



**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

**GATES PUBLIC LIBRARY
and THE TOWN OF GATES**

AND

C.W.A. LOCAL 1170

January 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2027

ORIGINAL



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AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and entered into this th 4 day of December 2024, by and between the Gates Public Library "Library", the Town of Gates "Town", and the Communications Workers of America, Local 1170, hereinafter referred to as the "Union".

WHEREAS, the Library, Town, and the Union as parties to this Agreement are desirous of entering into a written Contract with respect to salaries, wages, hours, and other conditions of employment; and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached certain understandings which they desire to confirm in this Agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the following mutual covenants, it is hereby agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – PURPOSE

- 1.1 It is the purpose of this Agreement to effectuate the provisions of Chapter 391 of the Laws of 1967 (The Public Employees' Fair Employment Act), to provide orderly collective negotiating relations between the Town and the Union, to secure prompt and equitable disposition of grievances, and to establish fair wages, hours, and working conditions for the employees covered by this Agreement.
- 1.2 The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied equally and to all employees in the bargaining unit without discrimination as to age, sex, race, color, creed, national origin, or handicapped status.

ARTICLE 2 – RECOGNITION

- 2.1 The Library recognizes the Union as the sole and exclusive representative for all full-time employees described in Section 2.5 of this Article, for the purpose of Collective Bargaining and processing of grievances for the maximum period defined in the Taylor Act.
- 2.2 The Library shall deduct from wages of employees and remit to the Union regular membership dues on behalf of those employees who have signed authorization permitting such payroll deductions, in accordance with Section 208 (1) of the Act. Union dues shall be withheld over 26 payroll periods.
- 2.3 The Library shall inform employees and applicants for employment of their rights and obligations under the provision of this Article.
- 2.4 The Union affirms that it does not assert the right to strike against the Library, to assist or participate in any such strike, or to impose an obligation upon its members to conduct, assist, or participate in such a strike.
- 2.5 The Bargaining Unit shall consist of all appointed librarians, clerks, **and bookkeeper** working 30 hours or more per week with the exception of the Director and Assistant Director.

- 2.6 Certain library employees have permanent competitive appointment under Civil Service rules. These employees have defined rights conveyed by their Civil Service status. The Library is bound by those rules as they pertain to such categories as job title and seniority. Permanent competitively appointed employees may be full-time, part-time, or job share. The Library also employs workers on a part-time basis with hourly pay. Employees have certain rights and benefits based on their job status and whether they work full or part-time. However, only employees defined in 2.5 above are considered members of the Union and are entitled to benefits pursuant to this and any future Collective Bargaining Agreements. This does not limit in any way, the Library's right to hire and continue to use part-time employees.
- 2.7 Effective upon ratification of the contract, the Library will provide the Union with 30 calendar days advance notice of the implementation of a new title and/or pay grade or abolishment of a job title and/or pay grade solely relating to Bargaining Unit members.
- 2.8 The Union shall indemnify and hold the Employer harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders, and judgments brought against the Library as a result of the action taken or not taken by the Employer under the provisions of Section 2.2 of this Article.
- 2.9 **In the event the Library hires a new employee at a higher rate of pay than current employees, the parties agree to negotiate new wages for the existing employees in the affected classifications.**

ARTICLE 3 – COMPENSATION

- 3.1 **Effective January 1, 2025, each employee shall receive a salary increase of 4%.
Effective January 1, 2026, each employee shall receive a salary increase of 4%.
Effective January 1, 2027, each employee shall receive a salary increase of 4%.**

***Any employee hired or beginning a new position in the Library in quarter 4 (October-December) of the calendar year will not be eligible for an increase in the coming year.**

- 3.2 **New/promoted employees will progress on the wage range chart yearly on January 1.**

Position	Beginning							End
Library Clerk	\$17.35	\$18.04	\$18.77	\$19.52	\$20.30	\$21.11	\$21.95	
Senior Library Clerk	\$20.25	\$21.06	\$21.90	\$22.78	\$23.69	\$24.64	\$25.62	
Principal Library Clerk	\$22.50	\$23.40	\$24.34	\$25.31	\$26.32	\$27.37	\$28.47	
Librarian I	\$27.00	\$28.08	\$29.20	\$30.37	\$31.59	\$32.85	\$34.16	
Librarian II	\$27.75	\$28.86	\$30.01	\$31.21	\$32.46	\$33.76	\$35.11	
Bookkeeper	\$21.50	\$22.36	\$23.25	\$24.18	\$24.67	\$25.15	\$26.16	
Office Clerk II	\$24.50	\$25.48	\$26.50	\$27.56	\$28.66	\$29.81	\$31.00	

- 3.3 Each new employee or rehired employee shall be on probation consistent with Civil Service Procedures. At any time during this probationary period, the Library, in its sole discretion, may elect to discharge, discipline, or lay off the said employee.

ARTICLE 4 – JOB SECURITY

- 4.1 Any reduction in the workforce shall be consistent with Civil Service Law, Sections 80 and 81.
- 4.2 For the duration of the Contract, no bargaining unit employees shall be laid off. The Library shall maintain a minimum 13 of full-time or full-time equivalent staffing for the duration of this Contract.
- 4.3 Any full-time employee whose job is abolished and is made into a part-time job shall have the first option of assuming the part-time position, which replaced the abolished full-time position. Employees in the non-competitive positions whose full-time positions are abolished and displaced by part-time employees shall have recall rights with the Library for one (1) year, to a position for which the laid-off employee qualifies.
- 4.4 The Library will make every effort to discuss with the Union any and all anticipated job abolishments before such anticipation is made public. However, the Library has the right to notify and discuss with the affected employee the issue of job abolishment prior to speaking with the unit president.

ARTICLE 5 – RETIREMENT PLAN

- 5.1 Employees shall be covered by the New York State Employee's Retirement System and will be bound by its laws and regulations.
- 5.2 The parties agree that the provisions of this Article shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the New York State Retirement Fund as enacted by the New York State Legislature.
- 5.3 The employee at the time of their retirement shall have the option of being paid out the accrued unused sick leave or adding it to their service credit for the purpose of calculating their retirement benefit.

ARTICLE 6 – OVERTIME

- 6.1 **Salaried employees are not expected to work above the normal workweek.** Salaried employees not eligible for overtime pay pursuant to law or contract shall receive compensatory time off for work in excess of their normal work week. Such time is called Compensatory Time and is taken in accordance with the requirements of the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1985 (FLSA).
- 6.2 Under the FLSA, compensatory time under 40 hours is taken at straight time for hours worked in excess of the normal work week; hours worked over 40 hours are taken as time and one half.
- 6.3 Compensatory time is normally cumulative and must be taken during the year in which such time was earned. With the exception that compensatory time earned within the last two weeks of a calendar year may be carried over to the first pay period of the next calendar year. Any time off for compensatory time is subject to the prior approval of the Director.

ARTICLE 7 – WORK WEEK

7.1 For the purpose of this section, the normal work week for all full-time employees is thirty-seven and one half (37 ½) hours, based upon a six-day Monday through Saturday work week.

If an employee is requested to work on a Sunday, the employee may voluntarily agree to the work, and will be compensated pursuant to Article 6.

Each employee will be provided a thirty (30) minute unpaid meal break. Two daily relief periods of 15 minutes each are provided to full-time employees.

7.2 Each staff member shall work according to daily and weekly schedules **approved** by the Director or Assistant Director who shall be responsible for assignment of schedules to ensure that personnel are adequately scheduled for full library service over public hours.

7.3 The Director or Assistant Director is responsible for the maintenance of schedules in the library. When the Director is absent from their desk for an appreciable length of time during their scheduled hours, other staff members should be notified as to where they can be reached. An employee does not leave the library without permission, except when necessary, in performing their routine duties. In such cases, they should leave word as to where they may be located.

7.4 When a member of the staff through illness or other reasons is unable to be on duty as scheduled, they should notify the Director or the Assistant Director at the earliest opportunity.

ARTICLE 8 – VACATION

8.1 Each employee shall receive each year vacation with pay based upon the following schedule. Vacation pay is to be accrued on a monthly basis, to a maximum of 300 hours (40 days) accumulation. Accrual for vacation commences on the employee's anniversary date. For partial months, accrual is proportional to time worked.

<u>Employee</u>	<u>Monthly Accrual</u>	<u>Annual Vacation</u>
Librarians:	15.63 hours	187.5 hours (25 days)
Clerks: < 5 years	9.38 hours	112.5 hours (15 days)
After 5 years	12.5 hours	150 hours (20 days)
After 10 years	15.63 hours	187.5 hours (25 days)

8.2 Earned vacation time may be taken after only the first six months of employment. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the Director. A staff member who leaves before completion of six months of service shall forfeit vacation credits thus accrued. The Director or Assistant Director shall approve vacation schedules to ensure that personnel are adequately scheduled for full library service over public hours.

8.3 In the event an employee incurs documented illness, accident, or death of a relative while on vacation, any charge against vacation credits will cease upon the first day of such illness or accident or death provided that the employee gives the Director a written request to change leave

time. Additionally, the employee must provide appropriate documentation as requested by the Director. The request for change must occur on the day the employee returns to work. Any requests made after the date of return will not be considered. The employee will be charged back for the time taken for illness, accident, or death taken during vacation.

- 8.4 Earned vacation shall be paid to an employee's estate upon their death.
- 8.5 Employees who are promoted and as a result, become probationary employees may use up to and including a maximum of two weeks of accrued vacation time during the first six months in their new position, subject to availability and management approval as set forth herein at Section 8.2.

ARTICLE 9 – HEALTH INSURANCE

- 9.1 The Library shall provide each full-time employee who works more than 30 hours per week with health insurance.

The Library will offer the Excellus Signature Copay 1 plan as mutually agreed to for the duration of the Contract. Employees are responsible to pay the following towards their monthly premiums for health insurance for the duration of the Contract:

Single Plan - \$25.00 per month

All Other Plans - \$50.00 per month

Employees hired after 1/1/14 will pay 10% towards the monthly premium.

Employees hired after 1/1/17 will pay 15% towards the monthly premium.

New hires, effective 8/1/22, will pay 20% toward their health, dental, and eye benefits.

- 9.2 Employees who decline health insurance coverage with the Library shall receive a payment equivalent to the following amount for each year's benefits, payable in February of the following year: \$2,500 for a single plan and \$5,000 for all others.

- 9.3 The Library agrees to provide fully paid medical insurance coverage for retirees and their spouses covered by this Agreement, who meet the following requirements:

1. Eligible for Medicare or within 3 years of eligibility AND
2. Employed for 10 years or more by the Library on a full-time basis. Note: The 10 years must be consecutive and just prior to retirement; OR
3. At least 55 years of age with 25 years of continuous employment by the Library.
4. Dependents up to age 26 will be covered at 50% of cost of monthly premium in difference from the family plan and employee plus spouse.
5. In the event the above base plan listed in Section 9.1 is unavailable, then retiree shall receive the base plan that is offered to current employees until age 65, or Medicare eligible, whichever comes first.

For current employees who retire after January 1, 2025, the Library agrees to provide Health insurance coverage only (no dental or vision) for them and their spouses covered by this Agreement who meet the above requirements. The retiree must also continue to pay the amount and/or percentage of the employee contribution that was in effect at the time of their retirement.

When an employee dies who retired under the above provisions, the Library will continue to provide fully paid coverage or alternate health benefit for their spouse and eligible dependents for 12 months after death. After the 12-month period, the Library will permit the spouse who was on the retiree's contract at the time of death to continue in the Library's plan provided the Library is reimbursed 100% for the expense of the coverage.

Alternate health care reimbursement year of retirement.

1. The Library will pay a prorated amount based on months accrued in the year in which an employee retires. Payment will be provided to the employee in their final paycheck and prorated based on the last full month of service completed.
2. If a retired employee opts out of the Library provided retiree medical, they will continue to receive the alternative health care reimbursement based on the previous calendar year's premium. Payment will be made the first pay period in February for the previous year's accrual. Payment will be consistent with dollar amounts specified in Article 9, Section 2.
3. Participation in the alternate health care reimbursement plan as a retiree doesn't prohibit a retiree from receiving their retiree medical benefits from the Library in the future. Retiree medical benefits will be selected either during open enrollment or if a change in status occurs.

- 9.4 The Library shall provide fully paid Blue Cross/Blue Shield Dental Plan and Vision Care Plan to each unit employee covered by this Agreement. Anyone hired after 8/1/22 will pay the same percentage towards dental and eye care that they pay towards health insurance.
- 9.5 In the event that the health insurance providers drop the plans covered by this Agreement, the parties agree to negotiate on the replacement plan or plans and the proposed health care coverage changed for the employees.
- 9.6 The Library will request from the insurance carriers, a detailed summary of the privileges and benefits provided in the current medical coverage plans for employees of the bargaining unit. The Town will provide the Union with a copy of such detailed summary.
- 9.7 Effective January 1, 2009, Domestic Partner Coverage will be provided for all qualified benefits. The Town, Library, and Union will agree to mutually define Domestic Partner.
- 9.8 Starting in 2022, the Town will place \$600.00 each year into a Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) for each full-time employee of the Library who was hired after January 1st, 2014; for all employees hired before this date, the amount will be \$400.00. This account allows for an employee to pay for most health care expenses not covered under their medical, dental, or vision plans with tax free dollars. All reimbursements will be subject to the rules of HRA.
- 9.9 Newly hired employees will be provided a prorated amount toward their Health Reimbursement Account (HRA).

ARTICLE 10 – SICK LEAVE

10.1 General Provisions

1. Sick leave credits are allowed for full time employees at the rate of one working day (7.5 hours) per month. These credits are cumulative up to sixty (60) working days (450 hours).

For partial months, accrual is proportional to time worked. Sick leave with full pay is not granted beyond accrued credits.

2. Employees who have accumulated more than sixty (60) days at the time this Agreement is ratified may keep accumulated sick days. In no event can an employee continue to accumulate sick days beyond sixty (60) days after ratification of this Agreement. All other employees can only accumulate up to sixty (60) days.
3. When sick leave extends beyond three working days, the Director may request the employee to submit a medical certificate by the attending physician.
4. For the purpose of this Article, immediate family shall include: spouse, domestic partner, natural, foster, or stepparent, child, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, or any relative residing in the household. Effective January 1, 2009, Domestic Partner's Parents to be included as immediate family.
5. In the case of serious illness in the employee's immediate family, defined above, a full-time employee shall be permitted to charge necessary absence to sick leave or vacation beginning with the first day of absence. The amount chargeable to sick leave may not exceed ten (10) days per year.
6. When sick leave is used beyond three consecutive days because of illness in the immediate family, the Director may request a certificate by the attending physician covering the nature of the illness and the need for the employee to be in attendance of the relative.
7. Upon retirement, employees shall be eligible to be paid up to sixty (60) days of accrued sick leave.
8. Employees shall be covered for Disability Insurance one (1) week after they have exhausted any sick leave credits. Employees shall apply for benefits through the Town of Gates.
9. Employees covered by this Agreement may contribute one day of sick leave per year to a pool of sick leave time that can be used by any employee who has used all their sick leave due to a serious medical condition. Employees can contribute more than one day of sick leave per year if they choose. This Sick Bank shall be capped at 60 days.

Administration of the Sick Bank will be governed by the policy guidelines mutually agreed to by the Town and the Union. **For further information, see the Library's Sick Bank Policy updated October 2024.**

10.2 Maternity Leave/Paternity Leave

The Town of Gates will provide 6 weeks (for natural) or 8 weeks (for cesarean) of paid leave after childbirth in order to bond with and care for that child.

Six (6) weeks will also be given to care for the newly placed child, provided that the adoption of a new spouse's child (i.e., the creation of a stepparent/stepchild relationship) is excluded from

this policy to a full-time employee who has completed at least twelve consecutive months of service.

The six (6) week paid leave will mirror the employee's work week, five days on and two days off for a total of 30 workdays. An employee can use Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) up to an additional 6 weeks (30 workdays) unpaid. The employee is allowed to use any accruals they have to supplement the additional 6 weeks unpaid leave under FMLA.

The domestic partner or father will have 2 weeks of paid leave to care for a newborn if a full-time employee. After the initial 2 weeks of paid leave is exhausted, the individual is eligible for FMLA to be used for an additional 10 weeks unpaid (unless both parents work for the Town of Gates). If both parents work for the Town of Gates, the time taken under FMLA may not overlap.

The employee has a right to be reinstated in a position of equivalent pay within six (6) months of the first day of disability, which results from pregnancy, subject to the written approval of their attending physician. If the employee's job function is to be changed upon return from maternity leave, such employee shall receive at least two (2) weeks of advance notice of the change of job function.

During the period of maternity leave, the employee will be entitled to all Library benefits as set forth in this Agreement. After the period of disability, the employee may request an unpaid leave of absence, the length of which, when combined with the disability period, shall not exceed six (6) months. During the course of unpaid leave, the Library will continue to pay its share of the health insurance premium for the term of the maternity leave, not to exceed six (6) months. The Library is not required to pay for holidays, jury duty leave, bereavement leave, or sick leave during the period of unpaid leave time.

ARTICLE 11 – FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE ACT OF 1993

- 11.1 Federal law requires covered employers of which Gates Public Library is one, to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons. Employees are eligible if they have worked for the Library for at least one year, and for 1,250 hours over the previous twelve (12) months (or an average of 24 hours per week).
- 11.2 Unpaid leave must be granted for any of the following reasons:
- To care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
 - To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent, who has a serious health condition;
 - For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.
 - Effective January 1, 2009, to care for the parent of an employee's domestic partner.
- 11.3 At the employee's or employer's option, certain kinds of paid leave may be substituted for unpaid leave per other sections of this Agreement.
- 11.4 The employee may be required to provide advance leave and medical leave certification. Taking of leave may be denied if requirements are not met:

- The employee ordinarily must provide 30 days advance notice when leave is “foreseeable”.
- An employer may require medical certification to support a request for leave because of serious health condition and may require a second or third opinion (at the employer’s expense) and a fitness for duty report to return to work.

11.5 For the duration of Family and Medical Leave, the employer must maintain the employee’s health coverage under any group health plan (applicable to salaried or job shared positions only).

Upon return from Family or Medical Leave, employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

The use of Family and Medical Leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefits that accrued prior to the start of an employee’s leave. (Note: accrued benefits such as sick or vacation leave do not continue to accrue for any unpaid leave for applicable employees).

ARTICLE 12 – BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

12.1 All employees will be granted five (5) working days leave with pay due to death in the employee’s immediate family, which shall include: spouse, natural, foster or stepparent, child, brother or sister, father- or mother-in-law, grandparents, grandchild, domestic partner, parent(s) of domestic partner, or any other relative residing in the household.

The employee may reserve one (1) of these days to attend to legal business directly resulting from the death of this family member. Scheduling of this day will be with the approval of the Director, and will be subject to verification, if requested.

12.2 An additional fourteen (14) days may be charged to accrued sick leave or vacation for circumstances surrounding this death, for a total of nineteen (19) days. Paid or unpaid leave may be granted beyond the nineteen (19) days at the discretion of the Director.

12.3 Employees will be granted one (1) working day leave with pay due to death of any relative or person of great significance of the employee’s not listed in Section 12.1 above. Said absence must be reported to the Director of the first day of such absence.

ARTICLE 13 – HOLIDAYS

13.1 Employees covered by this Agreement shall be entitled to holidays with pay as follows:

New Year’s Day	Presidents Day	Martin Luther King Day
Memorial Day	July 4 th	Labor Day
Thanksgiving Day	Day after Thanksgiving	
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	

- 13.2 **Four** floating holidays are granted to the employees and are to be used at the discretion of the employee, with prior written approval from the Director and/or Assistant Director, in the absence of the Director. The request will be granted on a first-come basis.
- 13.3 If a holiday falls on a Saturday, it will be observed on the preceding Friday. If a holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on the following Monday.

ARTICLE 14 – PERSONAL LEAVE

- 14.1 Employees shall be granted two personal leave days, with pay, per year. Such personal leave is to be used for personal business of the employee. Personal leave should not be used the day before or after a holiday or vacation day, except in cases of emergency. Personal leave may be granted for religious obligations, funerals, or personal emergencies. Personal leave will be granted solely in accordance with management discretion. Personal leave may be used cumulatively, at the direction of the Library Director.
- 14.2 Except in cases of an emergency, requests should be submitted 24 hours in advance. For purposes of scheduling, requests are subject to the approval of the Director if not submitted 24 hours in advance.
- 14.3 Personal leave days not used by December 31st of each year will be forfeited.
- 14.4 New employees are entitled to one (1) personal leave day during their probationary period provided they meet the criteria for granting personal leave as outlined above and in accordance with management's discretion.
- 14.5 The Director/Assistant Director will grant leaves of absence, with pay, as follows:
1. **Leave to attend the Annual Conference of ALA and NYLA or any other conference leave per the Staff Development Policy, as approved by the Library Director. See further details in the Library Staff Development Policy.**
 2. Leave for Civil Service and certification examinations.
 3. Leave for quarantine.
 4. Leave for military and naval duty not to exceed 15 days in one calendar year.
 5. Leave for Veterans Day for any honorable discharged members of the regular Armed Services. (Submit a copy of discharge papers to Director at start of employment to receive this paid leave.)
 6. Leave required by law.

ARTICLE 15 – LONGEVITY

15.1 Employees covered by this Agreement will receive annual longevity payments according to the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Dollar Amount</u>
0-4	\$0
5-9	\$900
10-14	\$1,000
15-19	\$1,200
20 or More	\$1,450

15.2 Method of Payment: Longevity payments shall be credited to the employee on the anniversary day of employment and shall be paid in a lump sum in payroll 24 of that year. The payment will not be added to an employee's base salary.

15.3 The anniversary year will be determined based on the date of first hire or re-hire after an employee has left the employer and subsequently returns. The anniversary year is based upon continuous service.

ARTICLE 16 – RECIPROCAL RIGHTS

16.1 The Union shall have the right to post notices and communication relative to Union business on bulletin boards maintained on the premises and facilities of the Library.

16.2 The Library recognizes the right of the employees to designate representatives of the Union to appear on their behalf to discuss salaries, working conditions, grievances, and disputes as to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and to appear at public hearings before appropriate municipal organizations, and to prepare and negotiate contracts on their behalf.

16.3 Employees who are designated or elected for the purpose of adjusting grievances, preparing for and negotiating contracts, or assisting in the administration of this Agreement shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time free from their regular duties, with pay, to fulfill these obligations which have as their purpose maintenance of harmonious and cooperative relations between the Library and the employees, and the uninterrupted operation of government.

16.4 Upon demand, the Union or the Library will give the names of their representatives and attorney to the opposite party.

16.5 Any member of the Union shall have the right to present a grievance to representatives of the Library for filing such grievance with their designated Union representative, without loss of pay.

16.6 Representatives of the Union will be allowed release time with pay for the purpose of representing employees in a grievance in any stage of the grievance procedure.

16.7 Union representatives shall be allowed release time with pay to meet with Town representatives for the purpose of discussing on behalf of employees: salaries, working conditions, grievances

and disputes relating to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and preparation and negotiations for contracts.

- 16.8 The parties to this Agreement agree to the following procedure for release time for Union Business:
- A. Union representatives shall notify immediate supervisor of the requirement for release time, and shall document the place of intended visitation, the general purpose of the release time, and the estimated duration of absence.
 - B. Upon arrival at destination, the Union representative shall notify the supervisor of that department of their presence, the fact that the person is on Union Business, and the estimated duration of their stay.
 - C. The Union representative shall, upon return to their department, document the time of their return.
 - D. Management may deny leave time, if it interferes with the operation of the Library.
 - E. The Director may not unreasonably deny time off requested. An employee is allowed up to one (1) hour during a workday to handle any grievance.

ARTICLE 17 – SEPARABILITY

- 17.1 Should any part hereof, or any provision herein contained, be rendered or declared illegal or unfair labor practice by reason of any existing or subsequently enacted legislation, or by any decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, or by the decision of any authorized government agency, such invalidation of such part or portion of the Agreement shall not invalidate the remaining portions thereof, provided, however, upon such invalidation, the parties agree immediately to meet and negotiate substitute provisions for such parts or provisions rendered or declared illegal or unfair practice. The remaining parts or provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 18 – MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- 18.1 The Library retains the sole and exclusive right to manage and direct its operations and work forces and hereby retains and reserves unto itself all right, power, authority, duty, and responsibility conferred on and vested in it by the laws and Constitution of the State of New York and/or United States of America.
- 18.2 The exercise of any such right, power, authority, duty, or responsibility by the Library and the adoption of such rules, regulations and policies as it may deem necessary shall, as they apply to employees covered by this Agreement, be limited only by the specific and express terms of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19 – PERSONNEL RULES

- 19.1 The Library has the right to adopt additional personnel rules, **I.E. GPL Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook**, which are not in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement. The Union has reviewed current policies prior to executing this Agreement.
- 19.2 The Library agrees to conform to the specific and express provisions of this Agreement, for the term of this Agreement, and will not alter or modify any such provision without negotiating with the Union prior to any such modification or alteration.

ARTICLE 20 – DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- 20.1 A permanent competitive employee for whom discipline or discharge is being contemplated shall have the option to waive their rights under Civil Service Law, Section 75 and elect to utilize the Grievance and Arbitration provisions of this Agreement if the disciplinary action is contested. The election of one remedy precludes the employee from pursuing another remedy covered by this Agreement.
- 20.2 When discipline or discharge is contemplated, the employee shall be so advised and will be given three (3) working days to select the method under which discipline will proceed (i.e. Civil Service, Section 75, or contractual Grievance and Arbitration). The employee's election shall be in writing.
- 20.3 For employees electing the contractual process, any grievance will commence at Step 1 and will be filed within the time frames set forth in the Contract. The pendency of a grievance under this Article shall not restrict the Library's right to take any action being contested by the employee.
- 20.4 Employees not covered by Civil Service Law, Section 75, will be subject to discipline and discharge in accordance with the provisions of the Grievance and Arbitration articles of this Contract.
- 20.5 The Library maintains the right to discipline an employee in accordance with Civil Service Guidelines.

ARTICLE 21 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 21.1 A grievance shall be a complaint by an employee or group of employees, or by the Union on behalf of an employee group of employees, that said employee or group of employees have, in any manner, been treated unfairly as to wages, hours, or working conditions, or by an authorized Union representative with respect to the interpretation or application of any provision of any collective bargaining agreement between the parties.
- 21.2 The Union shall be considered the representative for grievance representation purposes of any employee laid off, discharged, or otherwise separated from the payroll until the time limits of the grievance and arbitration procedure have been exhausted (except termination of a probationary employee shall not be subject to the arbitration procedure).

- 21.3 Permanent competitive employees facing contemplated discipline shall have the option to elect Civil Service Law, Section 75, or the contractual Grievance and Arbitration process (see Article 19).
- 21.4 Grievances presented at any step of the grievance procedure shall be presented in writing on the grievance form adopted by the parties. The Library's answer shall also be in writing.

STEPS

- Step 1: Director/Assistant Director
- Step 2: Personnel Committee of the Library Board
- Step 3: Town Supervisor

- 21.5 No grievance shall be considered unless presented within fifteen (15) working days from the date the alleged grievance first arose.
- 21.6 Grievances presented at the Step 1 shall be answered within seven (7) working days. The Union shall then have seven (7) working days to answer the Library's Step 1 answer or move the alleged grievance to Step 2 by written request, setting forth the reason for the non-acceptance of the Library's response.
- 21.7 Step 2 grievances must be filed within ten (10) days of the Library's response to the Step 1 grievance. The Library then shall have ten (10) working days to answer the Step 2 grievance. Step 3 grievances must be filed within ten (10) working days of the Library's response to the Step 2 grievance. The Town Supervisor will have ten (10) days to respond to the Step 3 grievance.
- 21.8 Settlement of grievance shall not be final and binding unless endorsed by the Union, the Library Board, and the Town of Gates or their appropriate designee.
- 21.9 The Union shall notify the Library of those authorized Union representatives authorized to present and process grievances.
- 21.10 The Union shall notify the Library of authorized Union representatives to be no more than three (3) persons including the aggrieved person to present or process the grievance. An attorney may be present to represent any of the parties.
- 21.11 Time limits for presenting grievances may be extended by mutual agreement of both parties.

ARTICLE 22 – ARBITRATION

- 22.1 If the Union is not satisfied with the Step 3 response in only those grievances concerning discharge, demotion, or disciplinary action by the Library, and those grievances concerning intent, meaning, or application of the terms of this Agreement, the Union shall have the right to submit the dispute, after Step 3, to arbitration. The decision to reduce the workforce is not arbitrable. The Union must notify the Library of the intent to arbitrate the grievance within thirty (30) working days after receiving the Library's Step 3 grievance procedure answer.

- 22.2 Within fifteen (15) working days of notifying the Library of its intent to submit an issue to arbitration, the Union shall request from the New York State Public Employment Relations Board, a panel of seven (7) names to be submitted to both parties. The parties shall select an arbitrator from the panel by alternately striking the names from the panel until one name remains. The remaining person shall be designated the arbitrator for this dispute. Either party to this Agreement may request one additional list of arbitrators from PERB.
- 22.3 Nothing contained herein shall prevent the parties from selecting a mutually agreeable arbitrator not included in the PERB list.
- 22.4 The arbitrator shall have no authority to add to or subtract from or modify the provisions of any contract between the parties; but this in no way shall limit them in the interpretation or meaning they may place upon any of the provisions of any contract between the parties in rendering a decision and/or award.
- 22.5 The decision and/or award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties and enforceable in a court of law.
- 22.6 Compensation and expenses of the arbitrator and the general expenses of arbitration shall be shared equally by the parties.
- 22.7 Each of the parties shall bear the expenses of representatives and witnesses.

ARTICLE 23 – MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

- 23.1 Employees who utilize their vehicles on Library business shall be reimbursed at the rate as established by the I.R.S., plus all **tolls and parking fees. The Library shall be considered the starting and ending point for Library business.**
- 23.2 Travel pay, if less than \$25.00, may be taken from petty cash. Travel pay over \$25.00 must be requested and will be paid every quarter, or earlier as funds permit payment.

ARTICLE 24 – SENIORITY

- 24.1 Seniority shall be defined as the length of continuous service with the Library within classifications covered by this Agreement.
- 24.2 In the event of a reduction of force among non-competitive or labor class employees, employees on probationary status in the affected classification shall be the first laid off. Thereafter, employees by inverse length of service within the classification affected shall be laid off.
- 24.3 An employee's continuous service and all of their seniority rights shall be terminated by any of the following:
- A. Voluntary quit;
 - B. Discharge for cause;
 - C. Retirement;
 - D. Failure to report to work for three (3) consecutive days without notice;

- E. Failure to return from an approved leave of absence;
- F. Lay-off for a period of one year; and
- G. Continuous sick leave for a period of twelve months.

ARTICLE 25 – JURY DUTY

- 25.1 Any employee required to serve as a juror will continue to receive their regular base pay for their standard scheduled hours. Any compensation received by an employee for service as a juror (excluding mileage and parking fees) will be reimbursed by the employee to the Library. It is expected that employees who receive notice to serve as jurors will advise their supervisors promptly and will cooperate in the rescheduling of jury service should the initial period be a hardship on the department.

ARTICLE 26 – MILITARY LEAVE

- 26.1 Employees will be granted paid leave for annual military leave consistent with Section 242 and 243 of New York State Military Law. Such leave will not be charged to vacation or sick time.

ARTICLE 27 – LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

- 27.1 Upon occasion leave without pay may be granted to an employee, beyond the probationary period, by the Director for leave not to exceed six months. Examples of a valid reason for leave without pay are: maternity beyond benefits outlined in this Agreement, education, personal or family problems not covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act, or extended family travel. All accrued vacation days and personal days are to be used before a leave without pay will take effect. Accumulated sick time can be carried over until return. Leave is only granted with the Director's approval.

ARTICLE 28 – HIRING PRACTICES

- 28.1 The Director will consistently comply with the hiring and appointing requirements of Civil Service and will strive to fill all library positions with the best qualified candidates, whether or not other members or their family are also presently employed by the Library. However, the Director is specifically prohibited from hiring members of their immediate family and immediate family members of the Library Board or the Town Board due to potential conflicts of interest. The Library complies with all Federal and State Regulations dealing with employment practices.

ARTICLE 29 – RESIGNATION OF EMPLOYMENT

- 29.1 Clerks are to give at least ten (10) business days and Librarians are to give twenty (20) business days written notice of the Resignation of Employment with the Library.
- 29.2 For those employees entitled to paid benefits, accrued compensatory time up to a maximum of 37 ½ hours and vacation time due and not yet taken, are to be paid to the employee as required by New York State Labor Laws.
- 29.3 Upon termination of employment, an exit interview may be held by the Library.

ARTICLE 30 – PERSONNEL REFERENCE PRACTICES

- 30.1 All references will be handled by the Director or Assistant Director.

ARTICLE 31 – RESIDENCY

- 31.1 Employees are not required to be residents of the Town of Gates prior to their appointment to the Gates Public Library position but preference may be given to Gates residents.

ARTICLE 32 – POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

- 32.1 The Library must project a non-partisan image to the public. Each employee must be conscious that while they are on duty, their actions are judged as representatives of the Library.
- 32.2 Accordingly, while an employee is on duty, they may not wear partisan political buttons or other garb. Nor may they participate in a partisan political discussion with either fellow employees or library patrons while on duty in public areas of the Library.

ARTICLE 33 – CODE OF ETHICS & CODE OF CONDUCT

- 33.1 All employees are expected to adhere to the Code of Ethics for the Town of Gates **as well as the Library's Code of Conduct.**

ARTICLE 34 – DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

- 34.1 Gates Public Library affirms its intent to maintain a drug free workplace. Library employees are prohibited from unlawful use, distribution, or possession of controlled substances, including alcohol, while on duty. Library employees are also prohibited from working while their abilities are impaired due to the use of alcohol and/or drugs. Violations of this policy will be subject to appropriate discipline and/or legal action.

ARTICLE 35 – COMPLETE AGREEMENT

- 35.1 The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations that preceded this Agreement, each had unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not remedied by law from the area of collective negotiations and that the understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement. Therefore, for the life of this Agreement, the Library and the Union each agrees that the other shall not be obliged to negotiate collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this Agreement or with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to, or covered in this Agreement even though such subjects or matters may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both the parties at the time they negotiated and signed this Agreement.
- 35.2 This Agreement shall represent all employees' rights, privileges, and benefits granted by the Library to its employees and unless specifically and expressly set forth in this Agreement, all other employee rights, privileges, and benefits previously granted are no longer in effect.

35.3 All benefits conferred to the employees in this Agreement are subject to the applicable provisions of law.

ARTICLE 36 – TERM OF AGREEMENT & FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS

36.1 Term of Agreement


This Agreement shall become effective **January 1, 2025** and shall terminate **December 31, 2027**.

36.2 Future Negotiations

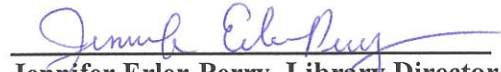
The parties mutually agree that negotiations for the Contract Year **2028** will commence **May 1, 2027**. **In the event the parties do not reach agreement for a new contract by December 31, 2027, the terms of this agreement shall remain in force in accordance with applicable state law.**

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have hereunto affixed their hands and seals this 30th day of December, 2024.

TOWN OF GATES


Cosmo Giunta, Town Supervisor

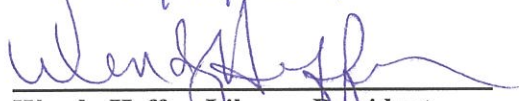
Dated: 12/30/2024


Jennifer Erler-Perry, Library Director

Dated: 12/30/2024

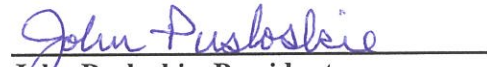

Linda Godfrey, HR Director

Dated: 12/30/2024


Wendy Heffer, Library President

Dated: 12/30/2024

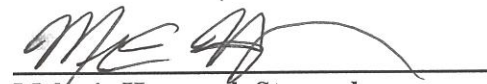
CWA LOCAL 1170


John Pusloskie, President

Dated: 12/30/24


Mary Jo Smith, Steward

Dated: 12/30/24


Melanie Heywood, Steward

Dated: 12/30/24