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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS  
SERVICES

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Deputy Executive Director

March 25, 2024

MEMORANDUM VIA E-MAIL

([jwhittington@cityofsugarhill.com](mailto:jwhittington@cityofsugarhill.com))

**TO:** Ms. Jane Whittington  
City Clerk

**FROM:** Mr. Kevin Jeselnik  
Assistant General Counsel

**SUBJECT:** Action Required: Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System  
Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement

The city of Sugar Hill previously adopted the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System ("GMEBS") Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("Plan"), which is comprised of the Basic Plan Document, Adoption Agreement, and Service Credit Purchase Addendum. The Plan is considered a "qualified plan" under the Internal Revenue Code, which is important to ensure the tax-exempt status of the trust fund.

To protect the Plan's tax-qualified status, GMEBS filed draft restated Plan documents, updated to include recent amendments and comply with changes in federal tax law, with the IRS on June 29, 2022. On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter ("IRS opinion letter") for the restated Plan documents. The IRS opinion letter provides assurance to employers providing retirement benefits for their employees through the GMEBS Plan that GMEBS is maintaining a qualified pension benefit program that allows employees to accrue benefits tax-free until retirement benefits are distributed to them.

To ensure continued tax-qualified status for all GMEBS-member retirement plans, all participating employers must readopt their plans using the most recent IRS-approved document templates. To that end, we have completed the attached Adoption Agreement and Service Credit Purchase Addendum, which include the benefit and eligibility provisions that you currently have in place, for the city's approval.

If the draft documents are acceptable, please have the designated representatives sign and date where indicated (Adoption Agreement, p. 36, and Service Credit Purchase Addendum, p. 6). Next, please scan and email the documents to Gina Gresham at [rgresham@gacities.com](mailto:rgresham@gacities.com) no later than **May 27, 2024**. We will then countersign the documents and return electronic copies to you. Please note, GMEBS will not execute documents that have been edited by the city. If the documents require revisions, please let us know before adopting them.

Ms. Jane Whittington  
March 25, 2024  
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The draft documents will take effect on the date of their approval by the city. **Please note that per O.C.G.A. § 47-5-40, the Adoption Agreement has been drafted in the form of an ordinance.**

We have also attached a copy of the restated Basic Plan Document and Amendment 1, which do not need to be adopted by the city. Finally, we have included a summary of key amendments to the Plan relating to the restatement.

If you have any questions about the information provided in this letter or require further information, please contact Gina Gresham.

Encl.

C: Mr. Frank Hartley, City Attorney, City of Sugar Hill (w/ encl.)  
Ms. Marinetty Bienvenu, Director, Retirement Quality Assurance (w/o encl.)  
Ms. Michelle Warner, Director, GMEBS Retirement and DC Programs (w/o encl.)  
Ms. Gwin Hall, Senior Associate General Counsel (w/o encl.)

**GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES**  
**BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

**AN ORDINANCE**  
**and**  
**ADOPTION AGREEMENT**  
**for**

**City of Sugar Hill**

**Form Pre-approved Plan Adoption Agreement  
Amended and Restated for Third Six-Year Cycle, 2020 Cumulative List**

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## **I. AN ORDINANCE**

An Ordinance to amend and restate the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Basic Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement. When accepted by the authorized officers of the City and GMEBS, the foregoing shall constitute a Contract between the City and GMEBS, all as authorized and provided by O.C.G.A. § 47-5-1 et seq.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority thereof:

**Section 1.** The Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, is hereby amended and restated as set forth in and subject to the terms and conditions stated in the following Adoption Agreement, any Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) Basic Plan Document, and the GMEBS Trust Agreement.

**Ordinance continued on page 36**

**II. GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**  
**ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

**1. ADMINISTRATOR**

Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System  
201 Pryor Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Telephone: 404-688-0472  
Facsimile: 404-577-6663

**2. ADOPTING EMPLOYER**

Name: **City of Sugar Hill, Georgia**

**3. GOVERNING AUTHORITY**

Name: **Mayor and Council**  
Address: **5039 West Broad St., Sugar Hill, GA 30518**  
Phone: **(770) 945-6716**  
Facsimile: **(678) 714-8145**

**4. PLAN REPRESENTATIVE**

**[To represent Governing Authority in all communications with GMEBS and Employees]**  
**(See Section 2.49 of Basic Plan Document)**

Name: **City Manager**  
Address: **5039 West Broad St., Sugar Hill, GA 30518**  
Phone: **(770) 945-6716**  
Facsimile: **(678) 714-8145**

## 5. PENSION COMMITTEE

**[Please designate members by position. If not, members of Pension Committee shall be determined in accordance with Article XIV of the Basic Plan Document]**

Position: **Pension Committee Secretary**

Position: **City Manager**

Position: **Finance Director**

Position: **Assistant City Manager**

Position: **One Elected Official selected by the Governing Authority**

Pension Committee Secretary: **City Clerk**

Address: **5039 West Broad St., Sugar Hill, GA 30518**

Phone: **(770) 945-6716**

Facsimile: **(678) 714-8145**

## 6. TYPE OF ADOPTION

This Adoption Agreement is for the following purpose (**check one**):

- This is a new defined benefit plan adopted by the Adopting Employer for its Employees. This plan does not replace or restate an existing defined benefit plan.
- This is an amendment and restatement of the Adopting Employer's preexisting non-GMEBS defined benefit plan.
- This is an amendment and restatement of the Adoption Agreement previously adopted by the Employer, as follows (**check one or more as applicable**):
  - To update the Plan to comply with the PATH Act, and other applicable federal laws and guidance under IRS Notice 2020-14 (the 2020 Cumulative List).
  - To make the following amendments to the Adoption Agreement (**must specify below revisions made in this Adoption Agreement; all provisions must be completed in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i): \_\_\_\_\_**).

## 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

NOTE: This Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, with the accompanying Basic Plan Document, is designed to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), as applicable to a governmental qualified defined benefit plan, and is part of the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. Plan provisions designed to comply with certain provisions of the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 ("PATH Act"); and Plan provisions designed to comply with certain provisions of additional changes in federal law and guidance from the Internal Revenue Service under Internal Revenue Service Notice 2020-14 (the 2020 Cumulative List) are effective as of the applicable effective dates set forth in the Adoption Agreement and Basic Plan Document. By adopting this Adoption Agreement, with its accompanying Basic Plan Document,



the Adopting Employer is adopting a plan document intended to comply with Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a), as updated by the PATH Act and the 2020 Cumulative List with the applicable effective dates.

- (1) **Complete this item (1) only if this is a new defined benefit plan which does not replace or restate an existing defined benefit plan.**

The effective date of this Plan is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted).

- (2) **Complete this item (2) only if this Plan is being adopted to replace a non-GMEBS defined benefit plan.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Basic Plan Document or in this Adoption Agreement, the effective date of this restatement shall be \_\_\_\_\_ (insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted (unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))). This Plan is intended to replace and serve as an amendment and restatement of the Employer's preexisting plan, which became effective on \_\_\_\_\_ (insert original effective date of preexisting plan).

- (3) **Complete this item (3) only if this is an amendment and complete restatement of the Adopting Employer's existing GMEBS defined benefit plan.**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in the Basic Plan Document or in this Adoption Agreement, the effective date of this restatement shall be the date of its approval by the Governing Authority (insert effective date of this Adoption Agreement but not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted (unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))).

This Plan is adopted as an amendment and restatement of the Employer's preexisting GMEBS Adoption Agreement, which became effective on January 13, 2020 (insert effective date of most recent Adoption Agreement preceding this Adoption Agreement).

The Employer's first Adoption Agreement became effective April 1, 2018 (insert effective date of Employer's first GMEBS Adoption Agreement). The Employer's GMEBS Plan was originally effective April 1, 2018 (insert effective date of Employer's original GMEBS Plan). (If the Employer's Plan was originally a non-GMEBS Plan, then the Employer's non-GMEBS Plan was originally effective \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable, insert effective date of Employer's original non-GMEBS Plan).)

## 8. PLAN YEAR

Plan Year means (check one):

- Calendar Year
- Employer Fiscal Year commencing \_\_\_\_\_.
- Other (**must specify month and day commencing**): \_\_\_\_\_.

## 9. CLASSES OF ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

Only Employees of the Adopting Employer who meet the Basic Plan Document's definition of "Employee" may be covered under the Adoption Agreement. Eligible Employees shall not include non-governmental employees, independent contractors, leased employees, nonresident aliens, or any other ineligible individuals, and this Section 9 must not be completed in a manner that violates the "exclusive benefit rule" of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(2).

### A. Eligible Regular Employees

Regular Employees include Employees, other than elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers, who are regularly employed in the services of the Adopting Employer. Subject to the other conditions of the Basic Plan Document and the Adoption Agreement, the following Regular Employees are eligible to participate in the Plan (**check one**):

- ALL** - All Regular Employees, provided they satisfy the minimum hour and other requirements specified under "Eligibility Conditions" below.
- ALL REGULAR EMPLOYEES EXCEPT** for the following employees (**must specify; specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

### B. Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority

An Adopting Employer may elect to permit participation in the Plan by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority and/or Municipal Legal Officers, provided they otherwise meet the Basic Plan Document's definition of "Employee" and provided they satisfy any other requirements specified by the Adopting Employer. Municipal Legal Officers to be covered must be specifically identified by position. Subject to the above conditions, the Employer hereby elects the following treatment for elected and appointed officials:

#### (1) Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority (check one):

- ARE NOT** eligible to participate in the Plan.
- ARE** eligible to participate in the Plan.

Please specify any limitations on eligibility to participate here (e.g., service on or after certain date, or special waiting period provision): \_\_\_\_\_.

#### (2) Municipal Legal Officers (check one):

- ARE NOT** eligible to participate in the Plan.

- ARE** eligible to participate in the Plan. The term "Municipal Legal Officer" shall include only the following positions (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

Please specify any limitations on eligibility to participate here (e.g., service on or after certain date) (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

## 10. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

### A. Hours Per Week (Regular Employees)

The Adopting Employer may specify a minimum number of work hours per week which are required to be scheduled by Regular Employees in order for them to become and remain "Eligible Regular Employees" under the Plan. **It is the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied.** The Employer hereby elects the following minimum hour requirement for Regular Employees:

- No minimum
- 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- Other: **32 hours/week (regularly scheduled)** (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

**Exceptions:** If a different minimum hour requirement applies to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, please specify below the classes to whom the different requirement applies and indicate the minimum hour requirement applicable to them.

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

Minimum hour requirement applicable to excepted Regular Employees:

- No minimum
- 20 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- 30 hours/week (regularly scheduled)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ (must not exceed 40 hours/week regularly scheduled)

### B. Months Per Year (Regular Employees)

The Adopting Employer may specify a minimum number of work months per year which are required to be scheduled by Regular Employees in order for them to become and remain "Eligible Employees" under the Plan. **It is the responsibility of the Adopting Employer to determine whether these requirements are and continue to be satisfied.** The Employer hereby elects the following minimum requirement for Regular Employees:

- No minimum
- At least **6** months per year (regularly scheduled)

**Exceptions:** If different months per year requirements apply to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Regular Employees to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

The months to year requirement for excepted class(es) are:

- No minimum
- At least \_\_\_\_\_ months per year (regularly scheduled)

## 11. WAITING PERIOD

Except as otherwise provided in Section 4.02(b) of the Basic Plan Document, Eligible Regular Employees shall not have a waiting period before participating in the Plan. Likewise, 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.

## 12. ESTABLISHING PARTICIPATION IN THE PLAN

Participation in the Plan is considered mandatory for all Eligible Employees who satisfy the eligibility conditions specified in the Adoption Agreement, except as provided in Section 4.03(e) of the Basic Plan Document. However, the Employer may specify below that participation is optional for certain classes of Eligible Employees, including Regular Employees, elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority, Municipal Legal Officers, City Managers, and/or Department Heads. If participation is optional for an Eligible Employee, then in order to become a Participant, the Employee must make a written election to participate within 120 days after employment, election or appointment to office, or if later, the date the Employee first becomes eligible to participate in the Plan. The election is irrevocable, and the failure to make the election within the 120 day time limit shall be deemed an irrevocable election not to participate in the Plan.

Classes for whom participation is optional (**check one**):

- None (Participation is mandatory for all Eligible Employees except as provided in Section 4.03(e) of the Basic Plan Document).
- Participation is optional for the following Eligible Employees (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named; all positions or classes specified must be Eligible Employees**): Participation in the Plan is optional for the City Manager in such position on April 1, 2018.

## 13. CREDITED SERVICE

In addition to Current Credited Service the Adopting Employer may include as Credited Service the following types of service:

**A. Credited Past Service with Adopting Employer**

Credited Past Service means the number of years and complete months of Service with the Adopting Employer prior to the date an Eligible Employee becomes a Participant which are treated as credited service under the Plan.

**(1) Eligible Employees Employed on Original Effective Date of GMEBS Plan.**

With respect to Eligible Employees who are employed by the Adopting Employer on the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, Service with the Adopting Employer prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant (including any Service prior to the Effective Date of the Plan) shall be treated as follows (**check one**):

- All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).
- All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), except for Service rendered prior to \_\_\_\_\_ (**insert date**).
- All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), except as follows (**must specify other limitation in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i): A maximum of five (5) years of Service with the City prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited as Credited Past Service, and shall be counted for all purposes (e.g., Vesting, benefit eligibility and benefit computation). For purposes of this provision, only Service with the City during the period of April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2018, may be counted as Credited Past Service.**
- No Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).

**(2) Previously Employed, Returning to Service after Original Effective Date.**

If an Eligible Employee is not employed on the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, but returns to Service with the Adopting Employer sometime after the Effective Date, said Eligible Employee's Service prior to becoming a Participant (including any Service prior the Effective Date) shall be treated as follows (**check one**):

- All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), subject to any limitations imposed above with respect to Eligible Employees employed on the Effective Date.
- All Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service), provided that after returning to employment, the Eligible Employee performs Service equal to the period of the break in Service or one (1) year, whichever is less. Any limitations imposed above with respect to Eligible Employees employed on the Effective Date shall also apply.

- No Service prior to the date the Eligible Employee becomes a Participant shall be credited (as Credited Past Service).

Other limitation(s) on Recognition of Credited Past Service **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

**(3) Eligible Employees Initially Employed After Effective Date.** If an Eligible Employee's initial employment date is after the original Effective Date of the Employer's GMEBS Plan, said Employee's Credited Past Service shall include only the number of years and complete months of Service from the Employee's initial employment date to the date the Employee becomes a Participant in the Plan.

**(4) Newly Eligible Classes of Employees.** If a previously ineligible class of Employees becomes eligible to participate in the Plan, the Employer must specify in an addendum to this Adoption Agreement whether and to what extent said Employees' prior service with the Employer shall be treated as Credited Past Service under the Plan.

**B. Prior Military Service**

**Note:** This Section does not concern military service required to be credited under USERRA – See Section 3.02 of the Basic Plan Document for rules on the crediting of USERRA Military Service.

**(1) Credit for Prior Military Service.**

The Adopting Employer may elect to treat military service rendered prior to a Participant's initial employment date or reemployment date as Credited Service under the Plan. Unless otherwise specified by the Employer under "Other Conditions" below, the term "Military Service" shall be as defined in the Basic Plan Document. Except as otherwise required by federal or state law or under "Other Conditions" below, Military Service shall not include service which is credited under any other local, state, or federal retirement or pension plan.

Military Service credited under this Section shall not include any service which is otherwise required to be credited under the Plan by federal or state law. Prior Military Service shall be treated as follows **(check one)**:

- Prior Military Service is **not** creditable under the Plan **(if checked, skip to Section 13.C. – Prior Governmental Service)**.
- Prior Military Service shall be counted as Credited Service for the following purposes (check one or more as applicable):
  - Computing amount of benefits payable.
  - Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
  - Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

**(2) Maximum Credit for Prior Military Service.**

Credit for Prior Military Service shall be limited to a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ years **(insert number)**.

**(3) Rate of Accrual for Prior Military Service.**

Credit for Prior Military Service shall accrue at the following rate **(check one)**:

- One month of military service credit for every \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- One year of military service credit for every \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- All military service shall be creditable (subject to any caps imposed above) after the Participant has completed \_\_\_\_\_ years **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Employer.
- Other requirement **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

**(4) Payment for Prior Military Service Credit (check one):**

- Participants shall **not** be required to pay for military service credit.
- Participants shall be required to pay for military service credit as follows:
  - The Participant must pay \_\_\_\_\_% of the actuarial cost of the service credit (as defined below).
  - The Participant must pay an amount equal to **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

Other Conditions for Award of Prior Military Service Credit **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

**(5) Limitations on Service Credit Purchases.** Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, for purposes of this Section and Section 13.C. concerning prior governmental service credit, the term "actuarial cost of service credit" is defined as set forth in the Service Credit Purchase Addendum. In the case of a service credit purchase, the Participant shall be required to comply with any rules and regulations established by the GMEBS Board of Trustees concerning said purchases.

**C. Prior Governmental Service**

**Note:** A Participant's prior service with other GMEBS employers shall be credited for purposes of satisfying the minimum service requirements for Vesting and eligibility for Retirement and pre-retirement death benefits as provided under Section 9.05 of the Basic Plan Document, relating to portability service. This Section 13(C) does not need to be completed in order for Participants to receive this portability service credit pursuant to Section 9.05 of the Basic Plan Document.

**(1) Credit for Prior Governmental Service.**

The Adopting Employer may elect to treat governmental service rendered prior to a Participant's initial employment date or reemployment date as creditable service under the Plan. Subject to any limitations imposed by law, the term "prior governmental service" shall be as defined by the Adopting Employer below. The Employer elects to treat prior governmental service as follows **(check one)**:

- Prior governmental service is **not** creditable under the Plan **(if checked, skip to Section 13.D. – Unused Sick/Vacation Leave)**.
- Prior governmental service shall be counted as Credited Service for the following purposes under the Plan **(check one or more as applicable)**:
  - Computing amount of benefits payable.
  - Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
  - Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

**(2) Definition of Prior Governmental Service.**

Prior governmental service shall be defined as follows: **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

Unless otherwise specified above, prior governmental service shall include only full-time service (minimum hour requirement same as that applicable to Eligible Regular Employees).

**(3) Maximum Credit for Prior Governmental Service.**

Credit for prior governmental service shall be limited to a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ years **(insert number)**.

**(4) Rate of Accrual for Prior Governmental Service Credit.**

Credit for prior governmental service shall accrue at the following rate **(check one)**:

- One month of prior governmental service credit for every \_\_\_\_\_ month(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- One year of prior governmental service credit for every \_\_\_\_\_ year(s) **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- All prior governmental service shall be creditable (subject to any caps imposed above) after the Participant has completed \_\_\_\_\_ years **(insert number)** of Credited Service with the Adopting Employer.
- Other requirement **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.



**(5) Payment for Prior Governmental Service Credit.**

- Participants shall **not** be required to pay for governmental service credit.
- Participants shall be required to pay for governmental service credit as follows:
  - The Participant must pay \_\_\_\_% of the actuarial cost of the service credit.
  - The Participant must pay an amount equal to **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i):** \_\_\_\_\_.

Other Conditions for Award of Prior Governmental Service Credit **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i):** \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. Leave Conversion for Unused Paid Time Off (e.g., Sick, Vacation, or Personal Leave)**

**(1) Credit for Unused Paid Time Off.**

Subject to the limitations in Section 3.01 of the Basic Plan Document, an Adopting Employer may elect to treat accumulated days of unused paid time off for a terminated Participant, for which the Participant is not paid, as Credited Service. The only type of leave permitted to be credited under this provision is leave from a paid time off plan which qualifies as a bona fide sick and vacation leave plan (which may include sick, vacation or personal leave) and which the Participant may take as paid leave without regard to whether the leave is due to illness or incapacity. The Credited Service resulting from the conversion of unused paid time off must not be the only Credited Service applied toward the accrual of a normal retirement benefit under the Plan. The Pension Committee shall be responsible to certify to GMEBS the total amount of unused paid time off that is creditable hereunder.

**Important Note:** Leave cannot be converted to Credited Service in lieu of receiving a cash payment. If the Employer elects treating unused paid time off as Credited Service, the conversion to Credited Service will be automatic, and the Participant cannot request a cash payment for the unused paid time off.

The Employer elects the following treatment of unused paid time off:

- Unused paid time off shall **not** be treated as Credited Service **(if checked, skip to Section 14 – Retirement Eligibility).**
- The following types of unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall be treated as Credited Service under the Plan **(check one or more as applicable):**
  - Unused sick leave
  - Unused vacation leave

- Unused personal leave
- Other paid time off (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i): \_\_\_\_\_.

**(2) Minimum Service Requirement.**

In order to receive credit for unused paid time off, a Participant must meet the following requirement at termination (check one):

- The Participant must be 100% vested in a normal retirement benefit.
- The Participant must have at least \_\_\_\_\_ years (insert number) of Total Credited Service (not including leave otherwise creditable under this Section).
- Other (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i): \_\_\_\_\_.

**(3) Use of Unused Paid Time Off Credit.** Unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall count as Credited Service for the following purposes under the Plan (check one or more as applicable):

- Computing amount of benefits payable.
- Meeting minimum service requirements for vesting.
- Meeting minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility.

**(4) Maximum Credit for Unused Paid Time Off.**

Credit for unused paid time off for which the Participant is not paid shall be limited to a maximum of \_\_\_\_\_ months (insert number).

**(5) Computation of Unused Paid Time Off.**

Unless otherwise specified by the Adopting Employer under "Other Conditions" below, each twenty (20) days of creditable unused paid time off shall constitute one (1) complete month of Credited Service under the Plan. Partial months shall not be credited.

**(6) Other Conditions (please specify, subject to limitations in Section 3.01 of Basic Plan Document; must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i): \_\_\_\_\_.**

## 14. RETIREMENT ELIGIBILITY

**A. Early Retirement Qualifications**

Early retirement qualifications are (check one or more as applicable):

- Attainment of age 55 (insert number)

- Completion of **10** years (insert number) of Total Credited Service

**Exceptions:** If different early retirement eligibility requirements apply to a particular class or classes of Eligible Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Eligible Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

Early retirement qualifications for excepted class(es) are (check one or more as applicable):

- Attainment of age \_\_\_\_\_ (insert number)
- Completion of \_\_\_\_\_ years (insert number) of Total Credited Service

**B. Normal Retirement Qualifications**

**Note:** Please complete this Section and also list "Alternative" Normal Retirement Qualifications, if any, in Section 14.C.

**(1) Regular Employees**

Normal retirement qualifications for Regular Employees are (check one or more as applicable):

- Attainment of age **65** (insert number)
- Completion of **5** years (insert number) of Total Credited Service
- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (check one):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exceptions:** If different normal retirement qualifications apply to a particular class or classes of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify below the classes to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Class(es) of Regular Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

Normal retirement qualifications for excepted class(es) are (check one or more as applicable):

- Attainment of age \_\_\_\_\_ (insert number)

- Completion of \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service
- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (*i.e.*, a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**(2) Elected or Appointed Members of Governing Authority**

**Complete this Section only if elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are permitted to participate in the Plan.** Normal retirement qualifications for this class are (**check one or more as applicable**):

- Attainment of age **65** (**insert number**)
- Completion of \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service
- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (*i.e.*, a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exceptions:** If different normal retirement qualifications apply to particular elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers, the Employer must specify below to whom the different requirements apply and indicate below the requirements applicable to them.

Particular elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers to whom exception applies (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

Normal retirement qualifications for excepted elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are (**check one or more as applicable**):

- Attainment of age \_\_\_\_\_ (**insert number**)

- Completion of \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service
- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**C. Alternative Normal Retirement Qualifications**

The Employer may elect to permit Participants to retire with unreduced benefits after they satisfy service and/or age requirements other than the regular normal retirement qualifications specified above. The Employer hereby adopts the following alternative normal retirement qualifications:

**Alternative Normal Retirement Qualifications (check one or more, as applicable):**

- (1)  Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer alternative normal retirement benefits under the Plan).
- (2)  **Alternative Minimum Age & Service Qualifications (if checked, please complete one or more items below, as applicable):**
  - Attainment of age 62 (**insert number**)
  - Completion of 10 years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service
  - In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- All Participants who qualify.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

A Participant (**check one**):  is required  is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the above qualifications in order to qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

- (3)  **Rule of \_\_\_\_\_ (insert number).** The Participant's combined Total Credited Service and age must equal or exceed this number. Please complete additional items below:

To qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit, the Participant (**check one or more items below, as applicable**):

- Must have attained at least age \_\_\_\_\_ (**insert number**)
- Must not satisfy any minimum age requirement
- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets the minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- All Participants who qualify.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

A Participant (**check one**):  is required  is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the Rule in order to qualify for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

(4)  **Alternative Minimum Service.** A Participant is eligible for an alternative normal retirement benefit if the Participant has at least \_\_\_\_\_ years **(insert number)** of Total Credited Service, regardless of the Participant's age.

In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets the minimum service requirement specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: \_\_\_.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

All Participants who qualify.

Only the following Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: \_\_\_\_\_.

A Participant **(check one)**:  is required  is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

(5)  **Other Alternative Normal Retirement Benefit.**

**Must specify qualifications (in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i))**: \_\_\_\_\_.

In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees permitted (i.e., a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants **(must specify -**

specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- All Participants who qualify.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

A Participant (**check one**):  is required  is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

(6)  **Other Alternative Normal Retirement Benefit for Public Safety Employees Only.**

**Must specify qualifications (in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)):** \_\_\_\_\_.

- In-Service Distribution to Eligible Employees who are Public Safety Employees permitted (*i.e.*, a qualifying Participant may commence receiving retirement benefits while in service without first incurring a Bona Fide Separation from Service), if the Participant meets minimum age and service requirements specified immediately above and satisfies the minimum age parameters for In-Service Distribution Described in Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, subject to applicable Plan provisions concerning recalculation and offset applied at re-retirement to account for the value of benefits received prior to re-retirement. This rule shall apply to (**check one**):  all Participants  only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

This alternative normal retirement benefit is available to:

- All public safety employee Participants who qualify.
- Only the following public safety employee Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.



A public safety employee Participant (**check one**):  is required  is not required to be in the service of the Employer at the time the Participant satisfies the qualifications for this alternative normal retirement benefit.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** "Public safety employees" are defined under the Internal Revenue Code for this purpose as employees of a State or political subdivision of a State who provide police protection, firefighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of such State or political subdivision.

**D. Disability Benefit Qualifications**

Subject to the other terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document and except as otherwise provided in an Addendum to this Adoption Agreement, disability retirement qualifications are based upon Social Security Administration award criteria or as otherwise provided under Section 2.23 of the Basic Plan Document. The Disability Retirement benefit shall commence as of the Participant's Disability Retirement Date under Section 2.24 of the Basic Plan Document.

To qualify for a disability benefit, a Participant must have the following minimum number of years of Total Credited Service (**check one**):

- Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer disability retirement benefits under the Plan).
- No minimum.
- \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.

Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**15. RETIREMENT BENEFIT COMPUTATION**

**A. Maximum Total Credited Service**

The number of years of Total Credited Service which may be used to calculate a benefit is (**check one or all that apply**):

- not limited.
- limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years for all Participants.
- limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years for the following classes of Eligible Regular Employees:
  - All Eligible Regular Employees.

- Only the following Eligible Regular Employees: \_\_\_\_\_.
- limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.
- limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years as a Municipal Legal Officer.
- Other (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Monthly Normal Retirement Benefit Amount**

**(1) Regular Employee Formula**

The monthly normal retirement benefit for Eligible Regular Employees shall be 1/12 of (check and complete one or more as applicable):

- (a) **Flat Percentage Formula. 2.0% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.**

This formula applies to:

- All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- Only the following Participants (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

- (b) **Alternative Flat Percentage Formula. \_\_\_\_\_% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee. This formula applies to the following Participants (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (c) **Split Final Average Earnings Formula. \_\_\_\_\_% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings up to the amount of Covered Compensation (see subsection (2) below for definition of Covered Compensation), plus \_\_\_\_\_% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings in excess of said Covered Compensation, multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.**

This formula applies to:

- All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- Only the following Participants (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

- (d) **Alternative Split Final Average Earnings Formula. \_\_\_\_\_% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings up to the amount of Covered**

**Compensation (see subsection (2) below for definition of Covered Compensation), plus \_\_\_\_\_% (insert percentage) of Final Average Earnings in excess of said Covered Compensation, multiplied by years of Total Credited Service as an Eligible Regular Employee.**

This formula applies to:

- All Participants.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**[Repeat above subsections as necessary for each applicable benefit formula and Participant class covered under the Plan.]**

**(2) Covered Compensation (complete only if Split Formula(s) is checked above):**

Covered Compensation is defined as (check one or more as applicable):

- (a) **A.I.M.E. Covered Compensation** as defined in Section 2.18 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to (**check one**):
  - All Participants who are Regular Employees.
  - Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) **Dynamic Break Point** Covered Compensation as defined in Section 2.19 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to (**check one**):
  - All Participants who are Regular Employees.
  - Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) **Table Break Point** Covered Compensation as defined in Section 2.20 of the Basic Plan Document. This definition of Covered Compensation shall apply to (**check one**):
  - All Participants who are Regular Employees.
  - Only the following class(es) of Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.
- (d) **Covered Compensation** shall mean a Participant's annual Earnings that do not exceed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (**specify amount**). This definition shall apply to (**check one**):
  - All Participants who are Regular Employees.
  - Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**(3) Final Average Earnings**

Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, Final Average Earnings is defined as the monthly average of Earnings paid to a Participant by the Adopting Employer for the **60 (insert number not to exceed 60)** consecutive months of Credited Service preceding the Participant's most recent Termination in which the Participant's Earnings were the highest, multiplied by 12. Note: GMEBS has prescribed forms for calculation of Final Average Earnings that must be used for this purpose.

This definition of Final Average Earnings applies to:

- All Participants who are Regular Employees.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**[Repeat above subsection as necessary for each applicable definition and Participant class covered under the Plan.]**

**(4) Formula for Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority**

The monthly normal retirement benefit for members of this class shall be as follows (**check one**):

- Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers are not permitted to participate in the Plan).
- \$35.00 (insert dollar amount)** per month for each year of Total Credited Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer (service of at least 6 months and 1 day is treated as a year of Total Credited Service; provided, however, than an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer may accrue a maximum of one year of Total Credited Service for every 12-month period of Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officer).

This formula applies to:

- All elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers eligible to participate.
- Only the following elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers eligible to participate (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**[Repeat above subsection as necessary for each applicable formula for classes of elected or appointed members covered under the Plan.]**

**C. Monthly Early Retirement Benefit Amount**

**Check and complete one or more as applicable:**

- (1) **Standard Early Retirement Reduction Table.** The monthly Early Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the monthly

Normal Retirement benefit, but the benefit shall be reduced on an Actuarially Equivalent basis in accordance with Section 12.01 of the Basic Plan Document to account for early commencement of benefits. This provision shall apply to:

- All Participants.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**):\_\_\_\_\_.

- (2) **Alternative Early Retirement Reduction Table.** The monthly Early Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the monthly Normal Retirement benefit, but the benefit shall be reduced to account for early commencement of benefits based on the following table. This table shall apply to:

- All Participants.
- Only the following Participants (**must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**):\_\_\_\_\_.

**Alternative Early Retirement Reduction Table**

<b><u>Number of Years Before</u></b> <b><u>[Age (Insert Normal</u></b> <b><u>Retirement Age)]</u></b> <b>(check as applicable)</b>	<b><u>Percentage of</u></b> <b><u>Normal Retirement Benefit*</u></b> <b>(complete as applicable)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> 0	1.000
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 7	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 9	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 10	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 11	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 12	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 13	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14	0.____
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	0.____

\*Interpolate for whole months

**D. Monthly Late Retirement Benefit Amount (check one):**

- (1) The monthly Late Retirement benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the Normal Retirement Benefit, based upon the Participant's Accrued Benefit as of the Participant's Late Retirement Date.
- (2) The monthly Late Retirement benefit shall be the greater of: (1) the monthly retirement benefit accrued as of the Participant's Normal Retirement Date, actuarially increased in accordance with the actuarial table contained in Section 12.05 of the Basic Plan Document; or (2) the monthly retirement benefit accrued as of the Participant's Late Retirement Date, without further actuarial adjustment under Section 12.06 of the Basic Plan Document.

**E. Monthly Disability Benefit Amount**

The amount of the monthly Disability Benefit shall be computed in the same manner as the Normal Retirement benefit, based upon the Participant's Accrued Benefit as of the Participant's Disability Retirement Date.

**Minimum Disability Benefit.** The Adopting Employer may set a minimum Disability Benefit. The Employer elects the following minimum Disability benefit (**check one**):

- Not applicable (the Adopting Employer does not offer disability retirement benefits under the Plan).
- No minimum is established.
- No less than (**check one**):  20%  10%  \_\_\_\_% (**if other than 20% or 10% insert percentage amount**) of the Participant's average monthly Earnings for the 12 calendar month period (excluding any period of unpaid leave of absence) immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of a Disability. (Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, no minimum will apply to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers.)
- No less than (**check one**):  66 2/3 %  \_\_\_\_% (**if other than 66 2/3%, insert percentage amount**) of the Participant's average monthly Earnings for the 12 calendar month period (excluding any period of unpaid leave of absence) immediately preceding the Participant's Termination of Employment as a result of a Disability, less any monthly benefits paid from federal Social Security benefits as a result of disability as reported by the Employer. (Unless otherwise specified in an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement, no minimum will apply to elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority or Municipal Legal Officers.)

**F. Minimum/Maximum Benefit For Elected Officials**

In addition to any other limitations imposed by federal or state law, the Employer may impose a cap on the monthly benefit amount that may be received by elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority. The Employer elects (**check one**):

- Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority do not participate in the Plan).
- No minimum or maximum applies.
- Monthly benefit for Service as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority may not exceed 100% of the Participant's final salary as an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority.
- Other minimum or maximum (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**G. Multiple Plans**

In the event that the Employer maintains multiple plans, the following provisions will apply to the extent necessary to satisfy Code § 415.

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**16. SUSPENSION OF BENEFITS FOLLOWING BONA FIDE SEPARATION OF SERVICE; COLA**

**A. Re-Employment as Eligible Employee After Normal, Alternative Normal, or Early Retirement and Following Bona Fide Separation of Service (see Basic Plan Document Section 6.06(c) Regarding Re-Employment as an Ineligible Employee and Basic Plan Document Section 6.06(e) and (f) Regarding Re-Employment After Disability Retirement)**

**(1) Reemployment After Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement.** In the event that a Retired Participant 1) is reemployed with the Employer as an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) after the Participant's Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Date and after a Bona Fide Separation from Service, or 2) is reemployed with the Employer in an Ineligible Employee class, and subsequently again becomes an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) due to the addition of such class to the Plan after the Participant's Normal or Alternative Normal Retirement Date, the following rule shall apply (**check one**):

- (a) The Participant's benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document for as long as the Participant remains employed.

- (b) The Participant may continue to receive retirement benefits in accordance with Section 6.06(b) of the Basic Plan Document. This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Retired Participants  only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify (specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named) - benefits of those Retired Participants not listed shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a) of the Basic Plan Document if they return to work with the Employer)**: \_\_\_\_\_.

**(2) Reemployment After Early Retirement.** In the event a Participant Retires with an Early Retirement benefit after a Bona Fide Separation from Service 1) is reemployed with the Employer as an Eligible Employee before the Participant's Normal Retirement Date; or 2) is reemployed with the Employer in an Ineligible Employee class, and subsequently again becomes an Eligible Employee (as defined in the Plan) before the Participant's Normal Retirement Date due to the addition of such class to the Plan, the following rule shall apply **(check one or more as applicable)**:

- (a)  The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document for as long as the Participant remains employed.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Retired Participants;  only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: \_\_\_\_\_.

- (b)  The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall be suspended in accordance with Section 6.06(a)(1) of the Basic Plan Document. However, the Participant may begin receiving benefits after satisfying the qualifications for Normal Retirement or Alternative Normal Retirement, as applicable, and after satisfying the minimum age parameters of Section 6.06(a)(3) of the Basic Plan Document, in accordance with Section 6.06(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Basic Plan Document.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Retired Participants;  only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: \_\_\_\_\_.

- (c)  The Participant's Early Retirement benefit shall continue in accordance with Section 6.06(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Basic Plan Document.

This rule shall apply to **(check one)**:  all Retired Participants;  only the following classes of Retired Participants **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named)**: \_\_\_\_\_.



**B. Cost Of Living Adjustment**

The Employer may elect to provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in the amount of benefits being received by Retired Participants and Beneficiaries, which shall be calculated and paid in accordance with the terms of the Basic Plan Document. The Employer hereby elects the following (**check one**):

- (1) No cost-of-living adjustment.
- (2) Variable Annual cost-of-living adjustment not to exceed 2.0% (**insert percentage**).
- (3) Fixed annual cost-of-living adjustment equal to \_\_\_\_\_% (**insert percentage**).

The above cost-of-living adjustment shall apply with respect to the following Participants (and their Beneficiaries) (**check one**):

- All Participants (and their Beneficiaries).
- Participants (and their Beneficiaries) who terminate employment on or after \_\_\_\_\_ (**insert date**).
- Other (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i); specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named**): \_\_\_\_\_.

The Adjustment Date for the above cost-of-living adjustment shall be (if not specified, the Adjustment Date shall be January 1): \_\_\_\_\_.

**17. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT BEFORE RETIREMENT;  
VESTING**

**A. Eligible Regular Employees**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, a Participant who is an Eligible Regular Employee and whose employment is terminated for any reason other than death or retirement shall earn a vested right in the Participant's accrued retirement benefit in accordance with the following schedule (**check one**):

- No vesting schedule (immediate vesting).**
- Cliff Vesting Schedule.** Benefits shall be 100% vested after the Participant has a minimum of 5 years (**insert number not to exceed 10**) of Total Credited Service. Benefits remain 0% vested until the Participant satisfies this minimum.
- Graduated Vesting Schedule.** Benefits shall become vested in accordance with the following schedule (**insert percentages**):

<u>COMPLETED YEARS OF TOTAL CREDITED SERVICE</u>	<u>VESTED PERCENTAGE</u>
1	%
2	%
3	%
4	%
5	%
6	%
7	%
8	%
9	%
10	%

**Exceptions:** If a vesting schedule other than that specified above applies to a special class(es) of Regular Employees, the Employer must specify the different vesting schedule below and the class(es) to whom the different vesting schedule applies.

Regular Employees to whom exception applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

Vesting Schedule for excepted class (Must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i). Must be at least as favorable as one of the following schedules: (i) 15-year cliff vesting, (ii) 20-year graded vesting, or (iii) for qualified public safety employees, 20-year cliff vesting.): \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Elected or Appointed Members of the Governing Authority**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, a Participant who is an elected or appointed member of the Governing Authority or a Municipal Legal Officer shall earn a vested right in the Participant's accrued retirement benefit for Credited Service in such capacity in accordance with the following schedule (check one):

- Not applicable (elected or appointed members of the Governing Authority are not permitted to participate in the Plan).
- No vesting schedule (immediate vesting).
- Other vesting schedule (Must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i). Must be at least as favorable as one of the following schedules: (i) 15-year cliff vesting, (ii) 20-year graded vesting, or (iii) for qualified public safety employees, 20-year cliff vesting.): \_\_\_\_\_.

**18. PRE-RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS**

**A. In-Service Death Benefit**

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, the Employer hereby elects the following in-service death benefit, to be payable in the event that an eligible Participant's employment with the Employer is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement (**check and complete one**):

(1)  **Auto A Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, equal to the decreased monthly retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant, had the Participant elected a 100% joint and survivor benefit under Section 7.03 of the Basic Plan Document. In order to be eligible for this benefit, a Participant must meet the following requirements (**check one**):

- The Participant must be vested in a normal retirement benefit.
- The Participant must have \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.
- The Participant must be eligible for Early or Normal Retirement.
- Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

(2)  **Actuarial Reserve Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, actuarially equivalent to the reserve required for the Participant's anticipated Normal Retirement benefit, provided the Participant meets the following eligibility conditions (**check one**):

- The Participant shall be eligible upon satisfying the eligibility requirements of Section 8.02(c) of the Basic Plan Document.
- The Participant must have \_\_\_\_\_ years (**insert number**) of Total Credited Service.
- Other eligibility requirement (**must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Imputed Service.** For purposes of computing the actuarial reserve death benefit, the Participant's Total Credited Service shall include (**check one**):

- Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death.
- Total Credited Service accrued prior to the date of the Participant's death, plus (**check one**):  one-half (1/2)  \_\_\_\_\_ (**insert other fraction**) of the Service between such date of death and what would otherwise have been the Participant's Normal Retirement Date. (**See Basic**

**Plan Document Section 8.02(b) regarding 10-year cap on additional Credited Service.)**

Minimum In-Service Death Benefit for Vested Employees Equal to Terminated Vested Death Benefit. Unless otherwise specified under "Exceptions" below, if a Participant's employment is terminated by reason of the Participant's death prior to Retirement, and if as of the date of death the Participant is vested but does not qualify for the in-service death benefit, then the Auto A Death Benefit will be payable, provided the Auto A Death Benefit is made available to terminated vested employees under the Adoption Agreement (see "Terminated Vested Death Benefit" below).

(3) **Exceptions:** If an in-service death benefit other than that specified above applies to one or more classes of Participants, the Employer must specify below the death benefit payable, the class(es) to whom the different death benefit applies, and the eligibility conditions for said death benefit.

Alternative Death Benefit (must specify formula that satisfies the definite written program and definitely determinable requirements of Treasury Regulations Sections 1.401-1(a)(2) and 1.401-1(b)(1)(i) and does not violate limits applicable to governmental plans under Code Sections 401(a)(17) and 415): \_\_\_\_\_.

Participants to whom alternative death benefit applies (must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named): \_\_\_\_\_.

Eligibility conditions for alternative death benefit (must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)): \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Terminated Vested Death Benefit**

(1) **Complete this Section only if the Employer offers a terminated vested death benefit.** The Employer may elect to provide a terminated vested death benefit, to be payable in the event that a Participant who is vested dies after termination of employment but before Retirement benefits commence. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Basic Plan Document, the Employer hereby elects the following terminated vested death benefit (**check one**):

- Auto A Death Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary, equal to the decreased monthly retirement benefit that would have otherwise been payable to the Participant had the Participant elected a 100% joint and survivor benefit under Section 7.03 of the Basic Plan Document.
- Accrued Retirement Benefit.** A monthly benefit payable to the Participant's Pre-Retirement Beneficiary which shall be actuarially equivalent to the Participant's Accrued Normal Retirement Benefit determined as of the date of death.

(2) **Exceptions:** If a terminated vested death benefit other than that specified above applies to one or more classes of Participants, the Employer must specify below the death benefit

payable, the class(es) to whom the different death benefit applies, and the eligibility conditions for said death benefit.

Alternative Death Benefit **(must specify formula that satisfies the definite written program and definitely determinable requirements of Treasury Regulations Sections 1.401-1(a)(2) and 1.401-1(b)(1)(i) and does not violate limits applicable to governmental plans under Code Sections 401(a)(17) and 415):** \_\_\_\_\_.

Participants to whom alternative death benefit applies **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** \_\_\_\_\_.

Eligibility conditions for alternative death benefit **(must specify in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i):** \_\_\_\_\_.

## 19. EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS

**(1) Employee contributions (check one):**

- Are not required.
- Are required in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ % **(insert percentage)** of Earnings for all Participants.
- Are required in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ % **(insert percentage)** of Earnings for Participants in the following classes **(must specify - specific positions are permissible; specific individuals may not be named):** \_\_\_\_\_.

**[Repeat above subsection as necessary if more than one contribution rate applies.]**

**(2) Pre-Tax Treatment of Employee Contributions.** If Employee Contributions are required in Subsection (1) above, an Adopting Employer may elect to "pick up" Employee Contributions to the Plan in accordance with IRC Section 414(h). In such case, Employee Contributions shall be made on a pre-tax rather than a post-tax basis, provided the requirements of IRC Section 414(h) are met. If the Employer elects to pick up Employee Contributions, it is the Employer's responsibility to ensure that Employee Contributions are paid and reported in accordance with IRC Section 414(h). The Adopting Employer must not report picked up contributions as wages subject to federal income tax withholding.

The Employer hereby elects **(check one):**

- To pick up Employee Contributions. By electing to pick up Employee Contributions, the Adopting Employer specifies that the contributions, although designated as Employee Contributions, are being paid by the Employer in lieu of Employee Contributions. The Adopting Employer confirms that the executor of this Adoption Agreement is duly authorized to take this action as required to pick up contributions. This pick-up of contributions applies prospectively, and it is evidenced by this contemporaneous written document. On and after the date of the pick-up of contributions, a Participant does not have a cash or deferred

election right (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.401(k)-1(a)(3)) with respect to the designated Employee Contributions, which includes not having the option of receiving the amounts directly instead of having them paid to the Plan.

- Not to pick up Employee Contributions.

**(3) Interest on Employee Contributions.** The Adopting Employer may elect to pay interest on any refund of Employee Contributions.

- Interest shall not be paid.
  - Interest shall be paid on a refund of Employee Contributions at a rate established by GMEBS from time to time.
  - Other rate of interest (**must specify rate in a manner that satisfies the definite written program requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(a)(2) and the definitely determinable requirement of Treasury Regulation 1.401-1(b)(1)(i)**):
- 

## **20. MODIFICATION OF THE TERMS OF THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

If an Adopting Employer desires to amend any of its elections contained in this Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), the Governing Authority by official action must adopt an amendment of the Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum) or a new Adoption Agreement (or Addendum) must be adopted and forwarded to the Board for approval. The amendment of the new Adoption Agreement (or Addendum) is not effective until approved by the Board and other procedures required by the Plan have been implemented.

The Administrator will timely inform the Adopting Employer of any amendments made by the Board to the Plan.

## **21. TERMINATION OF THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

This Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum) may be terminated only in accordance with the Plan. The Administrator will inform the Adopting Employer in the event the Board should decide to discontinue this pre-approved plan program.

## **22. EMPLOYER ADOPTION AND AUTHORIZATION FOR AMENDMENTS**

**Adoption.** The Adopting Employer hereby adopts the terms of the Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, which is attached hereto and made a part of this ordinance. The Adoption Agreement (and, if applicable, the Addendum) sets forth the Employees to be covered by the Plan, the benefits to be provided by the Adopting Employer under the Plan, and any conditions imposed by the Adopting Employer with respect to, but not inconsistent with, the Plan. The Adopting Employer reserves the right to amend its elections under the Adoption Agreement and any Addendum, so long as the amendment is not inconsistent with the Plan or the Internal Revenue

Code or other applicable law and is approved by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS. The Adopting Employer acknowledges that it may not be able to rely on the pre-approved plan opinion letter if it makes certain elections under the Adoption Agreement or the Addendum, and that the failure to properly complete the Adoption Agreement may result in a failure of the Adopting Employer's Plan to be a qualified plan.

The Adopting Employer hereby agrees to abide by the Basic Plan Document, Trust Agreement, and rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees of GMEBS, as each may be amended from time to time, in all matters pertaining to the operation and administration of the Plan. It is intended that the Act creating the Board of Trustees of GMEBS, this Plan, and the rules and regulations of the Board are to be construed in harmony with each other. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of any of the foregoing, they shall govern in the following order:

- (1) The Act creating the Board of Trustees of The Georgia Municipal Employees' Benefit System, O.C.G.A. Section 47-5-1 *et seq.* (a copy of which is included in the Appendix to the Basic Defined Benefit Plan Document) and any other applicable provisions of O.C.G.A. Title 47;
- (2) The Basic Defined Benefit Plan Document and Trust Agreement;
- (3) This Ordinance and Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum); and
- (4) The rules and regulations of the Board.

In the event that any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Plan shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall in no manner affect the previously existing provisions or the other section or sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Plan, which shall remain in full force and effect, as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or adjudicated invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part hereof. The Governing Authority hereby declares that it would have passed the remaining parts of this Plan or retained the previously existing provisions if it had known that such part or parts hereof would be declared or adjudicated invalid or unconstitutional.

This Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum) may only be used in conjunction with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Basic Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Document approved by the Internal Revenue Service under opinion letter Q705465a dated August 31, 2023. The Adopting Employer understands that failure to properly complete this Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), or to operate and maintain the Plan and Trust in accordance with the terms of the completed Adoption Agreement (and any Addendum), Basic Plan Document and Trust, may result in disqualification of the Adopting Employer's Plan under the Internal Revenue Code. Inquiries regarding the adoption of the Plan, the meaning of Plan provisions, or the effect of the IRS opinion letter should be directed to the Administrator. The Administrator is Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System, with its primary business offices located at: 201 Pryor Street, SW, Atlanta, Georgia, 30303. The business telephone number is: (404) 688-0472. The primary person to contact is: GMEBS Legal Counsel.

**Authorization for Amendments.** Effective on and after February 17, 2005, the Adopting Employer hereby authorizes the pre-approved plan provider who sponsors the Plan on behalf of GMEBS to prepare amendments to the Plan, for approval by the Board, on its behalf as provided

under Revenue Procedure 2005-16, as superseded by Revenue Procedure 2015-36, Revenue Procedure 2011-49, and Announcement 2005-37. Effective January 1, 2013, Georgia Municipal Association, Inc., serves as the pre-approved plan provider for the Plan. Employer notice and signature requirements were met for the Adopting Employer before the effective date of February 17, 2005. The Adopting Employer understands that the implementing amendment reads as follows:

On and after February 17, 2005, the Board delegates to the Provider 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.

Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, no amendment to the Plan shall be prepared on behalf of any Adopting Employer as of either:

- 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 pre-approved plan as described in Revenue Procedure 2017-41; or
- as of the date the Plan is otherwise considered an individually designed plan due to the nature and extent of the amendments.

If the Adopting Employer is required to obtain a determination letter for any reason in order to maintain reliance on the opinion letter, the Provider's authority to amend the Plan on behalf of the Adopting Employer is conditioned on the Plan receiving a favorable determination letter.

The Adopting Employer further understands that, if it does not give its authorization hereunder or, in the alternative, adopt another pre-approved plan, its Plan will become an individually designed plan and will not be able to rely on the pre-approved plan opinion letter.

**Reliance on Opinion Letter.** As provided in Revenue Procedure 2017-41, the Adopting Employer may rely on the Plan's opinion letter, provided that the Adopting Employer's Plan is identical to the GMEBS Plan, and the Adopting Employer has not amended or made any modifications to the Plan other than to choose the options permitted under the Plan, Adoption Agreement, and any Addendum.



**AN ORDINANCE (continued from page 1)**

**Section 2.** Except as otherwise specifically required by law or by the terms of the Basic Plan Document or Adoption Agreement (or any Addendum), the rights and obligations under the Plan with respect to persons whose employment with the City was terminated or who vacated office with the City for any reason whatsoever prior to the effective date of this Ordinance are fixed and shall be governed by such Plan, if any, as it existed and was in effect at the time of such termination.

**Section 3.** The effective date of this Ordinance shall be the date of its approval by the Governing Authority **(not earlier than the first day of the current Plan Year in which the Plan is adopted, unless a retroactive corrective amendment is permitted under EPCRS, Rev. Proc. 2021-30 (or subsequent updated guidance))**.

**Section 4.** All Ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are expressly repealed.

Approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Attest:

CITY OF SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

(SEAL)

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

The terms of the foregoing Adoption Agreement are approved by the Board of Trustees of Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Board of Trustees of Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System has caused its Seal and the signatures of its duly authorized officers to be affixed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

Board of Trustees  
Georgia Municipal Employees  
Benefit System

(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE  
ADDENDUM TO THE  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM  
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN  
ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

This is an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement completed by the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia (“the Employer”). It modifies the Adoption Agreement to provide for service credit purchases for eligible Participants in the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, in accordance with and subject to the following requirements:

- (1) **Service Credit Purchase; Eligibility Requirements.** Subject to any conditions specified in Section 13.B. or 13.C. of the Adoption Agreement and in this Service Credit Purchase Addendum, Participants in this Plan who are actively employed on April 1, 2018, may purchase credit under this Plan for Service with the Employer prior to April 1, 2018, that is not otherwise creditable under the terms of the Adoption Agreement (i.e., service with the Employer prior to April 1, 2013; see Adoption Agreement pp. 7-8). If a Participant purchases less than the full amount of service credit that is eligible for purchase, or in the case of multiple applications by the same Participant to purchase prior service credit, if the Participant purchases less than the full amount of remaining service credit that is eligible for purchase, he or she must purchase such prior service credit in full-year (12 month) increments. The purchase of prior service credit is permitted but not required under this Plan. Such purchases will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance that the Pension Committee Secretary or GMEBS deem appropriate.
  
- (2) **Use of Purchased Service Credit.** Subject to any conditions or limitations provided in this Addendum, service credit purchased hereunder will be counted as Credited Service for purposes of (check all that apply):
  - computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan;
  
  - meeting the minimum service requirements for vesting under the Plan;

- ☒ meeting the minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility under the Plan.

- (3) **Application to Purchase Service Credit.** A Participant who meets the eligibility requirements specified in paragraph (1) above and who wishes to purchase eligible service credit as described in paragraph (1) above may apply for such purchase by completing and submitting to the Pension Committee Secretary an application form provided for that purpose. Participants will be responsible for providing the Pension Committee Secretary with any information or documentation that the Pension Committee Secretary deems necessary to establish that the Participant's service is eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above.
- (4) **Window Period for Application.** In order to purchase service credit, eligible Participants may submit the service credit purchase application during the periods of May 1 – July 30, 2018 and May 1 – July 30, 2019. If a Participant does not submit a completed application to purchase service credit within the designated window period, the Participant will not be permitted to purchase service credit. As a precondition for approval of the Participant's application, the Participant will be responsible for providing the Pension Committee Secretary with any additional information or documentation that the Pension Committee Secretary deems necessary to establish that the Participant's service is eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, no Participant may apply for or purchase prior service credit after termination of employment.
- (5) **Review by Pension Committee Secretary.** Within a reasonable period of time after the end of the application period, the Pension Committee Secretary will review the Participant's application to purchase service credit and will determine whether the application should be accepted. Upon approval of an application by the Pension Committee Secretary, the Pension Committee Secretary will certify on the application the number of years and months of prior service that are eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above.
- (6) **Fee for Cost Study.** As a precondition for approval of the application to purchase service credit, and prior to the commencement of any cost study, Participants may be required by the Employer to pay all or a portion of the GMEBS actuarial cost study fee(s) associated with determining the cost to purchase the Participant's eligible service credit.

Any portion of the fee that the Participant is not required to pay will be paid by the Employer.

- (7) **Actuarial Study to Determine Cost of Purchase.** In the event that a cost study has not been undertaken prior to the Participant's submission of a completed application to purchase service credit, if the Participant's application to purchase is approved by the Pension Committee Secretary, a cost study will be undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable after the application has been approved, in order to determine the actuarial cost relating to the Participant's prior service that is eligible for purchase.
- (8) **Lump Sum Payment Required Within 120 Days.** Upon completion of the cost study, the Pension Committee Secretary will notify the Participant of the lump sum amount required to purchase prior service credit, as reflected in the cost study. Within 120 days of receiving this notice or of receiving notice of the Pension Committee's approval of the Participant's application to purchase service credit, whichever is later, the Participant shall remit said lump sum amount in the form and manner required by paragraphs (9)-(11) below, the Pension Committee Secretary, and GMEBS. The Participant may remit less than the full lump sum amount necessary to purchase all of the prior service credit which is eligible for purchase, in which case the percentage of service credit awarded will be equal to the percentage of the full amount remitted. The Pension Committee Secretary shall have the authority to extend the 120-day time period for payment of lump sum amounts required to purchase service credit if, for reasons outside the control of the Participant, payment cannot be made within the 120-day period. However, the time limit for payment will not be extended any later than 120 days and in no event may a Participant make such payment after his or her termination of employment.
- (9) **Method of Payment.** To the extent permitted by the Internal Revenue Code and regulations issued thereunder, the lump sum amount referred to in paragraph (8) above may be paid via one or more of the following sources: (1) a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer from a 401(a) qualified retirement plan, a governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plan or a 403(b) tax sheltered annuity; (2) a qualified rollover from a governmental 457(b) plan, 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity plan, 401(a) qualified plan, 403(a) annuity plan, or a 408(a) or 408(b) individual retirement account or annuity (traditional IRA); or (3) a lump sum

contribution of after-tax funds. Participants shall be solely responsible for effecting the payment referred to herein. Participants will not be permitted to purchase credit via payroll deduction.

- (10) **Limitation on Amount of Lump Sum Payment.** If the lump sum amount referred to in paragraph (8) is paid via any method other than as described under paragraph (9)(1) or (9)(2) above, then the Participant shall not be permitted to contribute to the Plan in any calendar year an amount which exceeds any applicable limit specified in Internal Revenue Code Section 415.
- (11) **IRC 415, Other Limitations.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Adoption Agreement or this Addendum to the contrary, the Plan will not accept and shall return without interest any contribution or portion of a contribution made to purchase service credit if such contribution would result in a violation of the applicable limitations established under Internal Revenue Code Section 415(b), (c), or (n) or any other provision of law or the Plan, or if it is later determined that the Participant's prior service is not eligible for purchase, and any prior service credit attributable to said contribution or portion of a contribution will be forfeited.
- (12) **Return of Contributions.** Contributions made to purchase prior service credit shall be used to fund retirement and death benefits payable under the Plan relating to such credit. Contributions shall not otherwise be refundable to the Participant or any other person, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (12) or in Section 13.06 or 18.04 of the Basic Plan Document (concerning failure to exhaust or termination of the Plan, respectively). Participants (check one):
- will not be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase prior service credit upon termination of employment (Participants must be vested to purchase prior service credit).
  - will not be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase prior service credit upon termination of employment, unless they are not vested upon termination (Participants are not required to be vested to purchase prior service credit).
  - will be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase service credit upon termination of employment, subject to the

provisions of Section 13.03(c) of the Basic Plan Document concerning the effect of withdrawal. For purposes of determining the amount of any refund of contributions made to purchase service credit, said contributions shall be credited with interest as defined in Section 2.39 of the Basic Plan Document, subject to any limitations on the crediting of interest in Section 13.03(c) of the Basic Plan Document.

- will be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase service credit upon termination of employment, subject to the following conditions for repayment (must describe): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** Partial withdrawal of employee contributions is not permitted. If the Participant withdraws contributions made to purchase service credit, the Participant will forfeit any and all service credit and/or benefits attributable to such purchase for all purposes.

**(13) Repayment Upon Reemployment.** If the Participant returns to employment with the Employer after having withdrawn contributions made to purchase prior service credit, the Participant (check one):

- not applicable (withdrawal not permitted).
- will not be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment.
- will be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment, based on the actuarial cost of such service credit, taking into account the additional actuarial cost of any benefit enhancements adopted prior to reemployment pursuant to paragraph (14) below, provided that the Participant makes application for such re-purchase within [insert time limit] after reemployment and provided the Participant effects payment for such re-purchase in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this Addendum within [insert time limit] after the application is approved.
- will be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment, subject to the following conditions for repayment (must describe other repayment method): See

Section 13.03 of the Basic Plan Document concerning  
repayment of withdrawn Employee Contributions.

(14) Definition of Actuarial Cost. The cost to purchase qualifying prior service credit shall be determined based upon the actuarial cost of said prior service credit. In applying the provisions of the Adoption Agreement and this Service Credit Purchase Addendum, the term "actuarial cost of prior service credit" means:

- the actuarial accrued liability relating to such prior service as determined by the GMEBS actuary and calculated using the actuarial assumptions and methods established for this purpose in the funding policy adopted by the GMEBS Board of Trustees.
- Other (must specify other method of determining actuarial cost for this purpose): \_\_\_\_\_.

The terms of the foregoing Service Credit Purchase Addendum to the Adoption Agreement are approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Attest:

CITY OF SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

(SEAL)

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

The terms of the foregoing Service Credit Purchase Addendum are approved by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Board of Trustees  
Georgia Municipal Employees  
Benefit System

(SEAL)

---

Secretary



**SERVICE CREDIT PURCHASE  
ADDENDUM TO THE  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM  
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN  
ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

This is an Addendum to the Adoption Agreement completed by the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia (“the Employer”). It modifies the Adoption Agreement to provide for service credit purchases for eligible Participants in the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, in accordance with and subject to the following requirements:

- (1) **Service Credit Purchase; Eligibility Requirements.** Subject to any conditions specified in Section 13.B. or 13.C. of the Adoption Agreement and in this Service Credit Purchase Addendum, Participants in this Plan who are actively employed on April 1, 2018, may purchase credit under this Plan for Service with the Employer prior to April 1, 2018, that is not otherwise creditable under the terms of the Adoption Agreement (i.e., service with the Employer prior to April 1, 2013; see Adoption Agreement pp. 7-8). If a Participant purchases less than the full amount of service credit that is eligible for purchase, or in the case of multiple applications by the same Participant to purchase prior service credit, if the Participant purchases less than the full amount of remaining service credit that is eligible for purchase, he or she must purchase such prior service credit in full-year (12 month) increments. The purchase of prior service credit is permitted but not required under this Plan. Such purchases will be allowed to the extent permitted by law, subject to any conditions, proofs, or acceptance that the Pension Committee Secretary or GMEBS deem appropriate.
  
- (2) **Use of Purchased Service Credit.** Subject to any conditions or limitations provided in this Addendum, service credit purchased hereunder will be counted as Credited Service for purposes of (check all that apply):
  - computing the amount of benefits payable under the Plan;
  
  - meeting the minimum service requirements for vesting under the Plan;

- ☒ meeting the minimum service requirements for benefit eligibility under the Plan.

- (3) **Application to Purchase Service Credit.** A Participant who meets the eligibility requirements specified in paragraph (1) above and who wishes to purchase eligible service credit as described in paragraph (1) above may apply for such purchase by completing and submitting to the Pension Committee Secretary an application form provided for that purpose. Participants will be responsible for providing the Pension Committee Secretary with any information or documentation that the Pension Committee Secretary deems necessary to establish that the Participant's service is eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above.
- (4) **Window Period for Application.** In order to purchase service credit, eligible Participants may submit the service credit purchase application during the periods of May 1 – July 30, 2018 and May 1 – July 30, 2019. If a Participant does not submit a completed application to purchase service credit within the designated window period, the Participant will not be permitted to purchase service credit. As a precondition for approval of the Participant's application, the Participant will be responsible for providing the Pension Committee Secretary with any additional information or documentation that the Pension Committee Secretary deems necessary to establish that the Participant's service is eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, no Participant may apply for or purchase prior service credit after termination of employment.
- (5) **Review by Pension Committee Secretary.** Within a reasonable period of time after the end of the application period, the Pension Committee Secretary will review the Participant's application to purchase service credit and will determine whether the application should be accepted. Upon approval of an application by the Pension Committee Secretary, the Pension Committee Secretary will certify on the application the number of years and months of prior service that are eligible for purchase under paragraph (1) above.
- (6) **Fee for Cost Study.** As a precondition for approval of the application to purchase service credit, and prior to the commencement of any cost study, Participants may be required by the Employer to pay all or a portion of the GMEBS actuarial cost study fee(s) associated with determining the cost to purchase the Participant's eligible service credit.

Any portion of the fee that the Participant is not required to pay will be paid by the Employer.

- (7) **Actuarial Study to Determine Cost of Purchase.** In the event that a cost study has not been undertaken prior to the Participant's submission of a completed application to purchase service credit, if the Participant's application to purchase is approved by the Pension Committee Secretary, a cost study will be undertaken as soon as reasonably practicable after the application has been approved, in order to determine the actuarial cost relating to the Participant's prior service that is eligible for purchase.
- (8) **Lump Sum Payment Required Within 120 Days.** Upon completion of the cost study, the Pension Committee Secretary will notify the Participant of the lump sum amount required to purchase prior service credit, as reflected in the cost study. Within 120 days of receiving this notice or of receiving notice of the Pension Committee's approval of the Participant's application to purchase service credit, whichever is later, the Participant shall remit said lump sum amount in the form and manner required by paragraphs (9)-(11) below, the Pension Committee Secretary, and GMEBS. The Participant may remit less than the full lump sum amount necessary to purchase all of the prior service credit which is eligible for purchase, in which case the percentage of service credit awarded will be equal to the percentage of the full amount remitted. The Pension Committee Secretary shall have the authority to extend the 120-day time period for payment of lump sum amounts required to purchase service credit if, for reasons outside the control of the Participant, payment cannot be made within the 120-day period. However, the time limit for payment will not be extended any later than 120 days and in no event may a Participant make such payment after his or her termination of employment.
- (9) **Method of Payment.** To the extent permitted by the Internal Revenue Code and regulations issued thereunder, the lump sum amount referred to in paragraph (8) above may be paid via one or more of the following sources: (1) a direct trustee-to-trustee transfer from a 401(a) qualified retirement plan, a governmental 457(b) deferred compensation plan or a 403(b) tax sheltered annuity; (2) a qualified rollover from a governmental 457(b) plan, 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity plan, 401(a) qualified plan, 403(a) annuity plan, or a 408(a) or 408(b) individual retirement account or annuity (traditional IRA); or (3) a lump sum

contribution of after-tax funds. Participants shall be solely responsible for effecting the payment referred to herein. Participants will not be permitted to purchase credit via payroll deduction.

- (10) **Limitation on Amount of Lump Sum Payment.** If the lump sum amount referred to in paragraph (8) is paid via any method other than as described under paragraph (9)(1) or (9)(2) above, then the Participant shall not be permitted to contribute to the Plan in any calendar year an amount which exceeds any applicable limit specified in Internal Revenue Code Section 415.
- (11) **IRC 415, Other Limitations.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Adoption Agreement or this Addendum to the contrary, the Plan will not accept and shall return without interest any contribution or portion of a contribution made to purchase service credit if such contribution would result in a violation of the applicable limitations established under Internal Revenue Code Section 415(b), (c), or (n) or any other provision of law or the Plan, or if it is later determined that the Participant's prior service is not eligible for purchase, and any prior service credit attributable to said contribution or portion of a contribution will be forfeited.
- (12) **Return of Contributions.** Contributions made to purchase prior service credit shall be used to fund retirement and death benefits payable under the Plan relating to such credit. Contributions shall not otherwise be refundable to the Participant or any other person, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (12) or in Section 13.06 or 18.04 of the Basic Plan Document (concerning failure to exhaust or termination of the Plan, respectively). Participants (check one):
- will not be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase prior service credit upon termination of employment (Participants must be vested to purchase prior service credit).
  - will not be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase prior service credit upon termination of employment, unless they are not vested upon termination (Participants are not required to be vested to purchase prior service credit).
  - will be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase service credit upon termination of employment, subject to the

provisions of Section 13.03(c) of the Basic Plan Document concerning the effect of withdrawal. For purposes of determining the amount of any refund of contributions made to purchase service credit, said contributions shall be credited with interest as defined in Section 2.39 of the Basic Plan Document, subject to any limitations on the crediting of interest in Section 13.03(c) of the Basic Plan Document.

- will be permitted to withdraw contributions made to purchase service credit upon termination of employment, subject to the following conditions for repayment (must describe): \_\_\_\_\_.

**Note:** Partial withdrawal of employee contributions is not permitted. If the Participant withdraws contributions made to purchase service credit, the Participant will forfeit any and all service credit and/or benefits attributable to such purchase for all purposes.

(13) **Repayment Upon Reemployment.** If the Participant returns to employment with the Employer after having withdrawn contributions made to purchase prior service credit, the Participant (check one):

- not applicable (withdrawal not permitted).
- will not be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment.
- will be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment, based on the actuarial cost of such service credit, taking into account the additional actuarial cost of any benefit enhancements adopted prior to reemployment pursuant to paragraph (14) below, provided that the Participant makes application for such re-purchase within [insert time limit] after reemployment and provided the Participant effects payment for such re-purchase in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this Addendum within [insert time limit] after the application is approved.
- will be permitted to re-purchase said service credit upon reemployment, subject to the following conditions for repayment (must describe other repayment method): See

Section 13.03 of the Basic Plan Document concerning  
repayment of withdrawn Employee Contributions.

(14) Definition of Actuarial Cost. The cost to purchase qualifying prior service credit shall be determined based upon the actuarial cost of said prior service credit. In applying the provisions of the Adoption Agreement and this Service Credit Purchase Addendum, the term "actuarial cost of prior service credit" means:

- the actuarial accrued liability relating to such prior service as determined by the GMEBS actuary and calculated using the actuarial assumptions and methods established for this purpose in the funding policy adopted by the GMEBS Board of Trustees.
- Other (must specify other method of determining actuarial cost for this purpose): \_\_\_\_\_.

The terms of the foregoing Service Credit Purchase Addendum to the Adoption Agreement are approved by the Mayor and Council of the City of Sugar Hill, Georgia, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

Attest:

CITY OF SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

(SEAL)

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**The terms of the foregoing Service Credit Purchase Addendum are approved by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System.**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.**

**Board of Trustees  
Georgia Municipal Employees  
Benefit System**

**(SEAL)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Secretary**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM**

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT 1 TO THE THIRD CYCLE  
RESTATED GMEBS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN  
(APPROVED BY THE IRS AUGUST 31, 2023)**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (“GMEBS”) previously adopted the GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (“Plan”), which received a favorable advisory letter from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) on March 30, 2018, and was most recently amended by the Board on December 2, 2022, through the Board’s approval of Amendment 4 to the Restated GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the Board periodically updates and restates the Plan with the IRS to ensure the qualified status of the Plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;

**WHEREAS**, GMEBS most recently submitted the Plan to the IRS for restatement purposes on June 29, 2022;

**WHEREAS**, on August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter for the Plan;

**WHEREAS**, under the IRS’s practices and procedures relating to plan restatements, certain amendments the Board had previously made to the Plan to implement applicable provisions of the SECURE Act of 2019 and SECURE Act 2.0 concerning the beginning age for required minimum distributions, were not included in the Plan documents submitted to the IRS for restatement purposes;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has reserved the right to amend the Plan on behalf of Adopting Employers to retain the qualified status of the Plan in Section 18.02 of the Basic Plan Document;  
and



**WHEREAS**, the Trustees now wish to amend the newly restated Plan (“Third Cycle Restated GMEBS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan”) to implement applicable provisions of the SECURE Act of 2019 and SECURE Act 2.0 concerning the beginning age for required minimum distributions.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, this Amendment 1 is hereby adopted to amend the Basic Plan Document effective as set forth herein:

1. Section 10.01(b), concerning distribution rules imposed by federal law, are amended to update the age for a Participant’s required beginning date, as follows:

(a) 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 the applicable age or (ii) the calendar year in which the Participant Retires. For purposes of this Section, “applicable age” (as defined under Code Section 401(a)(9)(C)(v)) means:

- (1) Age seventy and one-half (70 ½) (for a Participant who was born on or before June 30, 1949);
- (2) Age seventy-two (72) (for a Participant who was born on or after July 1, 1949, but before 1951); or
- (3) Age seventy-three (73) or the otherwise applicable age under Section 401(a)(9)(C)(v) of the Internal Revenue Code (for a Participant who was born in 1951 or later).

2. Section 10.01(c)(1), concerning distribution rules imposed by federal law, are amended to update the Participant’s age for the purpose of distributions to his or her surviving spouse when said surviving spouse is the sole Designated Beneficiary, as follows:

(b) 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 the applicable age, if later.


**RESOLVED FURTHER** by the Board that the appropriate officers and employees of GMA or the Administrator are authorized to take any and all actions that they deem appropriate or necessary to effectuate the foregoing resolutions on behalf of the Board, including but not limited to making non-substantive modifications to Plan documents as necessary, and that all prior actions taken in effectuating the Restated Plan documents and cooperation with IRS requests and directives are hereby ratified and confirmed in all respects.

**RESOLVED FURTHER** that the amendments herein shall take effect October 1, 2023.

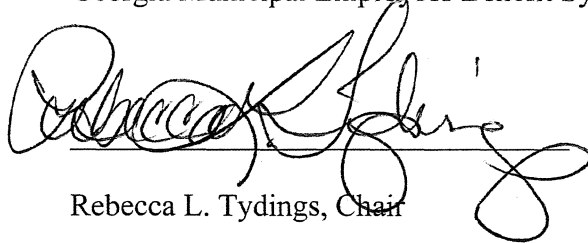
The terms of this Resolution are approved and agreed to by the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System this 22 day of September, 2023.

Attest:

Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Larry Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rebecca L. Tydings, Chair

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees at the meeting held on September 22, 2023.*

**SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS  
TO THE RESTATED  
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES BENEFIT SYSTEM  
DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN**

**I. GENERAL OVERVIEW**

On August 31, 2023, the IRS issued a favorable opinion letter for the Amended and Restated Third Six-Year Cycle Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System Defined Benefit Retirement Plan ("DB Plan" or "Plan"). The 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 BASIC PLAN DOCUMENT**

Participating employers have already been apprised of the content of all amendments adopted by the Board before August 31, 2023. However, during its review, the IRS required GMEBS to include additional amendments in the restated Plan documents. The following information summarizes those amendments, as well as Amendment 1 to the Basic Plan Document, which was approved by the Board of Trustees on September 22, 2023.

- ❖ **Change from “Master Plan Document” to “Basic Plan Document”** – The IRS changed its terminology for pre-approved plan documents from “Master Plan document” to Basic Plan Document.”
- ❖ **Removal of Outdated Language** – GMEBS amended the Plan for administrative purposes to move provisions that were no longer in effect or no longer applicable.
- ❖ **Minimum Age Limits for In-Service Distribution** – As a general rule, employees or elected officials may not draw retirement benefits while employed. The Basic Plan document states that if a plan allows in-service distribution, a participant must be at least age 62, or satisfy certain “safe harbor” age and service combinations established in IRS regulations, 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 (or that satisfies certain IRS “safe harbor” age and service qualifications that apply to 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. Though Congress amended federal law in 2019 to allow plans to set normal retirement ages at a minimum age of 59 ½, the IRS’s opinion letter for the DB Plan specified it would not apply to plans that allowed in-service distribution at ages younger than 62 (or 50 for public safety employees) or that did not satisfy one of the IRS’s safe harbors for in-service distribution. **As in prior restatements, GMEBS plans that currently have in-service distribution provisions that don’t meet these requirements will have the opportunity to file for separate IRS approval of these provisions.** “In-service distribution” means a distribution of normal or alternative normal retirement benefits without a bona fide separation from service. A “bona fide

## SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

separation from service” is a separation from service of at least six months with no expectation of returning to service.

- ❖ **Removal of Public Employment Related Crime Provisions** – At the request of the IRS, GMEBS removed language concerning the reduction or forfeiture of a participant’s benefits following a final conviction of a public employment related crime from the Basic Plan Document. State laws requiring a reduction in or forfeiture of retirement benefits if a participant is convicted of a public employment related crime still apply but are no longer mentioned in the Plan documents.
- ❖ **Clarification of Process for Locating an Individual Owed Benefits** – As required by the IRS, the restated Basic Plan Document details the steps an employer offering benefits under the DB Plan must take to locate an individual to whom benefits are owed under the Plan. These steps include searching Plan-related and publicly available records or directories for alternative contact information; sending certified mail to the individual’s last known mailing address and reaching out through appropriate means for address or contact information (such as email addresses and phone numbers) available to the employer; and using either a commercial locator service, a credit reporting agency or internet search tools to find the individual.
- ❖ **Federal Tax Law Updates** – The Basic Plan Document contains several federal tax law updates, including allowing rollovers to SIMPLE IRAs in certain situations, updating mortality table language relating to annual benefit limits, and allowing employers to amend the plan as necessary to satisfy Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code, even if doing so impacts benefits.
- ❖ **Voting Representative; Trustees** – GMEBS updated language in the Basic Plan Document designating employers’ voting representative for GMEBS purposes to be consistent with the GMEBS Bylaws. The language provides that, unless otherwise directed by an employer’s chief executive, a GMEBS trustee will be considered his or her employer’s designated voting representative. For all other employers, the chief executive or administrative officer will be the employer’s voting representative.
- ❖ **Use of Trust Fund Assets** – The Basic Plan Document stipulates that trust fund assets can be used to pay reasonable fees, taxes and expenses of the Plan and Trust.
- ❖ **Reversion of Assets in Event of Plan Termination** – Per the request of the IRS, GMEBS amended the Basic Plan Document to state that, in the event an employer’s plan is terminated, excess trust fund assets remaining after paying all vested accrued benefits to all participants can only revert to the employer if the excess was due to an actuarial error.
- ❖ **Added Language to Adoption Agreement Regarding Compliance with Federal Law when an Employer Has More than One Defined Benefit Retirement Plan** – Per the request of the IRS, the Adoption Agreement contains a new Section 15(G) concerning Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, when an employer has more than one defined benefit retirement plan. This provision will be blank in most GMEBS employers’ Adoption Agreements.

## SUMMARY OF KEY AMENDMENTS

- ❖ **Adjusted Minimum Ages for Commencement of Required Minimum Contributions** – The SECURE Act of 2019 and 2022’s SECURE 2.0 raised the age at which participants have to start drawing retirement benefits. These changes were not included in the restated Basic Plan Document reviewed by the IRS. However, on September 23, 2023, the Board of Trustees of GMEBS adopted Amendment 1 to the Restated Plan to implement these updates. Currently, a terminated vested participant must retire no later than the April 1 following the date the participant turns 73. Starting in 2033, a terminated vested participant must retire no later than the April 1 following the date the participant turns 75.



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
Employee Plans

August 31, 2023

Ice Miller

Attn: Lisa Erb Harrison

One American Square, Suite 2900

Indianapolis, In. 46282-0200

Re: Application for opinion letter

Dear Ms. Harrison:

The enclosed letter is being sent to you under the provisions of a power of attorney currently on file with the Internal Revenue Service.

If you have any questions, please contact Janell Hayes, badge number 1000203103, by phone at (513) 975-6319.

Sincerely,

*Aimee Beimesche*

Aimee Beimesche

Manager Pre-approved Plans Program

Enclosure:  
Letter to taxpayer



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
1111 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20224

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION INC  
201 PRYOR STREET SW  
ATLANTA, GA 30303

**Date:**  
08/31/2023  
**Employer ID number:**  
58-0907810  
**Case number:**  
202200321  
**File folder number:**  
FFN: 317E0630001-001  
**Letter Serial number:**  
Q705465a  
**Plan number:**  
01-001  
**Plan description:**  
Non-Standardized Pre-Approved Defined  
Benefit Plan  
**Date of submission:**  
06/30/2022  
**Person to contact:**  
Name: Janell Hayes  
ID number: 1000203103  
Telephone: 513-975-6319  
Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
EST. Mon-Fri

Dear Applicant:

In our opinion, the form of the plan shown above is acceptable for employers to use for their employees' benefit under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401.

We considered the changes in qualification requirements in the 2020 Cumulative List of Notice 2020-14, 2020-13 Internal Revenue Bulletin (I.R.B.) 555. Our opinion relates only to the acceptability of the form of the plan under the IRC. We didn't consider the effect of other federal or local statutes.

You must provide the following to each employer who adopts this plan:

- . A copy of this letter
- . A copy of the approved plan
- . Copies of any subsequent amendments including their dates of adoption
- . Direct contact information including address and telephone number of the plan provider

Our opinion of the plan's form acceptability is a determination of the plan's qualification as adopted by a particular employer only under the circumstances, and to the extent, described in Revenue Procedure (Rev. Proc.) 2017-41, 2017-29 I.R.B. 92. The employer who adopts this plan can generally rely on this letter to the extent described in Rev. Proc. 2017-41. Thus, Employee Plans Determinations, except as provided in Section 12 of Rev. Proc. 2023-4, 2023-01 I.R.B. 162 (as updated annually), will not issue a determination letter to an employer who adopts this plan. Review Rev. Proc. 2023-4 to determine if an adopting employer is eligible to submit a determination letter application and, if so, how. The employer must also follow the terms of the plan in operation.

Except as provided below, our opinion doesn't apply to the requirements of IRC Sections 401(a)(4), 401(a)(26), 401(l), 410(b), and 414(s). Our opinion doesn't apply to IRC Sections 415 and 416 if an employer maintains or ever maintained another qualified plan for one or more employees covered by this plan.

Our opinion doesn't apply to:

- . Treasury Regulations (Treas. Reg.) Section 1.401(a)-1(b)(2) requirements where the normal retirement age under the employer's plan is below 62.
- . Proposed Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)-1(b)(2) requirements where the employer's plan is a governmental plan and its normal retirement age doesn't satisfy one of the safe harbors under the proposed regulations.

Our opinion doesn't constitute a determination:

- . That the plan is an IRC Section 414(d) governmental plan. Nor is this a ruling as to the tax treatment of contributions that are picked up by the governmental employing unit per IRC Section 414(h)(2).
- . That the plan is an IRC Section 414(e) church plan.

A non-electing church plan may not rely on our opinion for rules governing pre-Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) participation and coverage.

Our opinion applies to the requirements of IRC Sections 410(b) and 401(a)(26) (other than the 401(a)(26) requirements that apply to a prior benefit structure) if 100% of all non-excludable employees benefit under the plan.

Employers who choose a safe harbor benefit formula and a safe harbor compensation definition may also rely on this opinion letter for the non-discriminatory amounts requirement under IRC Section 401(a)(4).

If this plan provides for voluntary employee contributions subject to IRC Section 401(m), the employer may rely on the opinion letter for the form of the nondiscrimination test of IRC Section 401(m)(2) if the employer uses a safe harbor compensation definition.

Except as provided in Section 5.18(2) of Rev. Proc. 2017-41, an employer who adopts a cash balance plan cannot rely on an opinion letter for the requirements of IRC Section 411(b)(1) where the cash balance formula uses a structure of principal credits that increase with age, service, or other measure during a participant's employment.

This opinion letter doesn't cover any provisions in trust or custodial account documents:

- . Trusts or custodial account documents can't contain a provision that the provisions of the trust override the provisions of the plan.
- . This plan's provisions override any conflicting provision in the trust or custodial account documents used with the plan.
- . An adopting employer may not rely on this letter to the extent a trust or custodial account's provisions in a separate part of the plan override or conflict with the plan document provisions.
- . This letter does not constitute a ruling or determination as to the exempt status of related trusts or custodial accounts under IRC Section 501(a).

An employer who adopts this plan may not rely on this letter when the employer:

- . Uses the plan to amend or restate a plan which wasn't previously qualified.
- . Adopts it before the opinion letter is issued.
- . Doesn't correctly complete the adoption agreement or other elective provisions in the plan.
- . Made amendments that cause the plan not to be considered identical to the pre-approved plan, as described in Section 8.03 of Rev. Proc. 2017-41.

Our opinion doesn't:

- . Apply to what is contained in any applicable documents referenced outside the plan or adoption agreement, such as a collective bargaining agreement.
- . Consider issues under ERISA Title I, which are administered by the Department of Labor.

You must include your address and telephone number on the pre-approved plan or the plan's adoption agreement, if applicable, so that adopting employers can contact you directly.

If you, the pre-approved plan provider, have questions about your case, you can:

- . Call the telephone number at the top of the first page of this letter. This number is only for the provider's use. Individual participants or adopting employers with questions about the plan should contact you.
- . Write to us - provide your telephone number and the best time to call if we need more information.

Whether you call or write, reference the letter serial number and file folder number at the top of the first page of this letter.

Let us know if you change or discontinue sponsorship of this plan.

Keep a copy of this letter for your records.



GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION INC  
FFN: 317E0630001-001  
Page: 3

Sincerely,



Daniel Dragoo  
Director, EP Rulings & Agreements

cc: ICE MILLER LLP  
ATTENTION: LISA ERB HARRISON  
ONE AMERICAN SQUARE, SUITE 2900  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46282