Participant the right to be retained in the service of the Adopting Employer or to interfere with the right of the Adopting Employer to discharge any Participant or other person at any time.

**Section 20.02. Non-Diversion.**

(a) The assets of the Plan shall never inure to the benefit of an Adopting Employer and shall be held for the exclusive purposes of providing benefits to Participants in the Plan and their beneficiaries and defraying reasonable expenses of administering the Plan, except in the case of a contribution which is made by an Adopting Employer under a mistake of fact as determined solely by the Administrator. Such contribution shall be returned to the Adopting Employer, upon demand, and shall be reduced for any loss incurred but unadjusted for any gains earned during the time the mistaken contribution was part of the Trust Fund.

(b) Trust assets shall be managed in compliance with Code Section 503(b).

**Section 20.03. Legally Incompetent; Power of Attorney.** Any Participant, Retired Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, or Beneficiary receiving or claiming benefits under the Plan shall be conclusively presumed to be mentally competent and of age until the Administrator receives a written notice, in a form and manner acceptable to it, that such person is incompetent or a minor, and that a guardian or other person legally vested with the care of his estate has been appointed. In the event a guardian of the estate of any person receiving or claiming benefits under the Plan shall be appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, payments shall be made to such guardian and the guardian may take any and all actions with respect to the person's interest under the Plan in accordance with the terms of the appointment,

provided that proper proof of appointment is furnished in a form and manner suitable to the Administrator. Any payment so made shall be a complete discharge of liability therefor under the Plan. No person may act as an attorney-in-fact for an Employee, Participant, Terminated Vested Participant, Retired Participant or Beneficiary with respect to a matter involving the Plan unless a valid power of attorney document appointing such person and authorizing such action is submitted in a form and manner acceptable to the Administrator. The Administrator shall be entitled to rely upon a power of attorney document which it reasonably determines to be valid, without liability for actions taken by the Administrator at the request of the designated attorney-in-fact, unless and until the Administrator receives notice that the power of attorney is no longer effective.

**Section 20.04. Benefits Supported Only by Trust Fund.** Any person having any claim under the Plan shall look solely to the assets of the Trust Fund for satisfaction. In no event shall the Adopting Employer, or any of its employees or agents, be liable in their individual capacities to any person whomsoever, under the provisions of the Plan or of the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

**Section 20.05. Non-Discrimination.** The Adopting Employer, through the Pension Committee, shall administer the Plan in a uniform and consistent manner with respect to all Participants.

**Section 20.06. Limitation of Liability; Legal Actions.**

(a) It is expressly understood and agreed by each Employee who becomes a Participant hereunder that, except for willful neglect or fraud, neither the Adopting Employer, the Plan Representative, nor the Board of Trustees shall be in any way subject to any suit or litigation, or to any legal liability, for any cause or reason or thing whatsoever, in connection

with the Plan or its operation, and each such Participant hereby releases the Adopting Employer, all its employees and agents, the Plan Representative, and the Board of Trustees from any and all liability or obligation.

(b) The Adopting Employer and the Plan Representative shall be the only necessary parties to any action or proceeding involving any rights under the Plan or the proper administration thereof, and no Participant, Beneficiary, or other persons having or claiming to have an interest in the Plan shall be entitled to any notice of process. Any final judgment which is not appealed or appealable that may be entered in any such action or proceeding shall be binding and conclusive on the parties hereto and all persons having or claiming to have an interest in the Plan.

Each fiduciary under the Plan shall be responsible only for the specific duties assigned under the Plan and shall not be directly or indirectly responsible for the duties assigned to another fiduciary. Any person or a group of persons may serve in more than one (1) fiduciary capacity with respect to the Plan.

**Section 20.07. Claims.** Any payment to a Participant or Beneficiary, or to their legal representatives, in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, shall to the extent thereof be in full satisfaction of all claims hereunder against the Plan Representative or the Adopting Employer, either of which may require such Participant, Beneficiary, or legal representative, as a condition precedent to such payment, to execute a receipt and release therefor in such form as shall be determined by the Plan Representative or the Adopting Employer.

**Section 20.08. Errors in Benefits.**

(a) Effective upon issuance of an Internal Revenue Service favorable advisory letter which covers this provision, notwithstanding any provision in this Section 20.08 to the contrary,

any action upon an underpayment or overpayment shall be brought within six (6) years after the same becomes due and payable. Likewise, GMEBS shall not be required to correct any underpayment or overpayment more than six (6) years after said underpayment or overpayment occurred.

(b) Underpayments. Any underpayments from the Trust Fund to a Retired Participant or to a Beneficiary caused by administrative errors shall be corrected with interest compounded annually from the date of the miscalculated payment. The rate applied shall be the actuarially assumed rate utilized by the plan actuary for estimating future plan investment earnings or, effective on and after January 1, 2014, such other rate established by the Board that is permissible under federal and state law and applicable guidance as of the date of the correction. Underpayments shall be made up from the Adopting Employer's Trust Fund. Effective with respect to underpayments corrected on or after January 1, 2017, in the event a Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary or Post-Retirement Beneficiary to whom a corrective payment is due dies before such payment is made, said corrective payment shall be paid to such Retired Participant's, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's designated beneficiary, as defined in this subsection (b) or, if there is no such designated beneficiary, to the deceased Retired Participant's, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary's or Post-Retirement Beneficiary's estate. For purposes of this subsection, the term "designated beneficiary" shall mean the surviving Spouse of such Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, and the term "surviving" shall mean surviving the Retired Participant, Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, or Post-Retirement Beneficiary, as applicable, by at least thirty-two (32) days.

(c) Overpayments. In the event of an overpayment from the Trust Fund to a Retired Participant or to a Beneficiary caused by administrative error, the following provisions shall apply:

(1) Corrective Amendment Option. In the event of an overpayment that is due to misapplication of the terms of the Plan, the Adopting Employer may be provided the opportunity to amend its Adoption Agreement (a "Corrective Amendment") in order to provide for such overpayment to be permissible under the terms of the plan, but only if the Corrective Amendment is consistent with the circumstances resulting in the overpayment and with the Master Plan, as determined by the Administrator. The Corrective Amendment may be effective either retroactively only, or both retroactively and prospectively.

(2) Determination of Reasonableness of Collection from Retired Participants or Beneficiaries. In the event that the Adopting Employer does not adopt a Corrective Amendment, or that the circumstances resulting in the overpayment or the Master Plan would not permit such an amendment, the Administrator and the Adopting Employer will consult in making a determination of whether collection of the overpayment (in full or in part) from a Retired Participant or Beneficiary is reasonable under the particular facts and circumstances involved. In their determination, the Administrator and the Adopting Employer shall consider (1) the hardship of collection on the Retired Participant or Beneficiary; (2) any legal impediments to collection; and (3) the potential risk of litigation if collection is pursued, in consultation with the affected Adopting Employer's counsel.

(3) Failure to Reach Agreement on Reasonableness of Collection. If the Administrator and the Adopting Employer cannot reach agreement within six (6) months as to whether collection of an overpayment from a Retired Participant or Beneficiary is reasonable, the Board shall make this determination, considering the factors outlined above in paragraph (2).

(4) Collection Process. If a determination under this subsection is made that collection from the Retired Participant or Beneficiary is reasonable, the overpayment shall be corrected with interest compounded annually from the date of the miscalculated payment. The rate applied shall be the actuarially assumed rate utilized by the plan actuary for estimating future plan investment earnings or, effective on and after January 1, 2014, such other rate established by the Board that is permissible under federal and state law and applicable guidance as of the date of the correction. In collecting amounts of the overpayment (in full or in part), the Administrator shall have the discretion to use any of the following options: (i) single sum payments; (ii) installment payments; (iii) actuarial reduction of future Retirement payments; or (iv) deductions from Retirement payments. Retirement payment deductions shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the amount of payment from which the deduction is made.

(5) Corrective Payment by Adopting Employer. If full collection of an overpayment is not achieved, either because of a determination that full collection from the Retired Participant or Beneficiary is not reasonable, or because efforts at collection do not result in a full collection of the overpayment, the Adopting Employer shall be responsible for making a separate, supplemental contribution to the Trust Fund in the amount of any uncollected overpayment, including interest as calculated under paragraph



(4) ("corrective contribution"). Any corrective contribution by a Participating Employer must be made at the same time that the next regular employer contribution is due under the Plan. In the event employer contributions are paid in installments, the corrective contribution may be paid over that same installment period, but not to exceed a twelve (12) month period. The corrective contribution may not be included as a portion of the general liability of the Plan for which regular funding contributions are made.

(6) Alternative Correction Approach. If the overpayment involves circumstances that are not addressed in the preceding provisions of this subsection, or if in the determination of the GMEBS board, the overpayment cannot be practicably or appropriately corrected using the methods addressed in this subsection, the Administrator may develop a correction approach that is appropriate under the circumstances, permissible under state and federal law and applicable guidance, and equitable to the parties involved.

(d) Overpayments Due to Delay in Notification of Death of Participant or Beneficiary.

(1) In the event that GMEBS makes a payment to a Retired Participant or to a beneficiary following the death of such Participant or beneficiary, GMEBS will make reasonable efforts (not including litigation or collections processes) to recover said overpayment for a period of 60 days after receiving notice from the Adopting Employer of the Participant's or beneficiary's death. If after 60 days from the date on which GMEBS receives notice of the Participant's or beneficiary's death, GMEBS is unable to recover the overpayment, the Adopting Employer shall be responsible for making a separate, supplemental contribution to the Trust Fund in the amount of any such uncollected overpayment, including interest as calculated under paragraph (c)(4) above

("corrective contribution"). Any corrective contribution by an Adopting Employer must be made at the same time that the next regular Employer Contribution is due under the Plan. In the event Employer Contributions are paid in installments, the corrective contribution may be paid over that same installment period, but not to exceed a twelve (12) month period. The corrective contribution may not be included as a portion of the general liability of the Plan for which regular funding contributions are made.

(2) If the overpayment involves circumstances that are not addressed in the preceding provisions of this subsection, or if in the determination of the GMEBS Board, the overpayment cannot be practicably or appropriately corrected using the methods addressed in this subsection, the Administrator may develop a correction approach that is appropriate under the circumstances, permissible under state and federal law and applicable guidance, and equitable to the parties involved.

**Section 20.09. Notice.** Any notice given under the Plan shall be sufficient if given to: (1) the Board if addressed to the Administrator at its office; (2) the Adopting Employer if addressed to the address of the Governing Authority indicated in the Adoption Agreement; or (3) a Participant or Beneficiary, when addressed to the Participant at his or her address as it appears in the records of the Administrator or the Adopting Employer.

**Section 20.10. Right of Recovery.** If the Administrator makes any payment that according to the terms of the Plan and the benefits provided hereunder should not have been made, the Administrator may recover that incorrect payment, whether or not it was made due to the error of the Administrator, from the person to whom it was made, or from any other appropriate party. If any such incorrect payment is made directly to a Participant, the provisions of Section 20.08 apply.

**Section 20.11. Evidence of Action.** All ordinances, resolutions, forms, orders, requests, documents and instructions provided to the Administrator by an Adopting Employer or by any duly authorized representative (e.g., Plan Representative or Pension Committee Secretary), shall be in writing and the Administrator shall be fully protected in acting in accordance with such ordinances, resolutions, forms, orders, requests, documents and instructions.

**Section 20.12. Reliance.** The Administrator or Board shall not incur any liability in acting upon any notice, request, signed letter, telegram, form, or other paper or document believed by the Administrator or Board to be genuine or to be executed or sent by an authorized person.

**Section 20.13. Information to Administrator.** As a condition precedent to GMEBS's administration of the Plan, the Adopting Employer shall provide current information to the Administrator including but not limited to the name, date of birth, date of employment, Enrollment Date, annual Earnings, leaves of absences, Vesting eligibility, Credited Service and Termination date for each Eligible Employee who is or who is expected to become a Participant under the Plan, together with any other information which the Administrator deems necessary. The information provided by the Adopting Employer to the Administrator shall be conclusive as to all persons.

**Section 20.14. Participant Data to Administrator.** Each Participant and each Beneficiary of a deceased Participant, as applicable, must provide the Administrator any evidence, data or other information as requested by the Administrator for the purpose of administering the Plan. The provisions of this Plan are effective for the benefit of each Participant upon the condition precedent that each Participant furnishes promptly full, true and

complete evidence, data and information when requested by the Administrator. The Administrator shall advise each Participant of the effect of the failure to comply with its request.

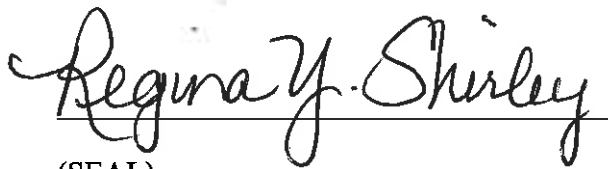
**Section 20.15. Treatment of Vacated Court Orders.** Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a period of employment that was compelled by court order which was subsequently vacated, reversed, or otherwise set aside shall not count as Credited Service under the Plan, except for a period, or partial period, during which the Participant satisfied the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan. Likewise, Earnings paid to a Participant during any such period shall not be used to compute the Participant's Final Average Earnings, except for a period, or partial period, during which the Participant satisfied the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan. In the event such a Participant Retires before the order compelling the Participant's reinstatement is vacated, reversed, or otherwise set aside, the Participant's Credited Service and Final Average Earnings shall be revised following such reversal, vacation or otherwise setting aside of the Participant's reinstatement, and the Participant's Retirement benefits shall be recalculated and adjusted accordingly, effective the first day of the month following such action. Any overpayments to the Participant resulting from including Credited Service and Earnings from any such period or partial period of employment during which the Participant did not satisfy the eligibility requirements for participation under the Plan shall be corrected in accordance with Section 20.08 of the Master Plan.

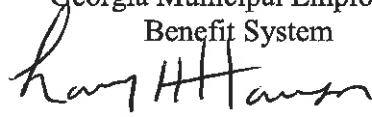
**Section 20.16. Entire Plan.** The Plan document and the documents incorporated by reference herein shall constitute the only legally governing documents for the Plan. No statement by the Trustees, Adopting Employer, or Administrator shall be used in any claim unless in writing, signed by the party against whom the claim is being made.

The terms of the foregoing Master Defined Benefit Plan Document are hereby adopted and agreed to.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System has caused its Seal and the Signatures of its duly authorized officers to be affixed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018.

Attest:

  
(SEAL)

Board of Trustees  
Georgia Municipal Employees  
Benefit System  
  
Secretary

**APPENDIX**

**REFERENCED SECTIONS OF O.C.G.A.**

Copies of sections of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated ("O.C.G.A.") referenced herein, as in effect on the date of adoption of this amended and restated Master Plan Document, are attached hereto and made a part hereof. The Georgia legislature may amend the provisions of the attached O.C.G.A. sections from time to time. Any such amendments by the Georgia legislature are afforded no reliance by the currently issued IRS advisory letter.

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**AMENDMENT TO THE RESTATED  
GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("Board") previously adopted the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("Plan"), which was restated in its entirety effective January 1, 2013, as amended, and approved by the Internal Revenue Service by advisory letter dated March 30, 2018;

**WHEREAS**, the Board amended the funding policy for the Plan on December 8, 2017, to reduce the investment return assumption used for valuation purposes from 7.75% to 7.5%;

**WHEREAS**, Section 12.06 of the GMEBS Master Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Document ("Master Plan") establishes the factors used to determine actuarial equivalency of retirement benefits other than the single life annuity and to recalculate benefits in the event of re-retirement;

**WHEREAS**, the GMEBS actuary recommends that the interest rate used in Section 12.06 of the Master Plan be the same as the investment return assumption used in the funding policy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board this Amendment 1 is hereby adopted to amend the Restated Plan, as follows:

1. Effective as of January 1, 2018, Section 12.06 of the Master Plan, regarding amendment of the Plan, is hereby amended to be and read as follows:

**Other Annuity Forms.** Conversion factors for other annuity forms shall be computed by an enrolled Actuary on an actuarially equivalent basis assuming that the Participant is retiring at age sixty-five (65) and using the RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for males and one (1) year for females and with interest of seven and one-half percent (7.5%)~~seventy-five one hundredths percent (7.75%)~~, regardless of the actual age and sex of any Participant or Beneficiary. If appropriate, such factors may vary by the difference between the Participant's age and the beneficiary's age. The value of Retirement benefits received by a Participant for purposes of Section 6.06 shall be determined using the RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for males and one (1) year for females and with interest of seven and one-half percent (7.5%)~~seventy-five one hundredths percent (7.75%)~~. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the UP 1984 Mortality Table without age setback and with interest of eight percent (8.0%) was applied for the purpose of computing other annuity forms and calculating the value of Retirement benefits received by a Participant for purposes of Section 6.06 on or after January 1, 2013

and prior to September 26, 2014, and the RP 2000 Mortality Table set forward two (2) years for males and one (1) year for females and with interest of seven and seventy-five one hundredths (7.75%) applied for such purposes from September 26, 2014 through December 31, 2017.

2. In all other respects, the Plan shall be and remain unchanged.

**RESOLVED FURTHER** by the Board that the appropriate officers of GMEBS are authorized to take any and all actions that they deem appropriate or necessary to effectuate the foregoing resolution on behalf of the Board, including giving notification to adopting employers, and making any additional non-substantive amendments to the Plan as may be necessary or appropriate, including amendments requested by the IRS, and that all prior actions taken in effectuating the foregoing are hereby ratified and confirmed in all respects.

The terms of this Resolution are approved and agreed to by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Usry, Chairman

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees at the meeting held on September 28, 2018.*



**SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS  
TO THE RESTATED  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM  
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

**I. GENERAL OVERVIEW**

On March 30, 2018, the IRS issued a favorable advisory letter for the restated Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Volume Submitter Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("DB Plan" or "Plan"). The DB Plan, as approved, incorporates required federal law updates, as well as administrative updates adopted by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS over the last several years. The IRS requires that each Adopting Employer sign an updated DB Plan Adoption Agreement (and Addendum, if applicable).

**II. SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES TO THE MASTER PLAN DOCUMENT**

Because all federal law and substantive amendments to the DB Plan were previously adopted by the Board of Trustees, participating employers have already been apprised of the amendments. However, the following information is a reminder of certain key provisions that were added to the Plan or significantly amended since the Plan was last restated in 2010.

- ❖ **Final Average Earnings and Federal Law Compensation Limits** - Final Average Earnings is defined as a set number of consecutive months of service credit (not to exceed 60 months) in which the participant's earnings were the highest. To comply with federal law, monthly earnings in excess of 1/12 of the federal annual compensation for the year in which the monthly salary was earned will not be used to compute a participant's Final Average Earnings. The monthly limit for salary earned (including payouts for unused leave, if applicable) for 2018 is \$22,916.66. Unless the Plan says otherwise, Final Average Earnings excludes severance pay.
- ❖ **Mandatory Participation; Opt Out Through Written Agreement with Employer** - Unless an employer's Adoption Agreement says participation in the Plan is optional for one or more classes of eligible employees, all eligible employees must participate in the Plan. However, if, within 120 days of becoming employed or taking office, an eligible employee (or elected official, if elected officials are permitted to participate in an employer's Plan) enters into a written agreement or employment contract agreeing not to participate in the DB Plan, the employee will be ineligible to participate in the Plan. The employer must notify GMEBS if an otherwise eligible employee has entered into such an agreement. The employee may not become a participant in the employer's Plan in the future unless the employer amends its Adoption Agreement to specifically require participation by the employee.
- ❖ **Immediate Participation for all Eligible Employees** - Effective January 1, 2015, eligible employees become participants in the Plan on the date on which they become employed. If a plan is contributory, employee contributions must begin when an eligible employee begins work. A participant must still be

## SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

employed with an employer for a minimum of one (1) year in order for his or her service to count for portability or actuarial reserve death benefit purposes.

- ❖ **Repayment of Withdrawn Employee Contributions; Interest and Timing** - If a participant who has terminated employment and withdrawn employee contributions returns to service with the employer, he or she may repay the employee contributions to restore forfeited service credit. The withdrawn funds must be repaid no later than six (6) months following reemployment, in a lump sum with interest, compounded annually from the date of withdrawal to the date of repayment.
- ❖ **No Employee Contributions While Receiving In-Service Distribution** - Participants in plans that require employee contributions and allow in-service distribution of benefits will not be required or allowed to make contributions under the plan while receiving an in-service distribution.
- ❖ **In-Service Distribution** - As a general rule, employees or elected officials may not draw retirement benefits while employed. If a plan allows in-service distribution, a participant must be at least age 62 to receive retirement benefits while employed. If a plan allows in-service distribution and has an alternative normal retirement provision with a minimum age of at least 50 specifically for public safety employees, public safety employees who are eligible for the alternative normal retirement may receive an in-service distribution even if they are younger than age 62. “In-service distribution” means a distribution of normal or alternative normal retirement benefits without a bona fide separation from service. A “bona fide separation from service” is a separation from service of at least six months with no expectation of returning to service. (For a few plans with grandfathered in-service distribution provisions, other minimum age limits may apply.)
- ❖ **Auto A Terminated Vested Death Benefits as Default** - The Auto A terminated vested death benefit applies to all vested participants who terminate employment on or after October 1, 2016, and who were not already covered by a terminated vested death benefit under the employer’s GMEBS retirement plan.
- ❖ **Default Death Beneficiaries** - Effective July 1, 2015, if a participant who is eligible for pre-retirement death benefits dies before retirement and does not have a designated pre-retirement beneficiary, his or her surviving spouse, if any, will be considered the pre-retirement beneficiary. If there is no surviving spouse, the participant’s pre-retirement death benefits will be paid in a lump sum to the participant’s estate. With the exception of the payment of the actuarial reserve in-service death benefit to the estate (which already provided for payment of death benefits to the participant’s estate in the absence of a designated pre-retirement beneficiary or surviving spouse), the amount of the pre-retirement death benefit payment to a participant’s estate will be 50% of the actuarial equivalent of the participant's vested accrued benefit.
- ❖ **Application for Disability Benefits** – The rules for retroactive disability benefits depend on when the participant terminated employment due to disability. **For a**

## SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

**participant who terminates due to disability on or after April 1, 2015**, to receive both retroactive and prospective GMEBS disability benefits, the participant must apply for disability benefits with the Social Security Administration (“SSA”), or with the Pension Committee, as applicable, within one year of termination. Within six months of receipt of the SSA award letter, the participant must submit a GMEBS retirement application and the SSA disability award letter (or Pension Committee determination of disability, if applicable) to the Pension Committee Secretary. Participants who do not meet these timing requirements but are otherwise eligible for disability benefits under the Plan can receive prospective benefits following submission of a retirement application and SSA disability award letter to GMEBS.

**For a participant who terminated due to disability on or after July 1, 2011, but before April 1, 2015**, to receive both retroactive and prospective disability benefits, the participant must have both submitted a GMEBS retirement application to the Pension Committee Secretary and applied for disability benefits with the SSA (or with the Pension Committee, as applicable) within one year of termination, and submitted the SSA disability award letter (or Pension Committee determination of disability, if applicable) to GMEBS within six months of receiving it. Participants who failed to meet these timing requirements but were otherwise eligible for disability benefits under the Plan could receive prospective benefits after submitting a GMEBS retirement application and SSA disability award letter to GMEBS.

- ❖ **Employer Indemnification of GMEBS; GMEBS Reliance on Information Provided by Employer and Participant; Payment of Benefits Conditioned on Receipt of Information** - By participating in the Plan, employers agree to indemnify and hold GMEBS harmless for any failure to pay benefits, any delay in paying benefits, or any other errors in processing benefits due to the employer’s failure to perform its obligations under the Plan or provide accurate data to GMEBS. The Plan states that GMEBS is entitled to rely on information provided to it by employers, participants and beneficiaries. Payment of benefits under the Plan is conditioned on each payee providing GMEBS accurate information.
- ❖ **Correction of Overpayments to Deceased Individual** - If a participant or beneficiary dies and GMEBS makes excess payments due to not knowing the payee has died, GMEBS will make reasonable efforts (not including litigation or collections processes) to recover the overpayment for a period of 60 days. If, after 60 days following notice of the participant’s or beneficiary’s death, GMEBS has not been able to recover the overpayment, the loss associated with overpayment will be charged against employer’s trust fund. The employer will be required to make a separate payment to the trust fund to make up for the loss. The employer may continue to try to recover the overpayment.
- ❖ **Correction of Underpayments to Deceased Individual** - With respect to underpayments corrected on or after January 1, 2017, if the corrective payment is owed to a deceased party, the corrective payment will be paid to the deceased party’s surviving spouse. If there is no surviving spouse, the benefit will be paid to the deceased party’s estate.

**Legend**

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-  Oxford
-  Trail

**Oxford Pet Friendly**



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