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# **ICMA MODEL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT 2003**

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# ICMA Model Employment Agreement

## Introduction

This Agreement, made and entered into this [date], by and between the [local government] of [state], [town/city/county] a municipal corporation, (hereinafter called "Employer") and [name], (hereinafter called "Employee") an individual who has the education, training and experience in local government management and who, as a member of ICMA, is subject to the ICMA Code of Ethics, both of whom agree as follows:

### Section 1: Term Recommended

A. This agreement shall remain in full force in effect from [date] until terminated by the Employer or Employee as provided in Section 9, 10 or 11 of this agreement.

### Option 2

The term of this agreement shall be for an initial period of [#] years from [date] to [date]. This Agreement shall automatically be renewed on its anniversary date for a [#] year term unless notice that the Agreement shall terminate is given at least [#] months (12 months recommended) before the expiration date. In the event the agreement is not renewed, all compensation, benefits and requirements of the agreement shall remain in effect until the expiration of the term of the Agreement unless Employee voluntarily resigns. In the event that the Employee is terminated, as defined in Section 9 of this agreement, the Employee shall be entitled to all compensation including salary, accrued vacation and sick leave, car allowance paid in lump sum plus continuation of all benefits for the remainder of the term of this agreement.

### Section 2: Duties and Authority

Employer agrees to employ [name] as [title] to perform the functions and duties specified in [legal reference] of the [local government] charter and by [legal reference] of the [local government] code and to perform other legally permissible and proper duties and functions.

### Section 3: Compensation Recommended:

A. Base Salary: Employer agrees to pay Employee an annual base salary of [\$ amount], payable in installments at the same time that the other management employees of the Employer are paid.

B. This agreement shall be automatically amended to reflect any salary adjustments that are provided or required by the Employer's compensation policies.

C. Consideration shall be given on an annual basis to increase compensation.

### Option 1

The Employer agrees to increase the compensation of the Employee dependent upon the results of the performance evaluation conducted under the provisions of Section 12

of this Agreement. Increased compensation can be in the form of a salary increase and/or a bonus.

**Option 2**

The Employer agrees to increase the compensation by [ %] each year.

**Option 3**

The Employer agrees to increase the compensation each year by the minimum of the average across the board increase granted to other employees of the Employer.

**Option 4**

The Employer agrees to increase the compensation of the Employee dependent upon the results of the performance evaluation conducted under the provisions of Section 12 of this Agreement in addition to providing a fixed annual increase in the Employee's salary based on an agreed upon economic indicator, such as the Consumer Price Index.

**Section 4: Health, Disability and Life Insurance Benefits**

**Recommended**

A. The Employer agrees to provide and to pay the premiums for health, hospitalization, surgical, vision, dental and comprehensive medical insurance for the Employee and his/her dependents equal to that which is provided to all other employees of the [local government] or, in the event no such plan exists, to provide coverage for the Employee and dependents.

B. The Employer agrees to put into force and to make required premium payments for short term and long term disability coverage for the Employee.

C. The Employee may elect to submit once per calendar year to a complete physical examination, including a cardio-vascular examination, by a qualified physician selected by the Employee, the cost of which shall be paid by the Employer.

D. The Employer shall pay the amount of premium due for term life insurance in the amount of three (3) times the Employee's annual base salary, including all increases in the base salary during the life of this agreement. The Employee shall name the beneficiary of the life insurance policy.

**Option 1**

A. The Employer agrees to provide for health, hospitalization, surgical, vision, dental and comprehensive medical insurance for the Employee and his/her dependents equal to that which is provided to all other employees of the [local government] or, in the event no such plan exists, to provide coverage for the Employee and dependents. Employer shall pay all premiums for the Employee and the Employee's dependents.

B. The Employer agrees to put into force and to make required premium payments for short term and long term disability coverage for the Employee.

C. The Employee may elect to submit once per calendar year to a complete physical examination, including a cardio-vascular examination, by a qualified physician selected by the Employee, the cost of which shall be paid by the Employer.

D. The Employer shall pay the amount of premium due for term life insurance in the amount of three (3) times the Employee's annual base salary, including all increases in the base salary during the life of this agreement. The Employee shall name the beneficiary of the life insurance policy.

### **Option 2**

1. The Employer shall provide travel insurance for the Employee while the Employee is traveling on the Employer's business, with the Employee to name beneficiary thereof. Should the Employee die while on travel for the Employer, the Employer shall cover the full cost of retrieving and transporting the Employee's remains back to the custody of the Employee's family.

### **Section 5: Vacation, Sick, and Military Leave Recommended**

A. Upon commencing employment, the Employee shall be credited with sick and vacation leave equal to the highest annual accrual provided to all other employees. The Employee shall then accrue sick and vacation leave on an annual basis at the highest rate provided to any other employees.

B. Upon commencing employment, the Employee shall have access to a bank of 180 sick days to be used in the case of serious medical conditions. This leave can only be used to provide coverage during the waiting period between the onset of illness or disability and the point at which short or long term disability coverage takes effect and may be renewed after each occurrence.

C. The Employee is entitled to accrue all unused leave, without limit, and in the event the Employee's employment is terminated, either voluntarily or involuntarily, the Employee shall be compensated for all accrued vacation time, all paid holidays, executive leave, and other benefits to date.

D. The Employee shall be entitled to military reserve leave time pursuant to state law and [local government] policy.

### **Additional Option**

1. The Employee shall annually be credited with five (5) days of executive leave.

### **Section 6: Automobile**

The Employee's duties require exclusive and unrestricted use of an automobile to be mutually agreed upon and provided to the Employee at the Employer's cost, subject to approval by Employer which shall not be withheld without good cause. It shall be mutually agreed upon whether the vehicle is purchased by the city, provided under lease to the city or to the Employee, or provided through a monthly allowance.

### **Option 1 - Monthly Vehicle Allowance**

The Employer agrees to pay to the Employee, during the term of this Agreement and in addition to other salary and benefits herein provided, the sum of [dollar amount] per year, payable monthly, as a vehicle allowance to be used to purchase, lease, or own, operate and maintain a vehicle. The monthly allowance shall be increased annually by

[% or \$] amount. The Employee shall be responsible for paying for liability, property damage, and comprehensive insurance coverage upon such vehicle and shall further be responsible for all expenses attendant to the purchase, operation, maintenance, repair, and regular replacement of said vehicle. The Employer shall reimburse the Employee at the IRS standard mileage rate for any business use of the vehicle beyond the greater [local government] area. For purposes of this Section, use of the car within the greater [local government] area is defined as travel to locations within a \_\_\_\_\_ mile (recommended fifty (50) mile) radius of [local government office].

### **Option 2 – Employer Provided Vehicle**

The Employer shall be responsible for paying for liability, property damage, and comprehensive insurance, and for the purchase (or lease), operation, maintenance, repair, and regular replacement of a full-size automobile.

### **Section 7: Retirement Recommended**

1. The Employer agrees to enroll the Employee into the applicable state or local retirement system and to make all the appropriate contributions on the Employee's behalf, for both the Employer and Employee share required.

2. In addition to the Employer's payment to the state or local retirement system (as applicable) referenced above, Employer agrees to execute all necessary agreements provided by ICMA Retirement Corporation [ICMA-RC] or other Section 457 deferred compensation plan for Employee's [continued] participation in said supplementary retirement plan and, in addition to the base salary paid by the Employer to Employee, Employer agrees to pay an amount equal to [percentage of Employee's base salary, fixed dollar amount of [ \$ ] , or maximum dollar amount permissible under Federal and state law into the designated plan on the Employee's behalf, in equal proportionate amount each pay period. The parties shall fully disclose to each other the financial impact of any amendment to the terms of Employee's retirement benefit.

In lieu of making a contribution to a Section 457 deferred compensation plan, the dollar value of this contribution may be used, at the Employee's option, to purchase previous service from another qualified plan.

### **Option 1**

Recognizing that effective service with the community is based in part on the stability provided through a long-term relationship, the Employer shall provide a retirement annuity, as directed by the Employee, at a rate of [dollar amount], payable at the completion of each quarter of the fiscal year. This annuity serves as a retirement contribution and does not require further action of the Employer.

### **Option 2**

The Employer shall adopt a qualified 401(a) defined contribution plan offered through ICMA Retirement Corporation for the Employee in the form of a money purchase plan to which the Employer shall contribute [ %] of salary or [%] of compensation annually.

2A. Option: The Employee shall be required to contribute [ % ] of base salary or [dollar amount] annually on a pre-tax basis as a condition of participation.

### **Option 3**

The Employer shall adopt a qualified 401(a) profit-sharing plan offered through ICMA Retirement Corporation for the Employee in the form of a money purchase plan to which the Employer shall contribute [% ] of all performance bonuses annually.

3A. Option: The Employee shall be required to contribute [ % ] of base salary or [dollar amount] annually on a pre-tax basis as a condition of participation.

## **Section 8: General Business Expenses**

### **Recommended**

1. Employer agrees to budget for and to pay for professional dues and subscriptions of the Employee necessary for continuation and full participation in national, regional, state, and local associations, and organizations necessary and desirable for the Employee's continued professional participation, growth, and advancement, and for the good of the Employer.
2. Employer agrees to budget for and to pay for travel and subsistence expenses of Employee for professional and official travel, meetings, and occasions to adequately continue the professional development of Employee and to pursue necessary official functions for Employer, including but not limited to the ICMA Annual Conference, the state league of municipalities, and such other national, regional, state, and local governmental groups and committees in which Employee serves as a member.
3. Employer also agrees to budget for and to pay for travel and subsistence expenses of Employee for short courses, institutes, and seminars that are necessary for the Employee's professional development and for the good of the Employer.
4. Employer recognizes that certain expenses of a non-personal but job related nature are incurred by Employee, and agrees to reimburse or to pay said general expenses. The finance director is authorized to disburse such moneys upon receipt of duly executed expense or petty cash vouchers, receipts, statements or personal affidavits.
5. The Employer acknowledges the value of having Employee participate and be directly involved in local civic clubs or organizations. Accordingly, Employer shall pay for the reasonable membership fees and/or dues to enable the Employee to become an active member in local civic clubs or organizations.

### **Option 1**

**Technology:** The Employer shall provide Employee with a computer, software, fax/modem, cell phone and pager required for the Employee to perform the job and to maintain communication.

## **Section 9: Termination**

## **Recommended**

### **For the purpose of this agreement, termination shall occur when:**

1. The majority of the governing body votes to terminate the Employee at a duly authorized public meeting.
2. If the Employer, citizens or legislature acts to amend any provisions of the [charter, code, enabling legislation] pertaining to the role, powers, duties, authority, responsibilities of the Employee's position that substantially changes the form of government, the Employee shall have the right to declare that such amendments constitute termination.
3. If the Employer reduces the base salary, compensation or any other financial benefit of the Employee, unless it is applied in no greater percentage than the average reduction of all department heads, such action shall constitute a breach of this agreement and will be regarded as a termination.
4. If the Employee resigns following an offer to accept resignation, whether formal or informal, by the Employer as representative of the majority of the governing body that the Employee resign, then the Employee may declare a termination as of the date of the suggestion.
5. Breach of contract declared by either party with a 30 day cure period for either Employee or Employer. Written notice of a breach of contract shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of Section 20.

## **Option 1**

In the event the Employee is terminated by the Employer during the six (6) months immediately following the seating and swearing-in of one or more new governing body members, and during such time that Employee is willing and able to perform his duties under this Agreement, then, Employer agrees to pay Severance in accordance with Section 10 plus salary and benefits in accordance with Section 10 for any portion of the six months not worked.

## **Section 10: Severance**

Severance shall be paid to the Employee when employment is terminated as defined in Section 9.

If the Employee is terminated, the Employer shall provide a minimum severance payment equal to one year salary at the current rate of pay. This severance shall be paid in a lump sum unless otherwise agreed to by the Employer and the Employee.

The Employee shall also be compensated for all accrued sick leave, vacation time, all paid holidays, and executive leave. The Employer agrees to make a contribution to the Employee's deferred compensation account on the value of this compensation calculated using the rate ordinarily contributed on regular compensation.

For a minimum period of one year following termination, the Employer shall pay the cost to continue the following benefits:

1. Health insurance for the employee and all dependents as provided in Section 4A
2. Life insurance as provided in Section 4D
3. Short-term and long-term disability as provided in Section 4B
4. Car allowance or payment of lease, or provide option to buy city vehicle at depreciated value
5. Out placement services should the employee desire them in an amount not to exceed [\$10,000 to \$15,000 recommended], and
6. Any other available benefits.

If the Employee is terminated because of a conviction of a felony, then the Employer is not obligated to pay severance under this section.

### **Section 11: Resignation**

In the event that the Employee voluntarily resigns his/her position with the Employer, the Employee shall provide a minimum of 30 days notice unless the parties agree otherwise.

### **Section 12: Performance Evaluation**

Employer shall annually review the performance of the Employee in [month] subject to a process, form, criteria, and format for the evaluation which shall be mutually agreed upon by the Employer and Employee. The process at a minimum shall include the opportunity for both parties to: (1) prepare a written evaluation, (2) meet and discuss the evaluation, and (3) present a written summary of the evaluation results. The final written evaluation should be completed and delivered to the Employee within 30 days of the evaluation meeting.

### **Section 13: Hours of Work**

It is recognized that the Employee must devote a great deal of time outside the normal office hours on business for the Employer, and to that end Employee shall be allowed to establish an appropriate work schedule.

### **Section 14: Outside Activities**

The employment provided for by this Agreement shall be the Employee's sole employment. Recognizing that certain outside consulting or teaching opportunities provide indirect benefits to the Employer and the community, the Employee may elect to accept limited teaching, consulting or other business opportunities with the understanding that such arrangements shall not constitute interference with nor a conflict of interest with his or her responsibilities under this Agreement.

### **Section 15: Moving and Relocation Expenses Recommended**

Employee agrees to establish residence within the corporate boundaries of the local government, if required, within [number] months of employment, and thereafter to maintain residence within the corporate boundaries of the local government.

- A. Employer shall pay directly for the expenses of moving Employee and his/her family and personal property from [location name] to [location name]. Said moving expenses include packing, moving, storage costs, unpacking, and insurance charges.
- B. Employer shall reimburse Employee for actual lodging and meal expenses for his/her family in route from [location name] to [location name]. Mileage costs for moving two personal automobiles shall be reimbursed at the current IRS allowable rate of [cents amount] per mile.
- C. Employer shall pay Employee an interim housing supplement of [dollar amount] per month for a period commencing [date], and shall continue for a maximum of [# ] months, or until a home is purchased and closed on, within the corporate limits of the [local government name], whichever event occurs first.
- D. Employer shall reimburse Employee for a total of [number] round trip air fares for Employee and his/her family [amount of total tickets] at any time during the first year of service to assist with house hunting and other facets of the transition and relocation process. The Employee and his/her family may utilize and distribute the total [enter number] individual round trip tickets in any combination of individual members making the trips. The Employee shall be reimbursed for actual lodging and meal expenses incurred by Employee or his/her family members on any trips conducted prior to relocation, as detailed herein.
- E. The Employee shall be reimbursed, or Employer may pay directly, for the expenses of packing and moving from temporary housing to permanent housing during the first year of this agreement.
- F. The Employer shall pay the Employee's tax liability on all Employer provided benefits for relocation and housing.

**Option 1**

The Employer shall pay a lump sum payment of [\$] to the Employee to cover relocation costs.

**Section 16: Home Sale and Purchase Expenses**

**Recommended:**

- A. Employee shall be reimbursed for the direct costs associated with the sale of Employee's existing personal residence, said reimbursement being limited to real estate agents' fees, and other closing costs that are directly associated with the sale of the house. Said reimbursement should not exceed the sum of [\$].
  
- B. Employee shall be reimbursed for the costs incidental to buying or building a primary residence within the [local government], including real estate fees, title insurance, and other costs directly associated with the purchase or construction of the house, said reimbursement not to exceed the sum of [\$].

**Option 1**

Employer shall reimburse Employee for up to three discount points within thirty (30) days following purchase of a home within the corporate limits of [local government name], in an effort to minimize mortgage rate differentials.

**Option 2**

Employer shall provide Employee with a \_\_\_\_\_ [fixed-interest, variable-interest, interest-only] loan to purchase a house. The amount of the loan shall not exceed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. The loan shall be repaid in full to the Employer upon the occurrence of either of the following events: (i) the home, or the Employee's interest in the home, is sold, transferred, or conveyed, or (ii) the Employee's employment with the Employer, for any reason, is terminated. The Employer and Employee shall execute any and all documents necessary to document this transaction. In the case where the value of the home decreases, the Employee shall not be required to repay the loan.

**Option 3**

Employer agrees to provide the Employee a loan for the purchase of a home in an amount not to exceed [dollar amount]. Employee shall pay Employer a monthly mortgage payment of [dollar amount] for interest, which is equal to the amount currently being paid in principle and interest for the current residence. Employee shall accrue equity at a rate of [% ] per month.

Upon termination of employment with the Employer, Employee shall have a maximum of six months to sell the home while continuing to reside in it under the terms and conditions here. Should the home sell during the time period, Employer shall receive 100% of the proceeds minus the percentage of equity accrued by Employee as described above, and minus the amount of equity originally invested by Employee. Said accrued equity and original equity shall both be payable to Employee upon closing. Said original equity invested shall be calculated as an amount equal to the percentage of original purchase price, represented by the original equity investment by Employee, and adjusted to be the same percentage of equity in the current sale price of the home. All closing costs borne by the seller shall be split between Employer and Employee in a proportion equal to the equity share described above. Should the house fail to sell within the allotted six month time period, Employer has the option of following the previous arrangement to continue in place or to purchase equity, calculated as provided above, plus the original cost of all improvements made to the property.

**Section 17: Indemnification**

Beyond that required under Federal, State or Local Law, Employer shall defend, save harmless and indemnify Employee against any tort, professional liability claim or demand or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of an alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of Employee's duties as [job title] or resulting from the exercise of judgment or discretion in connection with the performance of program duties or responsibilities, unless the act or omission involved willful or wanton conduct. The Employee may request and the Employer shall not unreasonably refuse to provide independent legal representation at Employer's expense and Employer may not unreasonably withhold approval. Legal representation, provided by Employer for Employee, shall extend until a final determination of the legal action including any appeals brought by either party. The Employer shall indemnify employee against any and all losses, damages, judgments, interest, settlements, fines, court costs

and other reasonable costs and expenses of legal proceedings including attorneys fees, and any other liabilities incurred by, imposed upon, or suffered by such Employee in connection with or resulting from any claim, action, suit, or proceeding, actual or threatened, arising out of or in connection with the performance of his or her duties. Any settlement of any claim must be made with prior approval of the Employer in order for indemnification, as provided in this Section, to be available.

Employee recognizes that Employer shall have the right to compromise and unless the Employee is a party to the suit which Employee shall have a veto authority over the settlement, settle any claim or suit; unless, said compromise or settlement is of a personal nature to Employee. **Further, Employer agrees to pay all reasonable litigation expenses of Employee throughout the pendency of any litigation to which the Employee is a party, witness or advisor to the Employer. Such expense payments shall continue beyond Employee's service to the Employer as long as litigation is pending. Further, Employer agrees to pay Employee reasonable consulting fees and travel expenses when Employee serves as a witness, advisor or consultant to Employer regarding pending litigation.**

#### **Section 18: Bonding**

Employer shall bear the full cost of any fidelity or other bonds required of the Employee under any law or ordinance.

#### **Section 19: Other Terms and Conditions of Employment**

The Employer, only upon agreement with Employee, shall fix any such other terms and conditions of employment, as it may determine from time to time, relating to the performance of the Employee, provided such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement, the [local government] Charter or any other law.

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Employee shall be entitled to the highest level of benefits that are enjoyed by other [appointed officials, appointed employees, department heads or general employees] of the Employer as provided in the Charter, Code, Personnel Rules and Regulations or by practice.

#### **Section 20: Notices**

Notice pursuant to this Agreement shall be given by depositing in the custody of the United States Postal Service, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

- (1) EMPLOYER: [Title and address of relevant official (mayor, clerk, etc.)]
- (2) EMPLOYEE: [Name and address for tax purposes of Employee]

Alternatively, notice required pursuant to this Agreement may be personally served in the same manner as is applicable to civil judicial practice. Notice shall be deemed given as of the date of personal service or as the date of deposit of such written notice in the course of transmission in the United States Postal Service.

**Section 21: General Provisions**

A. Integration. This Agreement sets forth and establishes the entire understanding between the Employer and the Employee relating to the employment of the Employee by the Employer. Any prior discussions or representations by or between the parties are merged into and rendered null and void by this Agreement. The parties by mutual written agreement may amend any provision of this agreement during the life of the agreement. Such amendments shall be incorporated and made a part of this agreement.

B. Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be binding on the Employer and the Employee as well as their heirs, assigns, executors, personal representatives and successors in interest.

C. Effective Date. This Agreement shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Severability. The invalidity or partial invalidity of any portion of this Agreement will not effect the validity of any other provision. In the event that any provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall be deemed to be in full force and effect as if they have been executed by both parties subsequent to the expungement or judicial modification of the invalid provision.