

**ST. TAMMANY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1
CIVIL SERVICE BOARD RULES**

RULE I

DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases, when used in this set of rules, shall have the following meaning unless otherwise specified in the rule:

1. "Board" means the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Civil Service Board.
2. "Civil service law" means Louisiana Revised Statutes 33:2531, et. seq. (Act 282 of 1964).
3. "Legal Holidays" is defined in Louisiana Revised Statute 1:55 to include Saturdays, Sundays, all major holidays observed by the state, additional days depending on the event or locale, and days of declared emergencies.
4. "Member" or "members" means persons appointed to the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Civil Service Board.
5. "R.S." means Revised Statute of the State of Louisiana.
6. "Regular and permanent employee" means an employee who has been appointed to a position in the classified service in accordance with civil service law after completing his/her working test.

RULE II

CONDUCTING BOARD BUSINESS AT MEETINGS

Introduction of Business - business shall be brought before the board by either a motion of a member or by presentation of correspondence to the board. A motion is not needed and may not necessarily be made in order to receive reports from committees. The board may dispense with a motion in the ordinary routine of business. Any member may, however, object to dispensing a motion and then a motion would be required to continue.

Obtaining the Floor - before a member may make a motion, or address the board in discussion, it is necessary that he/she obtain the floor by addressing the chairperson.

Discussion of a Matter - before any subject is open to discussion a motion shall be made by a member who has obtained the floor and then the motion must be seconded. The board shall hear discussions from its members and others who are present at the meeting. All comments and discussions shall be directed to the chairperson.

Main Motions - a main motion shall be made in order to introduce an item to the board for consideration. A main motion shall be made by a member who has obtained the floor. A main motion cannot be made when any other motion is on the floor for discussion and/or vote.

Seconding Motions - a motion must be seconded in order to place the business before the board for discussion and/or a vote. If a motion is not seconded quickly, the chairperson shall ask if the motion is seconded. The chairperson may repeat the motion before calling for a second in order that all may hear the motion. If there is no second to a main motion the chairperson shall declare that the motion is dead due to the lack of a second. Once the motion is dead, a member may make another main motion on the matter.

Putting the question to the board for vote - the chairperson shall state the question that is before the board for consideration and ask if the board is ready to vote. If there are no more discussions, a vote is taken.

Voting - the members may vote on a matter before the board without discussion. The members may vote by voice, roll call of each member, or by general consent. When using general consent voting, the members show agreement by their silence to the chairperson stating that the motion on the floor will pass if there is no objection. If, however, a member objects, there must be a voice or roll call vote.

Motion to Table - the board may consider a motion to table a matter on the agenda until a later meeting. A member may, however, move to "take from the table" a matter that was previously tabled.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting - a member shall make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

RULE III

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

SECTION 1: The board shall hold at least one regular meeting within each quarterly period of the calendar year. The board shall post notice of such meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The notice shall state the date, time, and place of each quarterly

meeting. The board may reschedule these quarterly meetings and may change the location of the meeting as provided in Sections 3 and 4 of Rule III. The board may also hold special meetings as may be called by the chairperson.

SECTION 2: The board shall meet at any time upon the call of the chairperson, who shall give all members at least a five (5) calendar day, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, notice if it is a regular meeting and at least a twenty-four (24) hour, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, notice if it is a special meeting. If the chairperson fails or refuses to call a quarterly meeting of the board, the members shall meet upon the written call of any two (2) members mailed ten (10) calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in advance of the date of the meeting.

SECTION 3: Unless otherwise provided in the notice for such meetings, all meetings shall be held at the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Training Academy located at 34780 South Range, Slidell, Louisiana.

SECTION 4: Notice of regular and special meetings shall be given by posting such notice at the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Training Academy located at 34780 South Range, Slidell, Louisiana, or at the building in which the meeting is to be held. Notification of board meetings shall also be posted on the board's website, if the board has a website, in accordance with this section.

Notice of regular meetings shall be posted not less than five (5) calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the date fixed for such meeting.

Notice of special meetings shall be posted not less than twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the time fixed for such meeting.

Notice of regular and special meetings shall state whether the meeting is regular or special, and shall include the date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting.

The board shall provide the news media with copy of the notice of regular and special meetings, when requested, in the same manner as the public is notified.

In accordance with R.S. 42:19, each item on the agenda shall be listed separately and with reasonable specificity. The agenda shall not be revised less than twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, preceding the scheduled time of the meeting. Before the board may take any action on an agenda item at a meeting, the chairperson or his/her designee shall read aloud the description of the item.

SECTION 5: At a regular or special meeting, in accordance with R.S. 42:19, the board may take up a matter not on the agenda upon unanimous approval of the members present at the meeting. In order to add an item to the agenda, a motion must first be made to take up the matter and the motion must include, with reasonable specificity, the purpose for the addition to the agenda, and it must be entered into the minutes of the meeting. After the motion is seconded and prior to any vote on the motion to take up a matter not on the agenda, there shall be an opportunity for public comment on any such motion.

SECTION 6:

- a. All board meetings shall be open to the public, except when the board meets in executive session as provided by R.S. 42:16 and R.S. 42:17.
- b. Sonic or video recording and broadcasting of public meetings shall be permitted. Any person wishing to record the board's proceedings by video or audio equipment, or to broadcast the proceedings, shall register with the board secretary not less than fifteen (15) minutes in advance of the commencement of the meeting and provide his/her identity and media affiliation, if any. Persons recording or broadcasting the meeting with equipment which must be supported by a tripod or other stand, shall position themselves in the back of the meeting room, and shall not interfere with the entrance or egress of others. Persons using hand-held recording devices may be seated in the audience; however, they shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the board's proceedings, nor cause

unreasonable interference with the audience's view of or participation in the proceedings.

- c. Recording equipment must be assembled and in working order prior to the commencement of the board's proceedings. No one shall be permitted to set up or disassemble equipment while the board is conducting its meeting. No strobes, flash lighting, or other bright lights that may impair the conduct of the meeting shall be used, except by approval of the board chairperson given at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.
- d. There shall be no interviews conducted in the meeting room while the board is conducting its meeting.
- e. Compliance with the provisions of this Section shall be strictly enforced. Persons in violation of the provisions of this Section shall receive one warning. Continued non-compliance shall be grounds for immediate removal of the violator and his/her equipment.

SECTION 7: Two (2) members of the board must be present to constitute a quorum of the board. Concurring votes of two (2) members are necessary for a decision of all matters before the board except as provided in Rule III, Section 5 and as follows. In the event that a quorum is not present at the time scheduled for a meeting, the meeting shall be cancelled thirty (30) minutes after the scheduled time for the meeting to allow time to obtain a quorum. If a member leaves a meeting which results in the loss of a quorum, the meeting shall immediately recess until a quorum is again obtained. In the event that a quorum cannot be obtained within thirty (30) minutes after the recess, the meeting shall be called back to order and a motion shall be made to adjourn. Written minutes of such meetings shall be kept as provided in Rule III, Section 9.

SECTION 8: a. The chairperson shall vote on all matters before the board except in situations when he/she is required to recuse himself/herself as provided in R.S. 33:2561(D) and in accordance with the Louisiana Code of Ethics. The vice-chairperson shall act in the absence of the

chairperson and shall be authorized to sign all board documents, as necessary.

- b. The chairperson shall have complete charge of all meetings and shall conduct them in accordance with Rule II and as he/she deems advisable. The board shall order the removal of any person who willfully disrupts a meeting to the extent that the orderly conduct of the meeting is seriously compromised. The chairperson shall issue one warning prior to the order of removal.

SECTION 9: The board secretary or another person designated for the purpose by the board chairperson, shall keep written minutes of all open meetings. The minutes shall include but shall not be limited to the date, time, and place of the meeting; the members recorded as either present or absent; a record of officials, attorneys, and others present; the substance of all matters decided by the board; a record of all motions and votes; and any other information that any member, the Office of State Examiner, and others request to be discussed at the meeting and included in the minutes.

In accordance with R.S. 42:20(B), a copy of the written minutes of all board meetings shall be posted on the board's website within a reasonable time after the meeting, for at least three (3) months, if the board has a website.

RULE IV

ORDER OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

Section 1: At regular and special meetings the order of business may be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call of members present
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Reading and approval of the minutes of previous meetings
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Executive Sessions
8. Announcements

9. Adjournment

Section 2:

In accordance with R.S. 42:14, a public comment period shall be provided for at any point in the board meeting prior to action on an agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken. Public comment on proposed rules of the board shall be provided for within the context of the public hearing. Any person wishing to make comment shall raise his/her hand until recognized by the chairperson. Each person recognized to speak shall state his/her full name and home address for the record; however, employees of the classified fire civil service wishing to make comment shall not be required to reveal their home address, but shall give the address of their employing agency. No person shall be given more than five (5) minutes within which to comment; however, the speaker may, before their time expires, request additional time, which shall be approved at the chairperson's discretion. Upon expiration of allotted time, the speaker shall immediately cease making comment.

A public comment period shall not be provided during appeal hearings. Hearings and investigations conducted by the board following classified employees' appeals against corrective or disciplinary actions are quasi-judicial. Decisions of the board shall be limited to the evidence adduced and shall not be prejudiced by public comment.

RULE V**EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

SECTION 1: In accordance with R.S. 42:16, the board may meet in executive session during regular or special meetings, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present in order to discuss those matters which are exceptions to open meetings as provided in R.S. 42:17. Any voting on matters discussed in executive sessions shall be conducted only upon return to the public meeting.

The board may go into executive session to discuss an employee's character, professional competence,

or physical or mental health only if such employee was notified in writing of the executive session discussion at least twenty-four (24) hours, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, before the scheduled time contained in the notice of the meeting at which such executive session is to take place and that such employee may request that the discussion be held in an open meeting.

RULE VI

APPLICATION FOR APPEAL HEARINGS AND OTHER HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS

SECTION 1: Any person authorized to appeal to the board under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561 may demand, in writing, a hearing and investigation by the board to determine the reasonableness of the action taken. The board encourages employees to submit such an appeal by giving a statement of the action complained against, the basis of the appeal, and the relief sought.

Any person who wishes to request the board to conduct other hearings and investigations pursuant to civil service law not otherwise provided for under R.S. 33:2561, shall do so by providing the board with a written petition.

All petitions for appeals and other hearings and investigations must be signed by the petitioner or applicant or his/her counsel, if any. All petitions must include the full name, preferred mailing address, phone number, and email address of the petitioner or appellant and of his/her counsel. Written notice shall be filed with the chairperson of the board or the board official so designated to receive such applications.

SECTION 2: Written petitions for appeals to the board under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561 shall be made only by regular and permanent employees in the classified service and shall be limited to matters involving discharge, corrective or disciplinary action and the application shall so state.

Written petitions under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561 must be received by the board within fifteen (15) calendar days after the date the employee is notified of the discharge, corrective or disciplinary action. The fifteen (15) calendar day period shall begin the first day after the employee is notified of the disciplinary action either verbally or in writing.

The board shall meet within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the written petition for a hearing under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561. The board shall review the petition in order to determine if the request complies with the provisions of civil service law and to consider granting the appeal. The board shall notify the employee and the appointing authority of the date, time, and place of the hearing at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the date set for the hearing.

SECTION 3: All other written petitions for hearings and investigations pursuant to civil service law not otherwise provided for under R.S. 33:2561 shall set forth the section of the civil service law under which the petition is brought. The board shall institute and conduct such hearings and investigations in accordance with civil service law and the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Civil Service Board Rules.

Written petitions showing just cause for hearings and investigations by the board as provided for in civil service law shall be granted at the first board meeting following receipt of the petition or at a special meeting as provided in Rule III, Section 2. Investigations conducted under the provisions of R.S. 33:2537 (4) and (5) shall be completed within sixty (60) calendar days of the board's receipt of the petition. Investigations into prohibited political activity pursuant to R.S. 33:2564(B) shall be completed by the board within thirty (30) days after receiving written charges for violations of R.S. 33:2564.

SECTION 4: The secretary of the board shall cause the date of filing of all hearings and investigations to be noted on each notice of the hearing and shall file such hearing on the hearings docket, giving such hearing

an appropriate title.

RULE VII

PROCEDURES ON APPEAL HEARINGS AND OTHER HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS

SECTION 1: All hearings on appeals and investigations shall be open to the public except when the board goes into executive session as provided for in R.S. 42:16 and R.S. 42:17. The chairperson shall have complete charge of all hearings and investigations that come before the board and may conduct them in any manner he/she deems advisable, without prejudice to any person or party thereto. The procedures followed shall be informal and not necessarily bound by the legalistic rules of evidence.

SECTION 2: In accordance with R.S. 33:2561.D, any member of the board who is the immediate supervisor or direct work associate of any officer or employee appealing removal, suspension, demotion, discharge, or any other disciplinary action by the appointing authority and who is directly involved in the incident out of which such action arose shall recuse himself/herself from voting on any decision by the board to affirm, reverse, or modify the order of the appointing authority. Also, any member of the board who is an immediate family member of the appealing employee shall recuse himself/herself from voting on any such decision. For purposes of this section, immediate family member shall mean any parent, child, sibling, or spouse.

If such recusal by a member of the board results in the inability of the board to reach a decision by the concurring votes of two (2) members, the board shall be considered to have affirmed the action of the appointing authority.

SECTION 3: Parties shall have the right, but shall not be required, to be represented by counsel. When any party is represented by an attorney, the board shall be notified as soon as counsel is retained. Notification must provide the full name, preferred mailing address, phone number, and email address of the attorney. When any party is represented by more than one attorney, only one attorney for any party

shall be permitted to examine the same witness.

SECTION 4: Rulings on procedural matters shall normally be made by the board chairperson, and parties and attorneys appearing before the board shall not have the right to require a vote of the full board on particular procedural matters arising during the progress of a hearing. A vote of the full board shall be conducted on any matter at any time upon the motion of two (2) members. In the event of a tie vote, the motion fails, and the hearing shall proceed forthwith unless another motion is made.

SECTION 5: The rules of evidence as applied in civil trials before the courts of this state shall not be strictly complied with, but the board shall limit evidence to matters having a reasonable relevance to the issues before the board. The burden of proof shall be on the appointing authority except in those cases where, (1) an employee is alleging that he/she was not given a fair opportunity to prove his/her abilities in his/her position after the appointing authority has failed him/her in his/her working test period as provided for in R.S. 33:2555 and, (2) when the employee alleges discrimination based on political or religious beliefs, sex, or race.

SECTION 6: Parties and witnesses shall be subject to cross-examination as in civil trials. The board looks with favor upon stipulations of undisputed facts. The party bearing the burden of proof shall be first to present evidence and testimony followed by the evidence and testimony of the other party. Board members may ask questions of witnesses.

SECTION 7: The board may, on request of any party or on its own motion, sequester witnesses and thus exclude them from the hearing room. While sequestered, no person shall discuss or exchange with any other person any information regarding the matter before the board.

SECTION 8: a. Subpoenas

Each board member shall have the power to subpoena witnesses and compel the production of books and papers without compensation. The board may serve such subpoenas in any manner it deems appropriate. No person shall deny or

interfere with in any manner a board member's action to serve a subpoena. The board may hire an outside entity to serve subpoenas and the cost shall be billable to the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Fire Board of Commissioners.

Any party desiring the issuance of a subpoena for the attendance of a witness or the production of books or papers must apply for appropriate order, to the board, in writing, at least fifteen (15) calendar days, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, prior to the date set for the hearing. Such application shall state the purpose of the subpoena and what evidence or testimony is sought by the issuance of the subpoena.

A subpoena service fee shall be required for each subpoena requested after the first four (4) in order to cover all cost incurred per subpoena. Excessive requests shall be restricted in number at the discretion of the board. Any party may request an estimate of the subpoena fees from the board prior to requesting the subpoena. The subpoena fees shall be submitted to the board at the time of the request for the subpoena. All subpoena fees shall be paid in the form of a money order or cashier's check, payable to the St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1 Fire Board of Commissioners. If the subpoena fee is not provided to the board, the board shall reject the subpoena request. Reasonable copy fees may be assessed against the requester by the custodian of records for the production of books or papers pursuant to such subpoenas.

b. Lists of Witnesses and Exhibits

Both parties shall have the right to call witnesses and to produce exhibits. A list of prospective witnesses and exhibits shall be submitted to the board and to the opposing party not less than ten (10) calendar days, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, prior to the date set for the hearing. Each list shall include a general statement of the relevancy of

the evidence to be adduced. The board and the opposing party shall be provided a copy of each exhibit appearing upon the list of exhibits. The witness lists shall include the name and residential address of each potential witness; however, if a witness is an employee of the classified service, the employee's business address shall be provided.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this subsection, without good and sufficient cause, may cause the witness or exhibit to be excluded from the hearing. Subject to the objections of the opposing party, the board may reject any witness whose name does not appear on the witness list and/or any exhibit not upon the exhibit list.

Testimony by such witnesses and on such exhibits shall be for the board's determination of whether or not the appointing authority acted in good faith for cause. Any witness, exhibit, and subpoena requested for testimony as to the character of either party shall not be admitted.

Section 9: All parties, or their attorneys, shall state their names and addresses for the record, and shall be permitted to give a brief preliminary statement.

Section 10: All persons who will offer testimony or make statements of fact during the hearing shall be sworn. This may be done as a group at the outset of the hearing or individually as they are called to testify. Every statement of fact made at any time during the hearing by any person after having been thus sworn shall be considered to have been made under oath, whether the statement is in response to a specific question or is volunteered in the course of a general discussion.

Section 11: An effort shall be made to complete the questioning of each witness by all parties before beginning the questioning of the next witness. However, the board's hearings may sometimes be expedited by a discussion type interrogation involving more than one witness at a time and this shall be permitted upon occasion within such limitations as the board may find necessary or desirable in a particular case.

- Section 12: Information available from a particular witness may be received in narrative form, by question and answer, or otherwise as may be directed by the board from time to time.
- Section 13: Documentary evidence shall be filed with and marked for identification by the secretary of the board, or another person designated for the purpose by the board chairperson.
- Section 14: At the conclusion of the hearing or investigation and before any motions, the board may, in its discretion, hear oral argument, imposing such time limits as it deems appropriate. If the proceedings are being transcribed by an official reporter, the oral argument may or may not be transcribed and bound with the transcript of testimony as the board may direct.
- Section 15: In reviewing disciplinary action taken against an employee, the board shall determine if the disciplinary action was taken with good faith and just cause, and, if so, whether the punishment imposed is commensurate with the infraction. The board shall determine if the employee's conduct impaired the efficient operation of the fire department.

After the conclusion of the hearing or investigation, if the board finds that the action taken by the appointing authority was with good faith and just cause and the punishment imposed was commensurate with the infraction, the board shall affirm the action of the appointing authority.

If the board finds that the action taken by the appointing authority was with good faith and just cause but the punishment was not commensurate with the infraction, the board shall modify the action of the appointing authority. The board shall modify the order of removal, suspension, demotion, discharge, or other disciplinary action by directing a suspension without pay for a given period, a reduction in pay to the rate prevailing for the next lower class, a reduction or demotion to a position of any lower class and to the rate of pay prevailing thereof, or such other lesser punitive action that may be appropriate under the circumstances.

If the board finds that all of the disciplinary action taken was not with good faith and just cause, the board shall overturn the action of the appointing authority. The board shall order the immediate reinstatement of such individual in the office, place, position, or employment from which he/she was removed, suspended, demoted, or discharged. The reinstatement shall, if the board so provides, be retroactive and entitle him/her to his/her regular pay from the time of removal, suspension, demotion, discharge, or other disciplinary action.

If the board finds that the appointing authority violated any part of the Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights and the individual was not afforded his/her due process in accordance with R.S. 33:2181.C the board shall declare the action to be an absolute nullity, and overturn the action taken by the appointing authority.

Section 16: In the case of a tie vote and no board member recused himself/herself under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561(D) and Section 2 of Rule VII, the board shall not have reached a decision. The board shall set a new date for the appeal hearing and rehear the case, allowing for any additional admissible evidence, and render a decision that would be appealable to the district court. The board shall notify the employee and the appointing authority of the date, time, and place of the hearing at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the date set for the new hearing. The board shall also notify the employee's attorney, the appointing authority's attorney, and the fire chief, but is not required by law.

Section 17: The decision of the board together with the board's written finding of fact, shall be certified in writing to the appointing authority for enforcement.

Section 18: Any employee and the appointing authority may appeal from any decision of the board or from any action taken by the board under the provisions of civil service law which is prejudicial to the employee or appointing authority. This appeal shall lie direct to the court of original and unlimited jurisdiction in civil suits of St. Tammany Parish. This appeal shall be taken by serving the board, within thirty

(30) calendar days of its decision, a written notice of appeal, stating the grounds thereof and demanding that a certified transcript of the record, or written findings of fact, and all papers on file in the office of the board affecting or relating to such decisions, be filed with the designated court. The board shall, within ten (10) calendar days after the filing of the notice of appeal, make, certify and file the complete transcript, if available, with the designated court.

RULE VIII

DISMISSAL AND CONTINUATION OF APPEAL HEARINGS AND OTHER HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE BOARD

SECTION 1: Requests to reschedule appeal hearings against disciplinary action and other hearings and investigations shall be made in writing and submitted to the board secretary. The secretary shall immediately report such requests to the board chairperson and place requests on the agenda for the next meeting. The board shall act on such requests as it determines to be for cause and in the public interest under the circumstances.

SECTION 2: If the appellant or his/her attorney requests the continuance of an appeal hearing for disciplinary action under the provisions of R.S. 33:2561, the board may require a stipulation of the employee receiving no back pay after the original date set for the hearing. The board shall consider approving such stipulation at the time it grants the continuance.

SECTION 3: If the appellant fails to appear at the place and time fixed for any hearing, his/her appeal may be dismissed. If either the appointing authority or the appellant fails to appear at the place and time fixed for any hearing, the board may, in its discretion, continue the case or proceed with the hearing and render its decision upon the preponderance of evidence, as may be adduced at the hearing.

SECTION 4: If, at the appointed time for a hearing, the board does not have a quorum present, or finds other cause

for not proceeding at that time, the hearing shall be rescheduled. If an appeal or other hearing is not completed at one meeting, the hearing shall be continued at another meeting. The board shall notify all pertinent parties of the rescheduled hearing date.

RULE IX

TRANSCRIPTS OF APPEAL HEARINGS AND OTHER HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATIONS

SECTION 1: The board shall not be required to have the testimony of a hearing or investigation by the board taken and transcribed. If any party to the hearing desires a permanent transcript of any hearing, the party shall furnish a court reporter for said purpose at the party's own expense. The party furnishing a court reporter shall be responsible for payment to the court reporter.

Where a court reporter is furnished, and the proceedings are transcribed, the first copy of the original of the transcript shall be filed with the board and shall become part of the permanent record of any subsequent appeal. Where no court reporter is furnished, the secretary of the board shall maintain as complete notes as is feasible and the board shall issue a written finding of fact.

SECTION 2: Any party may request, in writing, a copy of the minutes of the hearing, finding of fact issued by the board, the recording of the hearing, if recorded, and the transcript, if the board is in possession of such. Parties that are not directly involved in the hearing shall be charged twenty-five (25) cents per page, pursuant to R.S. 39:241 and the Louisiana Administrative Code Title 4, Part 1, Section 301.

RULE X

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO TESTS

SECTION 1: Tests for entry upon promotional and competitive employment lists shall be advertised for and administered in accordance with R.S. 33:2552. Tests for entrance upon competitive

employment lists may be given as the needs of the service require as determined by the civil service board. Tests for entry upon promotional employment lists may be given as the needs of the service require as determined by the board and shall be given at least one time during each successive period of eighteen (18) months.

SECTION 2: Applications for admission to tests on board approved forms, shall be received only by those individuals designated by the board at any time before final date for receiving applications. Applications filed with persons other than those designated to receive them shall not be considered to have been filed with the board until submitted to such designated persons. Individuals designated to receive applications shall forward such applications to the board secretary, which shall be kept as a permanent record of the board. The board shall reject all applications filed after the time fixed for closing date for receipt of applications as announced in the public notice of the tests. Approved applicants shall be notified at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the date fixed for the exam.

SECTION 3: Competitive employment lists shall be maintained by the board for eighteen (18) months. Promotional employment lists shall be maintained by the board for forty-eight (48) months.

SECTION 4: Admission to tests shall be governed by provisions of R.S. 33:2553 and the qualification requirements of the classification plan of the board. In the event of a demonstrated need for an eligibility list, the board may waive any requirement in the classification plan deemed necessary in order to establish a qualified pool of applicants for testing. A demonstrated need is established when an active provisional appointment exists in the classification to be tested and it is anticipated that an adequate list cannot be established under existing rules.

SECTION 5: A classified employee who was unable to apply for and/or missed a promotional examination due to his/her placement on military leave with or without pay may apply for such examination upon his/her return. It is the employee's responsibility to

contact the board in order to determine if he/she missed a promotional examination.

In order to be eligible for admission to a promotional examination, the employee must have been on military leave during the entire thirty (30) day posting period for the examination. The employee must have met all the qualification requirements for the examination as posted by the board and would have been approved for admission to the examination if he/she had not been on military leave. Or, if the employee had submitted an application and was approved to be admitted to the examination, he/she must have been on military leave on the date of the examination.

If the employee did not have an opportunity to submit an application, the employee shall submit his/her application and all required attachments to the board within thirty (30) calendar days following his/her return to duty with the fire department. If the employee had submitted an application and was approved to be admitted to an examination and was on military leave on the date of the examination, the employee must submit a request to take the examination within thirty (30) calendar days following his/her return to duty with the fire department.

When the board receives an application for admission to an examination or a request to take an examination from an employee who was on military leave it shall review such at its next regular meeting. If the application or request is approved, the board shall contact the Office of State Examiner in order that the examination may be scheduled. Such examinations shall be administered by the Office of State Examiner at their Baton Rouge office. The board shall notify the employee at least five (5) calendar days in advance of the date fixed for the exam.

SECTION 6: When the results of any examination are furnished to the board by the Office of State Examiner for approval, the board shall consider such approval at its next regular meeting or the chairperson may call a special meeting. However, the board chairperson shall call a special meeting within fifteen (15) calendar days for consideration of approval of the

results of any examination needed for a vacancy that has been filled by a provisional appointment. Employment lists shall become effective upon approval of and by a majority vote of the board. The board shall file a copy of the approved grades with the Office of State Examiner which shall include the signature of the chairperson and the date of the board's approval.

RULE XI

RULES OF THE BOARD - ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN AND BOARD RULES

SECTION 1: The board shall adopt, amend and maintain a classification plan that shall consist of classes designated by class titles for all positions in the classified service. The board shall adopt, amend, and maintain a set of board rules necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of civil service law and to provide for leaves of absence for the classified fire employees. The classification plan and the board rules shall be maintained as rules of the board and shall have the force and effect of law.

SECTION 2: The board shall approve proposed revisions to its classification plan or board rules at a public hearing. The board shall hold a public hearing to consider amending the rules of the board. The board shall provide notification of the hearing, including a copy of the current classification plan or board rule(s) and the proposed classification plan or board rule(s) for a period of not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date set for the public hearing. Such notice shall be posted at the place of the hearing and shall be provided to the fire board of commissioners, the fire chief, the state examiner, and any other party whom the rule may in any way affect. Such notice shall also be posted for the same period at each fire station and building occupied by employees of the classified service.

SECTION 3: The board shall hold a public hearing at which time any fire district officer, employee, private citizen, or the state examiner's office shall be given the opportunity, in person or via written

correspondence to offer comment as to why such rule or any part thereof should not be adopted.

SECTION 4: Within thirty (30) calendar days after adoption of amendments to the rules of the board, the board shall provide one copy of such to the fire board of commissioners, the fire chief, the state examiner, each board member, and to the fire department for duplication and distribution to each station and building occupied by the employees of the classified service.

SECTION 5: A copy of the classification plan and/or board rules shall be given to any person requesting such.

RULE XII

LEAVES OF ABSENCE, HOLIDAYS, AND BOARD RULES

SECTION 1: Leaves of Absence -- Police and Fire

A. Leaves of absence are classified as follows:

1. Leave of absence with pay
2. Leave of absence without pay
3. Absence without leave and pay
4. Administrative leave - The appointing authority may grant administrative leave with pay for periods not to exceed thirty (30) days when circumstances develop that would warrant the removal of an employee from the department without disadvantage in order for the appointing authority to conduct an investigation concerning the conduct of the employee. This period may not be extended beyond thirty (30) days without approval of the civil service board.

B. Sick leave:

1. Each employee of the classified service shall be entitled to and given, with full pay, sick leave aggregating not less than fifty-two (52) weeks during a calendar year for any sickness or injury or incapacity not brought about by his/her own negligence or culpable indiscretion. Any employee of the classified

service who draws such full pay during sick leave shall have such pay decreased by the amount of workman's compensation benefits actually received by such employee. Classification of leave of absence for the forementioned will be "Leave of Absence With Pay."

2. Sick leave may not be used for absences incurred because of attendance to personal affairs.
3. When an employee of the classified service is ill and cannot report for duty, it is his/her responsibility to notify the supervisor or the person designated by the chief of the department not later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the assigned duty period. Failure to call, as indicated above, will result in the forfeit of pay, as it is classified as "absence without leave and pay."
4. Sick leave is applicable to maternity claims. Maternity leave commences when a doctor certifies that the employee cannot perform all of the duties of her position and light duty within her classification is not available.
5. No cash payment may be made for accumulated sick leave. Should any illness last longer than four (4) calendar days, the employee is required to submit a doctor's certificate indicating the illness or condition which justified his absence, as well as the probable duration of the illness. For failure to produce a doctor's certificate for any illness over three (3) days, the employee will be classified as "absence without leave and pay." Should any employee of the classified service abnormally absent himself/herself before or after his/her scheduled days off, or at any other time, he/she will be required to submit a doctor's certificate should the absence be for only one (1) calendar day. The aforementioned procedures will cover the personnel on 24 hour shifts.
6. No cash payment may be made for accumulated sick

leave. Should any illness last longer than three (3) calendar days, the employee is required to submit a doctor's certificate indicating the illness or condition which justified his absence, as well as the probable duration of the illness. For failure to produce a doctor's certificate for any illness over three (3) days, the employee will be classified as "absence without leave and pay." Should any employee of the classified service abnormally absent himself/herself before or after his/her scheduled days off, or at any other time, he/she will be required to submit a doctor's certificate should the absence be for only one (1) calendar day. The aforementioned procedures will cover the personnel on 8 hour shifts.

C. Funeral Leave

1. An employee's immediate family is defined to consist of parents, step-parents, spouse, brother or sister, grandparents, children, step-children, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.
2. Funeral leave in the event of an immediate family death shall be authorized without loss of pay or leave time not to exceed one (1) day, except in extenuating circumstances endorsed by the employee's chief.
3. If an employee of the classified service has a death in his/her immediate family and cannot report for duty, it is his/her responsibility to notify the supervisor or the person designated by the chief of the department not later than two (2) hours before his is scheduled to report to duty.

D. Examinations

Each employee of the classified service will be granted "leave of absence with pay" to take any municipal fire and police civil service examination administered by this local board and said employee is to return to duty upon completion of the examination.

Provisional employees are granted "leave of absence with pay" to take a municipal fire and police civil service examination for the class that they hold provisionally to return to duty upon completion of examination.

E. Civil Leave

Absence because of jury duty is "leave of absence with pay." However, the jury notice must be presented to the chief of the department or to the person designated by the chief to receive such notice at least five (5) days in advance of such jury duty. An employee shall be authorized to take leave time when performing jury duty, when subpoenaed to appear before a court, public body, or commission, or when performing emergency or civilian duty in connection with national defense.

F. City or District Court Attendance

Attendance in city or district court on departmental business is with pay provided that the attendance is ordered by subpoena or other court order. Should any employee of the classified service be required to be in attendance in court on his/her off time, such time shall be compensated at his/her normal rate of pay.

Each member of the classified service must present to the chief of the department or the person designated by him, any such notice to appear in court as soon as possible after receipt of the subpoena. Copy of such notice shall also be sent to the board.

G. Military Leave with Pay

An employee shall be authorized to take leave without loss of pay or vacation leave time when performing emergency military duty or participating in the two-week annual training duty required by membership in a reserve unit of the U.S. Armed Forces or the Louisiana National Guard, for a maximum of fifteen (15) work days. During the fifteen (15) work days, the appointing authority will pay the difference between pay earned for the special duty, if less, and the employee's regular pay from the appointing authority. Each member of the classified service shall give such notice of ordered duty at least thirty

(30) days in advance to the chief of the department and this board, if known by him. Should the employee be called out on an emergency basis, he should contact his supervisor, the chief of the department, or the person designated by him to receive such notice.

H. Military Leave without Pay

Any member of the classified service upon being ordered to active duty in the Armed Forces, will be carried on military leave without pay until he returns to duty. The employee is required to notify the chief of the department or the person designated by him to receive such notice and this board when he receives such notice.

Any member of the classified service upon being ordered to active duty in the Armed Forces will be allowed to take whatever annual leave to which he is entitled.

Provisional employees will not be granted a military leave of absence. They shall be required to resign or be dropped from service.

Any member of the classified service who is a member of the National Guard or in the Reserves of the Armed Forces, upon being ordered to active duty, shall be given any leave due the employee in Section G. Should the employee have used all leave to which he is entitled (in Section G), he shall be granted military leave without pay.

I. Personal Time Off

Each member of the classified service may apply to the chief of the department for personal time off when such time off will not exceed sixty (60) calendar days and this leave is classified as "leave of absence without pay."

The appointing authority can authorize up to 24 hours for shift employees and up to 8 hours for straight day employees, with pay. Personal time off, with pay, must be for a bona fide emergency beyond the control of the employee, involving the employee or his immediate family (mother, father, wife, or children).

Any member of the classified service taking personal time off without applying for same shall be considered as "absent without leave or pay."

J. Annual Leave - Fire

1. Each full time employee after having served one year, shall be entitled to an annual vacation of eighteen (18) calendar days with full pay, twenty-one (21) calendar days after five years, twenty-four (24) calendar days after eight years, twenty-seven (27) calendar days after eleven years, up to a maximum vacation period of thirty (30) calendar days after fourteen years, all of which shall be with full pay. The vacation privileges herein provided for shall not be forfeited by any member of the department for any cause.
2. Each employee may divide vacation leave into two separate periods, the total of which shall not exceed the employee's total accrued vacation leave time.
3. All employee vacation schedules must be submitted by the appointed cut-off date. Employees with the greatest departmental seniority in rank will have priority on the scheduling.

K. School Leave or Training Leave

Any employee may request to go to classes or training approved by the appointing authority in advance. A certificate showing completion of the school has to be presented to the chief of the department when they return to duty. The employee shall receive leave with pay while attending the classes or training.

L. Holidays

Each member of the classified service shall be granted "Leave of Absence With Pay" on the following legal holidays:

1. New Year's Day
2. Martin Luther King's Birthday (Celebrated Date)

3. Mardi Gras
4. Easter Sunday
5. Memorial Day (Traditional Date)
6. Fourth of July
7. Labor Day
8. Thanksgiving Day
- 9 Day After Thanksgiving
10. Christmas Day

Should a member of the classified service work assignment be such that he or she is scheduled to work on a legal holiday as set by this board, he/she will be paid an additional compensation of one and one-half (1-1/2) times the normal rate of pay. Should the employee be off-duty during the scheduled holiday, he/she will be compensated for that holiday at the rate of one (1) days pay of normal wages.

M. Leave for Specialized Disaster Service Volunteer

1. Any employee who is a trained disaster volunteer of the American Red Cross may be granted leave from his regular work assignments, with pay, and without loss of seniority, annual leave, sick leave, or earned overtime or compensatory time accumulation, for any period not to exceed fifteen (15) work days in any twelve (12) month period, to participate in specialized disaster relief services for disasters designated at Level III or above in the American Red Cross Regulations and Procedures.
2. Leave may be granted upon written request of the employee to the appointing authority which shall include certification of the employee as a trained American Red Cross disaster volunteer, the nature and location of the disaster, anticipated duration of the leave, nature of services required, certification by an official of the American Red Cross that the employee's services are needed, and the identity and title of the official of the American Red Cross to whom the employee is to report.

N. Special Leave - Seniority

If an employee has exhausted all annual leave, he/she may apply and be granted special leave without pay up to thirty (30) days by the appointing authority **when such leave would be in the departmental interest.** Any special leave, with or without pay, exceeding thirty (30) days must first be approved by the civil service board and if approval is granted the board will determine, at that time, if departmental seniority is to be interrupted or continued.

O. Family Medical Leave

Each full-time employee of the classified service after having served one (1) year, shall be entitled up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave, without credit for departmental seniority when appropriate documentation is supplied to the Appointing Authority for those reasons provided by Public Law 103-3 (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993).

An employee will be required to first exhaust any or all compensatory time and any or all accumulated leave time before being granted unpaid leave without seniority.

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