

City of Mission Viejo Personnel Policy

Subject: WAGE ADMINISTRATION

Statement of Intent:

To provide guidelines for administering salaries for City employees.

Background:

The City is committed to recruiting and retaining outstanding staff in order to provide an effective working environment that creates positive outcomes for the City of Mission Viejo and its residents. The City also desires to hire, retain, and promote staff in a way that rewards creativity, innovation, dedication and loyalty. To achieve these goals, the City is aware of the realities of recruiting and retaining staff in a highly competitive market. Therefore, it becomes a business necessity to provide salary in the manner described in this policy.

The City offers competitive salaries for duties performed by City employees. The ability of the City to pay wages is based upon the continued efficient and effective delivery of services and available revenues. While each approved classification title has an approved salary range, the actual salary of each employee within the salary range, is based upon the employee's performance of assigned duties. Salaries for employees, whether newly hired, promoted, demoted, reclassified, or otherwise, shall not be based on sex, race, or ethnicity.

Policy:

1. Salary Ranges: Each approved job classification title will have an approved salary range assigned to it.
 - a. A pay scale shall be made available to an applicant upon reasonable request and the City shall not establish compensation for any new hire based on sex, race, ethnicity, or an applicant's prior salary.
 - b. The minimum rate of the salary range will represent the normal starting pay rate for an employee who is just beginning to perform the duties of the position.
 - c. The maximum rate of the salary range will represent the maximum value of work performed in the classification. The salary of an employee may not exceed the maximum pay rate for their classification unless the employee has been Y-Rated as explained below.

- d. The actual pay rate for each employee will be based upon a review of their performance in relationship to the expectations of their supervisor.
 - e. Salary ranges are set by the City Council and may be adjusted only with the approval of the City Council. The Human Resources Division, on an annual basis, will perform a salary survey to determine the salary range for each of the City's authorized position titles. Consideration will be given to internal differentials and the relationships among all authorized positions. Individual placement within a new salary range will be determined at the sole discretion of the City Manager.
2. Pay Rates: Each employee will be assigned to an approved job classification title and a specific pay rate within the approved salary range for the job classification. A department head may approve an offer of employment up to five (5%) percent above the minimum rate. Appointments above five (5%) percent of the minimum rate must be approved by the City Manager, or a designee.
 3. Merit Adjustments: Merit increases are not automatic. At or near the potential effective date of a merit adjustment for each employee, their supervisor shall make a recommendation as to whether the employee shall receive a merit adjustment, be denied a merit adjustment or be deferred for consideration of a merit adjustment. All merit adjustment recommendations must be accompanied by a completed Performance Review, and be approved by the department head and the City Manager, or a designee. Regular employees will be considered for, BUT ARE NOT GUARANTEED, a merit adjustment as follows:
 - a. At or near the successful completion of the initial 12 months of service.
 - b. At or near their anniversary date each year. A merit increase may not cause an employee to exceed the maximum rate for their job classification.
 - c. In the event of a promotion, at or near the successful completion of six months of service.
 - d. A merit increase may not be granted retroactively without the specific written approval of the City Manager.
 - e. Merit increases may be frozen at any time per the direction of the City Manager.
 4. Merit Adjustment Guidelines: The following table shall be used as a guide for the City Manager, or a designee, in approving merit salary adjustments:

<u>Performance Rating</u>	<u>Anniversary Year Potential**</u>
Exemplary	up to 7.5%***
Highly Commendable	up to 5.5%

Proficient & Competent	up to 3%
In Development	up to 1.25%
Improvement Needed	0%
Unacceptable	0% or reduction in salary

** Except in the case of a Y-Rate, an employee may not exceed the maximum salary range rate for their job classification.

*** Only the City Manager may approve a merit adjustment of more than 5.5%.

5. The City Manager, or a designee, may approve special out of cycle merit adjustments for individual employees in addition to those adjustments, which may be made as a result of an employee's anniversary date review. Such adjustments shall be reserved for special situations, where in the judgment of the City Manager, or a designee, it is appropriate to recognize the extraordinary performance contributions of an employee or to address internal equity issues.
6. Hourly/seasonal/temporary employees are not eligible for merit increases except under special circumstances approved by the City Manager, or a designee.
7. Promotion: An employee who is promoted to a position which has a maximum pay rate which is higher than the maximum pay rate for the employee's current position, will be placed by the City Manager, or a designee, at either the minimum rate for the new classification or at a rate up to 10% higher than the employee's current pay rate, whichever is greater provided that the new rate does not exceed the maximum rate for the new classification. The City Manager may approve a different salary placement if the employee is being promoted from a non-exempt position to an exempt position.
8. Involuntary Demotion: An employee who is involuntarily demoted to a position which has a lower maximum pay rate than the maximum pay rate for the employee's current position, will be placed at a pay rate within the new salary range at the discretion of the City Manager, or a designee. The City Manager, at their sole discretion, may approve a Y-rate for an employee who is involuntarily demoted.
9. Voluntary Demotion: An employee who voluntarily requests and receives approval for a demotion to a position which has a lower maximum pay rate than the maximum pay rate for the employee's current position, will be placed at a pay rate within the new salary range at the discretion of the City Manager, or designee. The City Manager, at their sole discretion, may approve a Y-rate for an employee who voluntarily requests a demotion.

10. Reclassification: An employee who is reclassified to a position which has a maximum pay rate which is higher than the maximum pay rate for the employee's current position, will be placed by the City Manager, or a designee, at either the minimum rate for the new classification or at a rate up to 10% higher than the employee's current pay rate, whichever is greater provided that the new rate does not exceed the maximum rate for the new classification. The City Manager may approve a different salary placement if the employee is being reclassified from a non-exempt position to an exempt position.

11. Y-Rate: An employee who is reclassified or is demoted to a position which has a lower maximum pay rate than the maximum pay rate for the employee's current position, may be Y-rated in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Y-Rate Period</u>
After 6 months through year 2	6 months
Beginning year 3 through year 5	1 year
Beginning year 6 through year 10	2 years
Beginning year 11 or more	5 years

- a. The City Manager, at their sole discretion, shall determine the actual length of the Y-Rate period, provided it does not exceed the maximum Y-Rate period listed above.
 - b. For purposes of this policy, Y-rate or Y-rated shall be defined as a freezing the employee's salary at the base hourly rate paid prior to the employee being reclassified or demoted.
 - c. An employee who is approved for a Y-rate shall have their salary frozen at the base hourly pay rate in effect at the time of the Y-rate. The Y-Rate will remain in effect until either (1) the City Manager approved Y-rate period expires, or, (2) the maximum rate for the employee's new classification exceeds their rate at the time of the Y-rate.
 - d. If the maximum base pay rate for the new range has not exceeded the employee's base pay rate at the conclusion of the Y-rate period, the employee's salary will be readjusted to the maximum base pay rate of the new range.
 - e. If the maximum rate exceeds the employee's rate during the period of the Y-rate, the employee will be eligible for merit increases in accordance with this policy.
12. Exceptions: With the approval of the City Council, the City Manager may make an exception to the policies described above, provided that there is a bona fide business reason for the exception.

Administration:

In accordance with City of Mission Viejo Municipal Code chapter 2.60 “Personnel System”, this Personnel Policy is deemed to have a direct financial impact on the City. City Council approval is required prior to initial implementation and for any subsequent amendments.

Adopted: September 11, 1989 - Res. No. 89-92.

Revised: January 30, 1991 – Resolution No. 91-016, effective January 19, 1991.

November 20, 1993 – Resolution No. 93-200, effective November 20, 1993.

August 21, 2006 – Resolution No. 06-59, effective August 21, 2006.

March 22, 2016 – Resolution No. 16-08, effective March 22, 2016.

May 14, 2019 – Resolution No. 19-10, effective May 14, 2019.

October 24, 2023 – Resolution No. 23-41, effective October 28, 2023