



# KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

## Signature Report

### Ordinance 18848

**Proposed No. 2018-0574.1**

**Sponsors Dembowski**

1 AN ORDINANCE approving and adopting the Grievance  
2 Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims Regarding  
3 Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee 2017-2018  
4 Plan Benefit Changes negotiated by and between King  
5 County and International Association of Fire Fighters,  
6 Local 2595 (Paramedics, Emergency Medical Services -  
7 Department of Public Health) representing employees in  
8 the department of public health; and establishing the  
9 effective date of the agreement.

10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

11 SECTION 1. The Grievance Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims  
12 Regarding Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee 2017-2018 Plan Benefit  
13 Changes negotiated by and between King County and International Association of Fire  
14 Fighters, Local 2595 (Paramedics, Emergency Medical Services - Department of Public  
15 Health) representing employees in the department of public health, which is Attachment  
16 A to this ordinance, is hereby approved and adopted by this reference made a part hereof.

17            SECTION 2. Terms and conditions of the agreement shall be effective from  
18    January 1, 2017, through and including December 31, 2020.  
19

Ordinance 18848 was introduced on 12/3/2018 and passed by the Metropolitan King  
County Council on 12/10/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn,  
Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski, Mr. Upthegrove, Ms. Kohl-Welles  
and Ms. Balducci  
No: 0  
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

J. Joseph McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council



2018 DEC 21 PM 12:33  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
CLERK

RECEIVED

APPROVED this 20 day of December, 2018

Dow Constantine, County Executive

**Attachments:** A. Grievance Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims

**Grievance Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims**  
**By and Between**  
**King County and International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2595**  
**(Paramedics, Emergency Medical Services – Department of Health)**

**SUBJECT: Association Grievance regarding health plan benefit design changes (King County Grievance 280\_5056)**

This Grievance Settlement Agreement and Release of Claims (the Agreement) is entered into by and between King County (the County) and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2595 (the Union).

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2017, the Union submitted a grievance to the County regarding health benefit plan design changes (the Grievance); and

WHEREAS, the County and the Union were scheduled to arbitrate the Grievance on August 21 through 23, 2018;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to settle and resolve the Grievance;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, promises and conditions set forth herein, it is voluntarily agreed by and between the County and the Union as follows:

**1. Revised General Wage Increase.** The Union's 2017 General Wage Increase (GWI) is hereby modified from 1.99% to 2.25%. The effective date of the new 2.25% GWI shall be January 1, 2017 for retroactive compensation purposes.

**2. 2017-2018 Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee Health Benefits Memorandum of Agreement (2017-2018 JLMIC MOA).** The Union hereby signs on as a signatory to the 2017-2018 JLMIC MOA, which is attached to this Agreement as Addendum A and incorporated herein.

**a. Early Retiree Subsidy.** The early retiree subsidy program for Union members that was eliminated on January 1, 2017 pursuant to Section 6(b) of Addendum A is hereby reinstated by Memorandum of Agreement pursuant to terms and condition provided therein. The parties agree that this benefit has been reinstated as a term of this settlement agreement and that, therefore, should the parties proceed to interest arbitration regarding health benefits, the existence of this subsidy shall not be considered by the interest arbitrator to be part of the

negotiated status quo. In the event that the parties are at impasse and seek certification of issues for interest arbitration, each party will be free to advance its proposal for certification on whether to reinstate the subsidy or not should the matter not be resolved; however, if the matter of a subsidy does advance to interest arbitration, the interest arbitrator will be informed that no presumption should be applied that the subsidy is part of the status quo. However, if an Early Retiree Subsidy benefit is provided to employees pursuant to the terms of the 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA, that Early Retiree Subsidy benefit will be considered to be part of the status quo upon the expiration of the Early Retiree Subsidy benefit that is being restored pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

**b. Early Retiree Reimbursement.** Retired Union member Anthony Scoccolo will be reimbursed for the difference between the subsidized and unsubsidized KingCare "Gold" employee only medical premium from January 1, 2017 through the effective date of this Agreement. The subsidy for 2017 is \$524.72 per month, for a total of \$6,296.64. The subsidy for 2018 is \$465.83 per month. The amount to be paid to Mr. Scoccolo for 2018 depends on when this Agreement is ratified by the Union, adopted by ordinance, and implemented.

**3. 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA.** The Union hereby signs on as a signatory to the 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA which includes being bound by any modifications to same made pursuant to the terms and conditions of the 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA.

**4. Article 11 Section 1.** The parties agree that Article 11 Section 1 of the collective bargaining agreement will remain with current contract language through December 31, 2020, without any additional proposed modifications by the County or Union. By means of this Agreement, neither party is accepting or agreeing to the other party's interpretation of contract language; however, for the term of the 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA the Union agrees to be bound by Section 3 of this Agreement and will not assert any demand to bargain benefit modifications per the 2019-2020 JLMIC MOA.

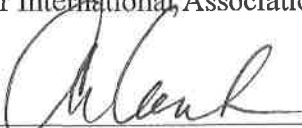
**5. No Precedent.** This Agreement does not constitute a past practice and cannot be used or cited by the Union as precedent in any future matter or proceeding. In making this Agreement, neither party admits any wrongdoing or fault.

**6. Grievance Withdrawal.** The Union hereby withdraws the Grievance. The parties agree to share the cost of any arbitrator cancellation fee. Each party is responsible for its own attorneys' fees and costs.

**7. Full resolution.** This document constitutes the entire Agreement between the parties and is intended to provide a full and complete resolution to the Grievance and any other grievances/complaints by the Union related to Addendum A. This Agreement also fully resolves and settles bargaining over contract language related to health benefits for the 2018-2020 successor collective bargaining agreement. No modification to this Agreement is valid unless in writing and signed by the parties.

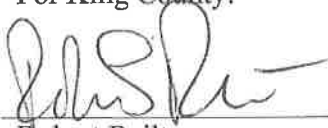
**8. Approval.** This Agreement is subject to ratification by the Union and adoption by ordinance by the King County Council.

For International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2595:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Coulson  
President

10/26/18  
Date

For King County:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Railton  
Labor Relations Manager  
Office of Labor Relations  
King County Executive Office

10/26/18  
Date

**ADDENDUM A**  
**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**  
**Regarding Insured Benefits**  
**January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018**  
**For Represented Benefits-Eligible Employees**  
**By and Between King County**  
**And**

**The Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee Unions**

WHEREAS, certain designated representatives of King County (“County”) and the Unions signatory to this Memorandum of Agreement (“Agreement”) have agreed to participate in negotiations as members of the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee (“JLMIC”) for the purposes of negotiating the plan provisions and funding of the County’s fully insured and self-insured medical, dental, vision, disability, accidental death and dismemberment, and life insurance programs (“insured benefits”); and

WHEREAS, the County and the Unions signatory hereto have agreed to a format for funding and negotiating plan provisions to meet the anticipated cost increases associated with providing insured benefits to represented, benefits-eligible employees; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy objective of the County that a sustainable compensation package be achieved by reducing the year-over-year growth rate of the county’s overall employee compensation budget to align with the county’s population-adjusted inflation rate; and

WHEREAS, the total compensation budget includes, but is not limited to, adopted expenditures for all wages, leaves, retirement contributions, and insured benefits for active employees; and

WHEREAS, the County provides total compensation in a manner that is sustainable and enables it to recruit and retain quality employees; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Unions agree that for the term of this Agreement, insured benefits will include a wellness program, a Health Maintenance Organization Plan (“HMO”), and a Preferred Provider Organization Plan (“PPO”); and

WHEREAS, the JLMIC agrees to explore options that incent benefits-eligible employees to choose health care that is more effective and produces better health outcomes;

NOW THEREFORE, having bargained in good faith, the JLMIC hereby agrees to the following:

1. **Scope of Agreement.** This Agreement shall apply to all county employees represented by the Unions signatory hereto (“the Parties”), with the exception of employees represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 587, and the King County Police Officers’ Guild. In addition, this Agreement shall apply to any non-represented County employees identified by Council to be treated in the same way as the represented employees covered by this Agreement. All employees to which this Agreement applies shall be referred to as “JLMIC-Eligible Employees.”
2. **Continuation of JLMIC Protected Fund Reserve.** The balance of the 2016 JLMIC Protected Fund Reserve (“PFR”) shall be carried over to this Agreement and the PFR shall continue to be maintained solely for the purpose of funding, providing and maintaining insured benefits, and providing a reserve fund to self-insure against unanticipated increases to the cost of those insured benefits for JLMIC-Eligible Employees. It is expressly agreed that no funds from the PFR shall at any time be used for any other purpose. It is further agreed that the County and organizations handling PFR funds have a responsibility to ensure that PFR funds are being used solely on behalf of JLMIC-Eligible Employees.
3. **County Funding Rate.**
  - A. **2017.** Commencing on January 1, 2017, the County shall maintain the same funding rate contributed in 2016 (i.e., \$1,465 per month) on behalf of each JLMIC-Eligible Employee.
  - B. **2018.** Commencing on January 1, 2018, the County shall contribute four percent (4%) more than was contributed in the prior year (i.e., \$1,524 per month) on behalf of each JLMIC-Eligible Employee.
4. **Insufficient County Funding.** To the extent that the County’s funding rate identified in Paragraph 3, and other yearly non-funding rate revenue (e.g., interest earnings, participant benefit access fees, and other plan participant contributions such as COBRA payments), attributed proportionally to JLMIC-Eligible Employees, are at any time inadequate to fully fund the cost of providing insured benefits for JLMIC-Eligible Employees, the parties agree that the PFR will be used to fund the difference until such time as the PFR is exhausted.
5. **Excess County Funding.** To the extent that the County’s funding identified in Paragraph 3, and other yearly non-funding rate revenue, attributed proportionally to JLMIC-Eligible Employees, provide greater funding than is necessary to fully fund the cost of insured benefits for JLMIC-Eligible Employees, the Parties agree that the excess shall be added to the PFR.

6. **Health and Welfare Plan Provisions.** Insured benefits provisions for JLMIC-Eligible Employees during the term of this Agreement shall be as described in Attachments A and B, including but not limited to maintaining the 2016 JLMIC-Eligible Employees' out-of-pocket costs for the PPO Plan and HMO Plan, unless otherwise modified by the Parties or modified pursuant to the terms of this Agreement. The parties hereby agree to make the following modifications:
  - a. Effective January 1, 2018, the definition of domestic partner shall be conformed to match State law;
  - b. Effective January 1, 2017, the JLMIC will no longer subsidize the cost of medical benefits for those eligible for early retirement; provided that, if the Affordable Care Act is repealed or substantially modified, the parties agree to reopen negotiations to address this Section 6(b).
7. **Modification to Plan Provisions and Administration of Protected Fund Reserve.** The JLMIC is hereby empowered to negotiate and implement modifications to insured benefits for JLMIC-Eligible Employees during the term of this Agreement. The JLMIC will negotiate any changes to plan provisions and/or supplemental premium funding methodology to be effective on January 1 of the following calendar year.
8. **Supplemental Medical Plans and Healthy Incentives.** During the term of this Agreement, the JLMIC will add supplemental plan options beyond the PPO Plan and the HMO Plan for the 2018 benefit year. In addition, the JLMIC agrees to negotiate changes to the Healthy Incentives program to be effective for the 2018 benefit year; provided that, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, the County will absorb any additional cost above the status quo 2016 cost associated with those changes for the life of this Agreement.
9. **Scope and Purpose of the Annual Reconciliation Meeting.** The JLMIC will convene a "true-up meeting" no later than April 15 of each calendar year to review the insured benefits expenditures for the prior year, projected expenditures for the current and future year(s), plan provisions, and any other information or factors that the JLMIC deems relevant.
10. **Dispute Resolution.** If at any time during the term of this Agreement, the PFR is projected to fall below fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000), the JLMIC must consider plan changes and may consider other funding options to be implemented by the following January 1. If the JLMIC is unable to reach agreement on such modifications by June 1 of any calendar year, the matter will be submitted to a panel of three (3) subject matter experts ("Panel") for final and binding resolution, whose decision must be issued no later than August 15 of the same calendar year. The Panel shall be comprised of one expert selected by the County, one expert selected by the Unions signatory hereto, and one expert selected jointly by the two selected partisan experts. The Parties agree to cooperate to present relevant information to the Panel in sufficient time for the Panel to issue a decision by August 15. The Panel shall be empowered to make plan design changes and/or add employee premium share and/or County contribution increases. The costs of the Panel shall be shared equally by the Parties.



- 11. **Subsequent Agreement.** The Parties agree to commence negotiations for a successor insured benefits agreement (to be effective starting January 1, 2019) no later than January of 2018.
- 12. **Agreement To All Provisions.** This Agreement supersedes any statutory or contractual provision in any existing contract that in any way conflicts with this Agreement.
- 13. **Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association (VEBA).** The County will continue to offer VEBA benefits to JLMIC-Eligible Employees consistent with the program parameters outlined in the attached Memorandum of Agreement (Attachment C).
- 14. **Total Agreement.** This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the matters covered herein, and no other agreement, statement or promise made by any party that is not included herein shall be binding or valid. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written agreement.
- 15. **Term.** This Agreement shall be in effect, upon approval of the King County Council, from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2018.

APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
King County Executive

**Attachment A**

<i>Summary</i>	KingCare <sup>SM</sup> Gold	KingCare <sup>SM</sup> Silver	KingCare <sup>SM</sup> Bronze
<i>Annual Deductible</i>	\$300/person \$900/family	\$600/person \$1,800/family	\$800/person \$2,400/family
<i>Coinsurance (Medical)</i>	85% network 65% out-of-network	75% network 55% out-of-network	75% network 55% out-of-network
<i>Emergency Room Copay</i>	\$200	\$200	\$200
<i>Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum Medical (Includes deductibles and coinsurance)</i>	Network: \$1,100/person \$2,500/family Out-of-network: \$1,900/person \$4,100/family	Network: \$1,600/person \$3,800/family Out-of-network: \$2,400/person \$5,400/family	Network: \$2,000/person \$4,800/family Out-of-network: \$2,800/person \$6,400/family
<i>Retail Prescription Drug</i>	\$7 generic drugs \$30 preferred brand \$60 non-preferred brand	\$7 generic drugs \$30 preferred brand \$60 non-preferred brand	\$7 generic drugs \$30 preferred brand \$60 non-preferred brand
<i>Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum (Rx)</i>	\$1,500/person \$3,000/family	\$1,500/person \$3,000/family	\$1,500/person \$3,000/family
<i>Lifetime Maximum</i>	No limit	No limit	No limit
<i>BAR</i>	\$100 per month	\$100 per month	\$100 per month

**Attachment B**

<i>Summary</i>	Group Health Gold	Group Health Silver	Group Health Bronze
<i>Annual Deductible</i>	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Office visit Copay</i>	\$20	\$35	\$50
<i>Network Emergency Room Copay</i>	\$100	\$100	\$100
<i>Inpatient Hospital Copay</i>	\$200 then 100%	\$400 then 100%	\$600 then 100%
<i>Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum</i>	\$1,000/person \$2,000/family Rx copay does not count towards annual out-of-pocket max	\$2,000/person \$4,000/family Rx copay does not count towards annual out-of-pocket max	\$3,000/person \$6,000/family Rx copay does not count towards annual out-of-pocket max
<i>Retail Prescription Drug</i>	\$10 generic drugs \$20 preferred brand \$30 non-preferred brand	\$10 generic drugs \$20 preferred brand \$30 non-preferred brand	\$10 generic drugs \$20 preferred brand \$30 non-preferred brand
<i>Lifetime maximum</i>	No limit	No limit	No limit

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

**By and Between**

**King County and the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee**

**Regarding**

**HRA VEBA**

**Elections and Health Benefits for 2015 and 2016**

**For Represented Benefits-Eligible Employees**

**Whereas**, the parties have negotiated employees' participation in the Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association (VEBA) Medical Reimbursement Plan for Public Employees in the Northwest since 2007; and

**Whereas**, the parties seek to clarify, update and make consistent the HRA VEBA options and elections process available to King County employees; and

**Whereas**, the parties have negotiated in good faith; now

**Therefore**, the parties hereby agree to the following HRA VEBA-related provisions:

1. The County adopted the HRA VEBA Plan in 2007. The HRA VEBA Plan is a tax-exempt trust authorized by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(9). Under the IRS code requirements, if a VEBA bargaining unit opts to participate in the HRA VEBA Plan, all eligible employees in positions covered by the bargaining unit must participate. The specific VEBA funding options put in place via the agreed upon King County VEBA elections process will remain in effect for that bargaining unit, unless specific action is taken through this same process to amend or terminate it. Prior to having access to HRA VEBA contributions, the employee must complete and submit an HRA VEBA enrollment packet to Benefits, Payroll and Retirement Operations (BPROS).

The following options are currently available to participating bargaining units:

**a. Sick Leave Cash Out at Retirement VEBA Option:** If a retiring employee is in a VEBA bargaining unit that has opted to participate in the HRA VEBA Plan and has elected this option, the County will transfer funds equal to that participating employee's cash out of eligible, compensable sick leave tax-free to a VEBA trust account on that employee's behalf at his/her retirement. These funds will be transferred to the HRA VEBA account in lieu of the regular cash out to the employee, not in addition to the regular cash out. The funds will be available to the member to pay for eligible health care-related expenses after retirement. De minimis amounts under \$200 will not be subject to the HRA VEBA provisions and will be paid out directly to the employee and subject to appropriate supplemental taxes.

**b. Vacation Cash Out at Retirement Option:** If a retiring employee is in a bargaining unit that has opted to participate in HRA VEBA and has elected this option, the County will transfer funds equal to fifty (50) percent of that participating employee's cash out of eligible vacation leave tax-free to an HRA VEBA trust account on that employee's behalf at his/her retirement. These funds will be transferred to the HRA VEBA account in lieu of the regular cash out to the employee, not in addition to the regular cash out. The funds in the HRA VEBA Plan will be available to the member to pay for eligible health care-related expenses after retirement. De minimis amounts under \$200 will not be subject to the HRA VEBA provisions and will be paid out directly to the employee and subject to appropriate supplemental taxes.

The following conditions (as well as any additional conditions required by law) apply to this Option:

- All benefit-eligible union members must complete HRA VEBA enrollment forms to establish HRA VEBA accounts.
- To access HRA VEBA contributions while an active employee, a union member must be covered by a qualified group health plan.
- If a union member opts out of King County's medical plan and is not covered under another qualified group health plan, he/she must continue to contribute \$50 a month but will be unable to access the funds until separation of employment.

- If a union member subsequently opts back into a King County medical plan (and was not covered under a qualified group health plan) then:
  - HRA VEBA funds contributed during the opt-out period may only be accessed upon separation.
  - HRA VEBA funds contributed after the opt-in period may be accessed immediately for qualified expenses.

The parties understand that the VEBA options and elections process must comply with applicable law, and options available or conditions placed on specific options may change from time to time as necessary to comply with legal and systems requirements. Should the County need to change options or process due to legal requirements or systems changes, it will so notify unions and discuss such changes in the Joint Labor Management Insurance Committee (JLMIC).

A *Qualified Group Health Plan* is defined as a health plan that meets the minimum value requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) law. For example, these may include plans sponsored by an employer or group of employers, coverage through a former employer and TRICARE but do not usually include Medicare, Medicaid, Veterans Administration (VA) coverage or individual plans purchased through the Health Insurance Marketplace (exchange).

Unions opting to conduct a VEBA election must report election results for each bargaining unit to King County BPROS using the King County standardized form found on the BPROS Website. If there are discrepancies in the parties' understandings of the makeup of the individual bargaining units, the parties will meet to discuss and resolve the issue.

Unions may conduct VEBA elections once per year, if they so choose. Election results must be received by King County BPROS by the last Friday in June each year, for implementation the following year. Bargaining Units that are participating in the HRA VEBA Plan and wish to terminate, or who wish to change their options, may do so via the above referenced election process and agreed upon reporting process. Union representatives must notify the King County BPROS no later than the last Friday in June of 2014 and 2015, using the County's standardized

VEBA elections report form, of the VEBA Program Option election results for each County identified bargaining unit.

Bargaining units that are not currently participating in the HRA VEBA Plan may elect to participate in the HRA VEBA Plan effective January 1, 2015, by following the VEBA election and reporting process outlined in this Memorandum of Agreement.

**2. Irrevocability.** Contributions to HRA VEBA are irrevocable and will be available to provide payment for health care-related expenses incurred by the participating employee, his/her spouse, and eligible dependents until exhausted, as provided for by the terms of the HRA VEBA Plan and regardless of any subsequent changes to future contributions elected by the bargaining unit.

**3.** The parties agree that a standardized VEBA elections process is in their best interests and that they consequently may meet from time to time in JLMIC to discuss changes that may contribute to the efficiency of this process.

**4. Total Agreement.** This Agreement is the complete and final agreement on the subject of VEBA elections (in addition to any applicable collective bargaining agreement provisions) between the parties, and may be modified or amended only by a written amendment executed by all parties hereto.

**5. Severability.** The provisions of this Agreement are intended to be severable. If any term or provision of this Agreement is deemed illegal or invalid for any reason, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement.

**6. Term.** This Agreement shall be effective January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2016, consistent with the duration of the JLMIC Benefits Agreement, and any successor to this Memorandum of Agreement is intended to track with future JLMIC Benefits Agreements.