

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-119**

### **APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION RELATIONS RESOLUTION**

#### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROHNERT PARK ARTICLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

##### **Sec. 1. Statement of Purpose.**

This Resolution implements Chapter 10, Division 4, Title 1 of the Government Code of the State of California (Sections 3500 et seq.) the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (“MMBA”) by providing orderly procedures for the administration of employer-employee relations between the City and its employee organizations.

It is the purpose of this Resolution to provide procedures for meeting and conferring in good faith with Recognized Employee Organizations regarding matters that directly affect and primarily involve the wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment of employees in appropriate units and that are not preempted by Federal or State Law. However, nothing herein shall be construed to restrict any legal or inherent exclusive City rights with respect to matters of general legislative or managerial policy, which include among others: The exclusive right to determine the mission of its constituent departments, commissions and boards; set standards of service; determine the procedures and standards of selection for employment; direct its employees; take disciplinary action; relieve its employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons; maintain the efficiency of governmental operations; determine the methods, means and personnel by which government operations are to be conducted; take all necessary actions to carry out its mission in emergencies; and exercise complete control and discretion over its organization and the technology of performing its work.

##### **Sec. 2. Definitions.**

As used in this Resolution, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

- a. “Appropriate Unit” means a unit of employee classes or positions, established pursuant to Article II hereof.
- b. “City” means the City of Rohnert Park, and, where appropriate herein, refers to the City Council or any duly authorized City representative as herein defined.
- c. “Confidential Employee” means an employee, who, in the course of his or her duties, has access to information relating to the City’s administration of employer-employee relations.
- d. “Consult/Consultation in Good Faith” means to communicate orally or in writing for the purpose of presenting and obtaining views or advising of intended actions; and, as distinguished from meeting and conferring in good faith regarding matters within the required scope of such meet and confer process, does not involve an exchange of proposals and counterproposals in an endeavor to reach agreement, nor is it subject to Article IV hereof.
- e. “Day” means calendar day unless expressly stated otherwise.
- f. “Employee Relations Officer” means the City Manager or his duly authorized representative.

- g. "Impasse" means that the representatives of the City and a Recognized Employee Organization have reached a point in their meeting and conferring in good faith where their differences on matters to be included in a Memorandum of Understanding, and concerning which they are required to meet and confer, remain so substantial and prolonged that further meeting and conferring would be futile.
- h. "Management Employee" means an employee having responsibility for formulating, administering or managing the implementation of City policies or programs, who also supervises one or more employee other than himself, and who has the authority in the interest of the City to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, and discipline other employees, or responsibility to direct them, or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend such action, if, in connection with the foregoing, the exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment.
- i. "Recognized Employee Organization" means an employee organization which has been formally acknowledged by the City as the employee organization that represents the employees in an appropriate representation unit pursuant to Article II hereof.

## ARTICLE II – REPRESENTATION PROCEEDINGS

### Sec. 3. Filing of Recognition Petition By Employee Organization.

An employee organization that seeks to be formally acknowledged as the Recognized Employee Organization representing the employees in an appropriate unit shall file a petition with the Employee Relations Officer containing the following information and documentation:

- a. Name and address of the employee organization.
- b. Names and titles of its officers.
- c. Names of employee organization representatives who are authorized to speak on behalf of the organization.
- d. A statement that the employee organization has, as one of its primary purposes, representing employees in their employment relations with the City.
- e. A statement whether the employee organization is a chapter of, or affiliated directly or indirectly in any manner, with a local, regional, state, national or international organization, and, if so, the name and address of each such other organization.
- f. Certified copies of the Employee organization's constitution and by-laws.
- g. A designation of those persons, not exceeding two in number, and their addresses, to whom notice sent by e-mail and/or regular United States mail will be deemed sufficient notice on the employee organization for any purpose.
- h. A statement that the employee organization has no restriction on membership based on race, color, creed, sex or national origin.
- i. The job classifications or titles of employees in the unit claimed to be appropriate and the approximate number of member employees therein.
- j. A petition signed by thirty percent of the employees in the unit claimed to be appropriate thereby designating the employee organization to represent them in their employment relations with the City. Such written proof shall be submitted for confirmation to the Employee Relations Officer or to a mutually agreed upon disinterested third party.

- k. A request that the Employee Relations Officer formally acknowledge the petitioner as the Recognized Employee Organization representing the employees in the unit claimed to be appropriate for the purpose of meeting and conferring in good faith.

The Petition, including all accompanying documentation, shall be declared to be true, correct and complete, under penalty of perjury, by the duly authorized officer(s) of the employee organization executing it.

Sec. 4. City Response to Recognition Petition.

Upon receipt of the Petition, the Employee Relations Officer shall determine whether:

- a. There has been compliance with the requirements of the Recognition Petition, and
- b. The proposed representation unit is an appropriate unit in accordance with Sec. 8 of this Article II. If an affirmative determination is made by the Employee Relations Officer on the foregoing two matters, he shall so inform the petitioning employee organization, shall give written notice of such request for recognition to the employees in the unit and shall take no action on said request for thirty (30) days thereafter. If either of the foregoing matters are not affirmatively determined, the Employee Relations Officer shall offer to consult thereon with such petitioning employee organization, and, if such determination thereafter remains unchanged, shall inform the organization of the reasons therefor in writing. The petitioning employee organization may appeal such determination in accordance with Sec. 10 of this Resolution.

Sec. 5. Open Period for Filing Challenging Petition.

Within thirty (30) days of the date written notice was given to affected employees that a valid recognition petition for an appropriate unit has been filed, another employee organization may file a competing request to be formally acknowledged as the recognized employee organization of the employees in the same or in an overlapping unit (one which corresponds with respect to some but not all the classifications or positions set forth in the recognition petition being challenged), by filing a petition evidencing proof of employee support in the unit claimed to be appropriate of at least thirty (30) percent and otherwise in the same form and manner as set forth in Sec. 3 of this Article II. If such challenging petition seeks establishment of an over-lapping unit, the Employee Relations Officer shall call for a hearing on such over-lapping petitions for the purpose of ascertaining the more appropriate unit, at which time the petitioning employee organizations shall be heard. Thereafter, the Employee Relations Officer shall determine the appropriate unit or units in accordance with the standards in Sec. 8 of this Article II. The petitioning employee organizations shall have fifteen (15) days from the date notice of such unit determination is communicated to them by the Employee Relations Officer to amend their petitions to conform to such determination or to appeal such determination pursuant to Sec. 10 of this Article II.

Sec. 6. Election Procedure.

The employee Relations Officer shall arrange for a secret ballot election to be conducted by a party agreed to by the Employee Relations Officer and the concerned employee organization(s), in accordance with its rules and procedures subject to the provisions of this Resolution. All employee organizations who have duly submitted petitions which have been determined to be in conformance with this Article II shall be included on the ballot. The choice of "no organization" shall also be included on the ballot. Employees entitled to vote in such election shall be those persons employed in regular permanent positions within the designated appropriate unit who were employed during the pay period

immediately prior to the date which ended at least fifteen (15) days before the date the election commences, including those who did not work during such period because of illness, vacation or other authorized leaves of absence, and who are employed by the City in the same unit on the date of the election. An employee organization shall be formally acknowledged as the Recognized Employee Organization for the designated appropriate unit following an election or run-off election if it received a numerical majority of all valid votes cast in the election. In an election involving three or more choices, where none of the choices receives a majority of the valid votes cast, a run-off election shall be conducted between the two choices receiving the largest number of valid votes cast; the rules governing an initial election being applicable to a run-off election.

There shall be no more than one valid election under this Resolution pursuant to any petition in a 12-month period affecting the same unit.

In the event that the parties are unable to agree on a third party to conduct an election, the election shall be conducted by the American Arbitration Association.

Costs of conducting elections shall be borne in equal shares by each employee organization appearing on the ballot.

In the event the petitioning organization has a majority of the employees in an appropriate unit currently on dues deduction and no valid challenging petition has been filed, the City shall formally acknowledge the employee organization as the recognized employee organization.

Sec. 7. Procedures for Decertification of Recognized Employee Organization.

A Decertification Petition alleging that the incumbent Recognized Employee Organization no longer represents a majority of the employees in an established appropriate unit may be filed with the Employee Relations Officer only during the month of January of any year following the first full year of recognition or during the thirty (30) day period commencing one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the termination date of a Memorandum of Understanding then having been in effect less than three (3) years, whichever occurs later. A Decertification Petition may be filed by two or more employees or their representative, or an employee organization, and shall contain the following information and documentation declared by the duly authorized signatory under penalty of perjury to be true, correct and complete:

- a. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner and a designated representative authorized to receive notices or requests for further information.
- b. The name of the established appropriate unit and of the incumbent Recognized Employee Organization sought to be decertified as the representative of that unit.
- c. An allegation that the incumbent Recognized Employee Organization no longer represents a majority of the employees in the appropriate unit, and any other relevant and material facts relating thereto.
- d. Proof of employee support that at least thirty (30) percent of the employees in the established appropriate unit no longer desire to be represented by the incumbent Recognized Employee Organization. Such proof shall be submitted for confirmation to the Employee Relations Officer or to a mutually agreed upon disinterested third party within the time limits specified in the first paragraph of this Section.

An employee organization may, in satisfaction of the Decertification Petition requirements here under, file a Petition under this section in the form of a Recognition Petition that evidences proof of employee support of at least thirty (30) percent and otherwise conforms to the requirements of Section 3 of this Article.

The Employee Relations Officer shall initially determine whether the Petition has been filed in compliance with the applicable provisions of this Article II. If his determination is in the negative, he shall offer to consult thereon with the representative(s) of such petitioning employees or employee organization, and, if such determination thereafter remains unchanged, shall return such Petition to the employees or employee organization with a statement of the reasons therefor in writing. The petitioning employees or employee organization may appeal such determination in accordance with Sec. 10 of this Article II. If the determination of the Employee Relations Officer is in the affirmative, or if his negative determination is reversed on appeal, he shall give written notice of such Decertification or Recognition Petition to the incumbent Recognized Employee Organization and to unit employees.

The Employee Relations Officer shall thereupon arrange for a secret ballot election to be held on or about fifteen (15) days after such notice to determine the wishes of unit employees as to the question of decertification, and, if a Recognition Petition was duly filed hereunder, the question of representation. Such election shall be conducted in conformance with Sec. 6 of this Article II.

Sec. 8. Policy and Standards for Determination of Appropriate Units.

The policy objectives in determining the appropriateness of units shall be the effect of a proposed unit on (1) the efficient operations of the City and its compatibility with the primary responsibility of the City and its employees to effectively and economically serve the public, and (2) providing employees with effective representation based on recognized community of interest considerations. These policy objectives require that the appropriate unit shall be the broadest feasible grouping of positions that share an identifiable community of interest. Factors to be considered shall be:

- a. Similarity of the general kinds of work performed, types of qualifications required, and the general working conditions.
- b. History of representation in the City and similar employment; except however, that no unit shall be deemed to be an appropriate unit solely on the basis of the extent to which employees in the proposed unit have organized.
- c. Consistency with the organizational patterns of the City.
- d. Number of employees and classifications, and the effect of the administration of employer-employee relations created by the fragmentation of classifications and proliferation of units.
- e. Effect of the classification structure and impact on the stability of the employer-employee relationship of dividing a single or related classification among two or more units.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, management and confidential employees shall not be included in any unit.

The Employee Relations Officer shall, after notice to and consultation with affected employee organizations, allocate new classifications or positions, delete eliminated classifications or positions, and

retain, reallocated or delete modified classifications or positions from units in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

Sec. 9. Procedure for Modification of Established Appropriate Units.

Requests by employee organizations for modifications of established appropriate units may be considered by the Employee Relations Officer only during the period specified in Sec. 7 of this Article II. Such requests shall be submitted in the form of a Recognition Petition, and, in addition to the requirements set forth in Sec. 3 of this Article, shall contain a complete statement of all relevant facts and citations in support of the proposed modified unit in terms of the policies and standards set forth in Sec. 8 hereof. The Employee Relations Officer shall process such petitions as other Recognition Petitions under this Article II.

The Employee Relations Officer may on his own motion propose during the period specified in Sec. 7 of this Article, that an established unit be modified. The Employee Relations Officer shall give written notice of the proposed modification(s) to any affected employee organization and shall hold a meeting concerning the proposed modification(s), at which time all affected employee organizations shall be heard. Thereafter the Employee Relations Officer shall determine the composition of the appropriate unit or units in accordance with Sec. 8 of this Article II, and shall give written notice of such determination to the affected employee organizations. The Employee Relations Officer's determination may be appealed as provided in Section 10 of this Article. If a unit is modified pursuant to the motion of the Employee Relations Officer hereunder, employee organizations may thereafter file Recognition Petitions seeking to become the Recognized Employee Organization for such new appropriate unit or units pursuant to Sec. 3 hereof.

Sec. 10. Appeals.

An employee organization aggrieved by a unit determination of the Employee Relations Officer may, within ten (10) days of notice of the determination, request the intervention of the California State Conciliation Service pursuant to Government Code Sections 3507.1 and 3507.3, or may, instead appeal the determination to the City Council within fifteen (15) days of notice of the Employee Relations Officer's determination or the termination of proceedings pursuant to Government Code Sections 3507.1 or 3507.3, whichever is later. The City Council's decision shall be binding.

An employee organization aggrieved by a determination of the Employee Relations Officer that a Recognition Petition (Sec. 3); Challenging Petition (Sec. 5) or Decertification or Recognition Petition (Sec. 7) – or employees aggrieved by a determination of the Employee Relations Officer that a Decertification Petition (Sec. 7) – has not been filed in compliance with the applicable provisions of this Article, may, within fifteen (15) days of notice of such determination, appeal the determination to the City Council for final decision.

Appeals to the City Council shall be filed in writing with the City Clerk, and a copy thereof served on the Employees Relations Officer. The City Council shall commence to consider the matter within thirty (30) days of the filing of the appeal. The City Council may, in its discretion, refer the dispute to a third party hearing process. Any decision of the City Council on the use of such procedure, and/or any decision of the City Council determining the substance of the dispute shall be final and binding.

ARTICLE III – ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 11. Submission of Current Information by Recognized Employee Organizations.

All changes in the information filed with the City by a Recognized Employee Organization under items a. through h. of its Recognition Petition under Sec. 3 of this Resolution shall be submitted in writing to the Employee Relations Officer within fourteen (14) days of such change.

Sec. 12. Payroll Deductions on Behalf of Employee Organization.

Upon formal acknowledgment by the City of a Recognized Employee Organization under this Resolution, only such Recognized Employee Organization may be provided payroll deductions of membership dues and insurance premiums for plans sponsored by such organization upon the written authorization of employees in the unit represented by Recognized Employee Organization on forms provided therefor by the City. The providing of such service to the Recognized Employee Organization by the City shall be contingent upon and in accordance with the provisions of Memoranda of Understanding and/or applicable administrative procedures.

Sec. 13. Employee Organization Activities -- Use of City Resources.

Access to City work locations and the use of City paid time, facilities, equipment and other resources by employee organizations and those representing them shall be authorized only to the extent provided for in Memoranda of Understanding and/or administrative procedures, shall be limited to activities pertaining directly to the employer-employee relationship and not such internal employee organization business as soliciting membership, campaigning for office, and organization meetings and elections, and shall not interfere with the efficiency, safety and security of City operations.

Sec. 14. Administrative Rules and Procedures.

The City Manager is hereby authorized to establish such rules and procedures as appropriate to implement and administer the provisions of this Resolution after consultation with affected employee organizations.

#### ARTICLE IV – IMPASSE PROCEDURES

Sec. 15. Initiation of Impasse Procedures.

If the meet and confer process has reached impasse as defined in this Resolution, either party may initiate the impasse procedures by filing with the other party a written request for an impasse meeting, together with a statement of its position on all disputed issues. An impasse meeting shall then be scheduled promptly by the Employee Relations Officer. The purpose of such impasse meeting shall be:

- a. To identify and specify in writing the issue or issues that remain in dispute.
- b. To review the position of the parties in a final effort to resolve such disputed issue or issues; and
- c. If the dispute is not resolved, to discuss arrangements for the utilization of the impasse procedures provided herein.

Sec. 16. Impasse Procedures.

Impasse procedures are as follows:

- a. Mediation - If the parties agree to submit the dispute to mediation the dispute shall be submitted to mediation. The costs of mediation shall be borne equally. Mediation shall be conducted by a mutually agreed upon mediator, or a mediator supplied by the California

State Mediation and Conciliation Service. All mediation proceedings shall be private. The mediator shall make no public recommendation, nor take any public position at any time concerning the issues.

- b. Fact-Finding –If after the impasse meeting described in Section 15 above, 1) the parties failed to agree to submit the dispute to mediation or 2) failed to agree on the selection of a mediator, or 3) failed to resolve the dispute through mediation the exclusively recognized employee organization may request that the parties’ dispute be submitted to a fact-finding panel. Mediation is not required prior to requesting the dispute be submitted to a fact-finding panel. The request shall be accompanied by a statement that the parties have been unable to effect a settlement. Such request may be filed:
1. Not sooner than thirty (30) days, but no more than forty-five (45) days, following the appointment or selection of a mediator under Article IV Section 16 a; or
  2. If the dispute was not submitted to mediation, not later than thirty (30) days following the date that either party provided the other with written notice of a declaration of impasse.

Within five (5) days after receipt of the written request, each party shall select a person to serve as its member of the fact-finding panel. Within five (5) days after the selection of panel members by the parties, the Public Employment Relations Board (“PERB”) shall be asked to select a chairperson of the fact-finding panel. Within five (5) days after PERB selects a chairperson, the parties may mutually agree upon a person to serve as chairperson in lieu of the person selected by PERB.

Within ten (10) days of its appointment, the panel shall meet with the parties or their representatives, either jointly or separately, and make inquiries and investigations, hold hearings, and take any other steps it deems appropriate. All Fact-finding panel procedures and any findings and recommendations by the Fact-finding panel shall comply with of Government Code sections 3505.4 and 3505.5.

In arriving at their findings and recommendations, the fact-finders shall consider, weigh, and be guided by all of the following criteria:

1. State and Federal laws that are applicable to the employer and employees.
2. Local rules, regulations, or ordinances.
3. Stipulations of the parties.
4. The interests and welfare of the public and the financial ability of the public agency.
5. Comparison of the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of the employees involved in the fact-finding proceeding with the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of other employees performing similar services in comparable public agencies.
6. The consumer price index for goods and services, commonly known as the cost of living.
7. The overall compensation presently received by the employees, including direct wage compensation, vacations, holidays, and other excused time, insurance and



- pensions, medical and hospitalization benefits, the continuity and stability of employment, and all other benefits received.
8. Any other facts, not confined to those specified in paragraphs (1) to (7), inclusive, which are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in making the findings and recommendations.
    - (a) Additional facts that are normally or traditionally taken into consideration in making findings and recommendations, that the fact-finder shall also consider are:
      - (i) Equitable employment-benefit relationships between job classifications and positions within the City.
      - (ii) The pattern of change that has occurred in the total compensation of the employees in the unit at impasse as compared to the pattern of change in the average consumer price index for goods and services, commonly known as the cost of living index.
      - (iii) The benefits of job stability and continuity of employment.
      - (iv) The difficulty, or lack thereof, recruiting and retaining qualified personnel.

If the dispute is not settled within thirty (30) days after the appointment of the Fact-finding panel, or upon agreement of the parties within a longer period, the fact-finder(s) shall make written findings of fact and recommended terms of settlement, which shall be advisory only. Any member of a fact-finding panel shall be accorded the right to file dissenting written findings of fact and recommendations. The fact-finder or chairman of the fact-finding panel shall serve such findings and recommendations on the Employee Relations Officer and the designated representative of the Recognized Employee Organization. If these parties have not resolved the impasse within (10) days after service of the findings and recommendations upon them, City shall make them public by submitting them to the City Clerk for consideration by the City Council in connection with the Council's legislative consideration of the issues at impasse.

If the parties agreed to submit the impasse directly to the City Council, or if after applicable mediation and fact-finding procedures have been exhausted, but no earlier than 10 days after the fact-finders' written findings of fact and recommended terms of settlement have been submitted to the parties pursuant to Government Code section 3505.5 the City Council may, after holding a public hearing regarding the impasse, implement its last, best and final offer but shall not implement a memorandum of agreement. Any legislative action by the City Council on the impasse shall be final and binding.

#### Sec. 17. Cost of Impasse Procedure.

The costs for the services of a mediator and fact-finder or chairman of a fact-finding panel utilized by the parties, and other mutually incurred costs of mediation and fact-finding, shall be borne

equally by the City and the Recognized Employee Organization. The cost for a fact-finding panel member selected by each party, and other separately incurred costs shall be borne by such party.

#### ARTICLE V – MISCELLANEOUS PREVISIONS

Sec. 18. Construction.

This Resolution shall be administered and construed as follows:

- a. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to deny to any person, employee, organization, the City, or any authorized officer, body or other representative of the City, the rights, powers and authority granted by Federal or State law.
- b. This Resolution shall be interpreted so as to carry out its purposes as set forth in Article I.
- c. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed as making the provisions of California Labor Code Section 923 applicable to City employees or employee organizations, or of giving employees or employee organization the right to participate in, support, cooperate, or encourage, directly or indirectly, any strike, sickout or other total or partial stoppage or slowdown of work. In the event employees engage in such actions, they shall subject themselves to discipline up to and including termination and may be deemed to have abandoned their employment; and employee organizations may thereby forfeit all rights accorded them under this Resolution and other City law for a period up to one (1) year from commencement of such activity.

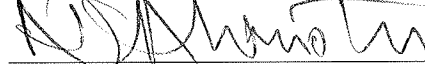
Sec. 19. Severability.

If any provision of this Resolution, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Resolution, or the application of such provision to persons or circumstance other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

This Resolution supersedes and rescinds Employer-Employee Organization Relations Resolution 77-07.

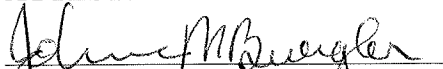
DULY AND REGULARLY adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2015

**CITY OF ROHNERT PARK**



Amy O. Ahanotu, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
JoAnne M. Buergler, City Clerk

CALLINAN: AYE MACKENZIE: AYE STAFFORD: Absent BELFORTE: Absent AHANOTU: AYE  
AYES: ( 3 ) NOES: ( 0 ) ABSENT: ( 2 ) ABSTAIN: ( 0 )