



*a VOICE for working America*

Contract Agreement  
*Between*  
**United Food and Commercial Workers Union,  
Local 1996**  
*and*  
**The Kroger Co.  
Savannah, Georgia**

Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Meat, Seafood, Deli, Drug/GM

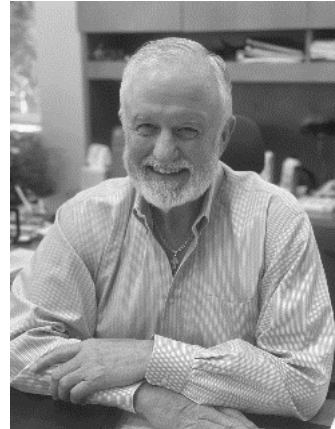
*March 21, 2021  
through  
March 22, 2025*

# **WEINGARTEN RIGHTS**

To Be Read Word For Word To Your Employer.

If this discussion could in any way lead to my being disciplined or terminated or have any effect on my personal working conditions, I respectfully request that my union representative, officer, or steward be present at this meeting. Without representation, I choose not to participate in this discussion.

**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR  
UFCW Local 1996 President  
STEVE LOMAX**



***Our Union's negotiations with the Management of Kroger have resulted in an impressive package of benefits and job security for the members of Local 1996.***

To secure this Collective Bargaining Agreement, your Union and Negotiating Committee put forth a lot of hard work, long hours and dedication. The agreement clarifies exactly what you are entitled to as a Kroger employee and assures that management will not infringe upon any of your established rights. We are proud of this agreement. As in past contracts we have negotiated, it becomes the standard for others to try to match.

Keep in mind that when Local 1996 negotiates a contract, our members set the priorities. The fact that our bargaining proposals reflect your input is also important to the management. They know our side of the table is expressing the collective needs and concepts of their employees.

As the Largest Local Union in the Southeastern United States, Local 1996 has the resources to provide our members with expert, experienced representation, both on the job and at the bargaining table.

I encourage each and every one of you to take time to read your contract and to better understand the excellent benefits and established rights you have by working under a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

While reading your contract, if there are any questions you have, be sure to contact your Union Representative. They will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

I am sure you will be as proud as we are of the gains we have made.

*Fraternally yours,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Lomax". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Steve Lomax  
President & International Vice President  
UFCW Local 1996**

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## **AGREEMENT**

This Agreement has been entered into by and between The Kroger Co., Atlanta, Georgia, hereinafter designated as the Employer, and the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1996, Atlanta, Georgia, chartered by the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, hereinafter designated as the Union.

### **ARTICLE 1 INTENT AND PURPOSE**

**1.01** The Employer and the Union each represent that the purpose and the intent of this Agreement is to promote cooperation and harmony, to recognize mutual interests, to provide a channel through which information and problems may be transmitted from one to the other, to formulate rules to govern the relationship between the Union and the Employer, to promote efficiency and service, and to set forth herein the basic agreements covering rates of pay, hours of work, and conditions of employment.

**1.02** The Employer agrees not to enter into any agreement or contract with its employees, individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 2 COVERAGE**

**2.01** The Union shall be the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all workers in the following classifications: Courtesy Clerks, part-time clerks, full-time clerks, pharmacy technicians, department heads excluding all store Management, Management trainees, professional pharmacy employees, and security in the Front-end, Grocery, Produce, Deli /Bakery, Meat, Seafood, Drug G/M, Fuel and Starbucks departments of the stores of the Employer in the following counties: Bryan, Chatham, Effingham, Liberty, and Ware County.

It is understood that should the Company open or acquire Kroger stores within Local 1996's territorial jurisdiction that UFCW Local 1996 shall be the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for the employees in those stores.

### **ARTICLE 3 CHECK-OFF**

**3.01** The duration of the present contract or any renewal thereof, the Employer agrees to deduct service fees in an amount equivalent to dues, and initiation fees on a weekly basis and remit to the Local once each month in an amount as Local 1996 shall determine and provide for its members generally from the pay of each employee who has signed a properly approved Authorization Card. The Union shall officially, in writing, notify the Employer of the amount to be deducted, and if there is any change, notice of the change will be given to the Employer in writing. The employer will indicate on the employees pay stub "membership" in place of "dues", if possible.

**3.02** It is understood that service fees equivalent to initiation fees shall be deducted from the next two (2) weeks pay of the employee so authorizing the deduction, and thereafter service fees in an amount equivalent to union dues shall be deducted from the employees pay each week, provided only that the total amount to be deducted in any one week shall not exceed four (4) weeks dues.

**3.03** If the law is changed to permit a "Union Shop" the following shop condition shall become effective when it is legal: It shall be a condition of employment that all of the employees of the Employer covered by this Agreement who are members in good standing on the effective date of this Agreement shall remain members in good standing and those who are not members on the effective date of this Agreement shall, on the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day following the effective date of this agreement become and remain members in good standing in the Union. It shall also be a condition of employment that all employees covered by this agreement and hired on or after its effective date shall, on the thirty-first (31<sup>st</sup>) day following the beginning of such employment become and remain members in good standing in the Union.

**3.04** In the interest of promoting cooperative relations, the Store Leader will introduce each new employee to a Union Shop Steward within one (1) week after the new employee reports for work. At this meeting, which shall take place during working hours, a Shop Steward shall give the new employee a copy of the Bargaining Agreement with the Union and shall explain its operation. A Shop Steward may answer any questions that a new employee ask, may request the new employee to join the Union and may make arrangements for the new employee to become a member.

Effective September 1, 2017, each store will provide a list of new employee names to the local union's designated office email, with the date and time of new hire orientations at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, when possible, of each meeting to provide an opportunity for a Union Representative to speak to new associates.

Employer agrees to timely notification to the Local Union President's Office, via email, of the dates, times, and locations for new and expanded stores new hire orientations when they are held, to provide an opportunity for a Union Representative to speak to new associates. The Company agrees to add to the New Hire Orientation checklist that Store Management will introduce the Shop Steward to the new employee.

**3.05** The Employer will make deductions weekly from employees who have signed an Active Ballot Club check-off card and the money collected will be forwarded to the President of UFCW Local 1996 at the conclusion of each operating quarter.

**3.06** The Union Card/Decal should be displayed in a prominent location in the front of the store and the meat department in all stores covered by this Agreement (size and location to be mutually agreed upon by the Employer and the Union).

**3.07** The Employer will make available a bulletin board or an appropriate space for the Union to post notices or bulletins concerning administrative affairs of the Union.

**3.08** Union officials and representatives may have access to the employer's stores during working hours for the purpose of satisfying the Union that the terms of the Bargaining Agreement are being complied with. Upon request, the Store Leader or person in charge will grant to any accredited Union Representative the right to communicate with the employees of the store provided that such access does not unreasonably interfere with the employer's operations.

The Atlanta Division (and its managers) and UFCW Local 1996 (and its representatives) in stores covered by this agreement, agree to treat each other with mutual business respect. When the representatives of Local 1996 are in the store they will respect the Company's need to service customers, and the Company will respect the needs of the representatives to service their members. Neither party will engage in negative discussion about each other and Kroger will not tell employees that it opposes or supports the union. Kroger and its managers will not coerce and will not interfere with the rights of its employees to choose to join a union or to sign union authorization cards. Local 1996 and its representatives will not coerce and will not interfere with the rights of Kroger employees to choose not to join a union.

## **ARTICLE 4 MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

**4.01** The Management of the business and the direction of the working forces, including the right to plan, direct and control store operations, hire, suspend or discharge for proper cause, transfer or relieve employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons, the right to study or introduce new or improved production methods or facilities, and the right to establish and maintain reasonable rules and regulations covering the operation of the store, a violation of which shall be among the causes for discharge, are vested in the Employer, provided, however, that this right shall be exercised with due regard for the rights of the employees and provided further, that it will not be used for the purpose of discrimination against any employee.

## **ARTICLE 5 DISPUTE PROCEDURE**

**5.01** The Union shall have the right to designate Shop Stewards in each store. The Shop Stewards so designated shall not exceed six (6) per store, three (3) to act as Stewards and three (3) to act as alternate Stewards.

**5.02** The Company agrees to meet with the Union initially twice a year to discuss any current outstanding labor issues and update each party about current trends. The number of meetings per year may be increased or decreased by mutual agreement. This meeting will include Union Officials, including Union Representatives and Company Officials including District Managers and District Operations Coordinators (District Ops). These meetings are in addition to the current Labor/Management meetings. Should any differences, disputes or complaints arise over the interpretation or application of the contents of this Agreement there shall be an earnest effort on the part of both parties to settle such in a prompt and timely manner through the Steps outlined below.

**Step 1.** By conference between the aggrieved employee, the Shop Steward and/or the Union Representative and the Store Leader within seven (7) days of the submission or the presentation of the grievance to the Employer. The Company will respond in writing to the Union within (7) seven days following the Step 1 grievance meeting.

**Step 2.** By conference between the Shop Steward and/or Union Representative and the District HR Leader and/or District Operations Leader within fifteen (15) days of initial contact with the District HR Leader and/or District Operations Leader from Step 1. The Company will respond in writing to the Union within seven (7) days following the Step 2 grievance meeting (and/or Step 2 in 5.05 grievance meeting).

**Step 3.** By conference between an official or officials of the Union and/or the Divisional President or a Representative of the Employer so delegated by a Divisional President or both within fifteen (15) days of initial contact by the Union and/or Employer

from Step 2. The Company will respond in writing to the Union within seven (7) days following the Step 3 grievance meeting. The Union and Employer agree that step 3 may be conducted by video or audio conference if both parties mutually agree.

**Step 4.** In the event that the last step fails to settle the complaint satisfactorily, either party if it desires to arbitrate the complaint, shall refer it to the Board of Arbitration within thirty (30) days after Step 3 is completed.

**5.03** Grievances must be taken up promptly, and no grievance will be considered or discussed which is presented later than thirty (30) calendar days after such has happened.

**5.04** It is agreed that Steps 1 and 2 of this dispute procedure may be waived if mutually agreeable to the Employer and the Union.

**5.05** Within 60 days from June 18, 2017, all discharge/suspended pending further investigation shall proceed directly to the 2<sup>nd</sup> step of the grievance procedure as outlined above unless mutual consent is given by the employer and the union for an extension of the time limit.

**5.06** It is the intent of both parties that grievances shall be handled promptly within the time limit specified in each step of the grievance procedure. However, time limits may be extended in any step of the grievance procedure by mutual consent.

**5.07** After all steps of the grievance procedure, except arbitration, have been exhausted, the Union shall have the right to determine if an employee's grievance is qualified to be submitted to arbitration by the Union, and such determination shall be binding on the employee and the Union.

**5.08** The Union and the Employer shall select one (1) person who will act as their Representative to select an arbitrator and jointly request the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to furnish the parties a panel of seven (7) arbitrators from which the arbitrator shall be chosen. The arbitrator shall be chosen by the alternate striking of names within forty-five (45) days of receiving the panel. By mutual agreement between the parties, if the panel offered by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is unacceptable to both parties, a second panel of seven (7) names may be jointly requested. The expenses of the arbitrator shall be paid for jointly. The arbitrator shall have no authority to amend, modify, or in any way alter the terms of this Agreement. The Employer nor the Union shall not refuse more than two dates that have been offered for hearing dates by the arbitrator unless mutually agreed to by the Employer and the Union in writing.

**5.09** The Employer may at any time discharge any worker for proper cause. The Union and the employee will be given written notification of any discharge within fourteen (14) working days after discharge and/or suspended pending further investigation.

**5.10** Any employee who is interrogated concerning a matter of discipline is entitled to representation by the Union at that interrogation. If the meeting is a scheduled meeting, a Steward or Union Representative may be requested by the employee.

**5.11** No employee will be required to take a polygraph examination.

**5.12** The Employer and the Union agree that a proven violation of established time clock rules including working before punching in or after punching out may subject such an employee to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

When requested to do so, the Employer shall make such records available at a reasonable time to an authorized Representative of the Union for examination.

**5.13** The Fair Labor Standards Act as amended, requires among other things, that all time worked by employees be accurately recorded and that employees receive compensation for all time worked in excess of 40 (forty) hours in any work week at time and one-half (1 ½) their regular hourly rate of pay. The parties recognize and agree that strict compliance with this Act is in the best interest of the Employer, the Union and the employees. Therefore, the Employer will not request, suffer or permit any employee to work off the clock and the Union agrees to cooperate with and to assist the Employer in assuring strict compliance with this important Federal legislation.

So that discipline will be applied consistently and uniformly, the following steps will be taken to discipline employees who violate the "Fair Labor Standards Act" as stated herein.

First offense - written warning  
Second offense - one week disciplinary suspension - without pay  
Third offense – discharge

**5.14** An employee who is absent from work for three (3) consecutive working days without notifying the Store Leader will be considered to have voluntarily quit.

**5.15** Constructive advice notices shall be issued no later than fourteen (14) days from the date of the incident or fourteen (14) days from the date that store management has knowledge of the incident, unless a delay is necessitated by circumstances beyond the control of store management such as absence by the employee or manager, key witnesses or the result of a complex investigation of the circumstances giving rise to the disciplinary incident. All constructive advice notices issued for an infraction of company rules or records of discipline, shall be stricken and become null and void nine (9) months from their date of issuance, provided the employee has not received another notice for the same type of infraction within that nine (9) month period.

## **ARTICLE 6 NO STRIKE, NO LOCKOUT**

**6.01** During the term hereof, the Union agrees that there shall be no strike, or any other interference with or interruption of the normal conditions of the Employer's business by the Union or its members. The Employer agrees that there shall be no lockout.

**6.02** The Union further agrees that its members will not refuse to cross a legal Labor picket line until such line is officially authorized by the Local Union, and further, that in the event the Local Union does recognize such established legal labor picket line, it shall notify the Employer forty-eight (48) hours in advance of such action.

## **ARTICLE 7 LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**7.01 Union Business:** The Employer shall grant the necessary time off without discrimination or loss of seniority rights and without pay to any employee designated by the Union to attend a labor convention or serve in any capacity on other official Union business, provided the Employer is given at least two (2) weeks in writing specifying the length of time off, but in no case, shall the length of time off exceed one (1) year.

**7.02 Sickness or Injury:** A leave of absence because of sickness or injury, not to exceed ninety (90) days, will be granted to an employee upon written request supported by medical evidence. Extensions will be granted up to ninety (90) days at a time for a cumulative total of one (1) year, if requested and granted in writing supported by proper medical evidence prior to each expiration.

**7.03 Military Leave:** Employees in military service under the provisions of federal law, shall be returned to their job in accordance with such law.

**7.04 Funeral Leave:** Up to three (3) days leave with pay shall be granted for time necessarily lost from work in the event of a death in the immediate family of an employee, provided that the employee attends the funeral. In no case, however, will the employee receive more than their basic weekly wage pay. By immediate family is meant parent, stepparent, brother, sister, wife, husband, child, stepchild, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandparents, grandchildren, or any other relative residing with the employee.

**7.05 Personal Leave of Absence:** A leave of absence up to thirty (30) days shall be granted to an employee who has had one (1) year of continuous service for reasonable personal reasons but not for the purpose of engaging in gainful employment elsewhere. Any such employee desiring a leave of absence shall secure written permission from the Employer with a copy to the Union, the length of absence to be agreed upon by the Employer and employee. The length of absence shall be commensurate with the need. The above leave may be extended thirty (30) additional days by mutual agreement between the Union and the Employer.

**7.06** Time spent on leave of absence will not be counted as time worked for the purpose of wage computation and will not result in loss of seniority. Failure to report back to work at the end of a leave of absence shall result in the employee being considered a voluntary quit. Any employee accepting employment elsewhere while on leave of absence shall be considered a voluntary quit, except in a case where such employee works for the Union.

**7.07 Family and Medical Leave Act:** A leave of absence of up to twelve (12) weeks (unpaid) shall be granted to an employee who has had one (1) year of continuous service and who has worked at least 1250 hours in the twelve (12) months prior to the request, pursuant to the basic provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Any such employee desiring a leave of absence may be required to provide advance leave notice and medical certification prior to the leave of absence being granted, subject to the provisions of the Act. The length of the absence shall be commensurate with the need. In regards to FMLA, the Company agrees to the current practice of allowing employees who are eligible for paid vacation to take such vacation unless they choose not to. In the event there is a change in the law or a change in Company policy, the parties agree to meet and negotiate over the change in the law or policy prior to implementation of the change.

**7.08 Educational Leave:** An educational leave of absence may be granted to employees for the purpose of attending college or technical/vocational training for a maximum of six (6) months per leave period. Employees while on Educational Leave must be available to work during educational breaks to maintain their seniority. Employees must provide the Employer documentation verifying their attending college or technical/vocational training. No contributions are required during such an approved leave



(Pension, Legal, and Health and Welfare). Documentation shall be provided to the Union upon request. Tuition Reimbursement may be available and offered through the Company. Terms and conditions may change and it may be discontinued at any time at the sole discretion of the Company. Details will be available with your Store Manager.

## **ARTICLE 8 ABSENCE DUE TO JURY DUTY**

**8.01** Full-time employees who serve on jury duty shall be paid for time necessarily lost from work provided they make every reasonable effort to be available for work within their regular work schedule when not occupied with jury duty. Employees who assume this responsibility of citizenship by serving in such capacity will receive their pay in addition to any jury or witness fees awarded them.

**8.02** In the event an employee is subpoenaed by the Employer to appear in court on behalf of the Employer or assist in any legal proceedings on behalf of the Employer, the employee will be compensated for any parking fees and the time involved at the employee's regular rate of pay, straight-time or premium as set forth in this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 9 OTHER WORK**

**9.01** Employees shall perform any work which the Manager of the store or District Manager may direct with the understanding that when employees are assigned to a job with a lesser rate, they will be entitled to their regular rate of pay, unless due to a decrease of work, they have regularly been assigned to a lower-rated job and desire to retain such job rather than accept a layoff.

**9.02** Any employee who is assigned to relieve a Department Head, (Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, Drug/GM, Grandfathered Seafood Manager, Bakery Manager, Murray's Cheese Master, Starbucks Lead Clerk or Fuel Center Lead Clerk), who is absent from the store for three (3) full scheduled days or more in a calendar week, shall receive the contract rate of pay in effect for the department involved for such time spent on relief. However, in no case, shall relief pay be paid for more than five days in a week, except in case of extenuating circumstances.

Any employee who is assigned to relieve an Assistant Department Head (Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, Drug/GM), and Administrative Assistant, or Dairy Leader, who is absent due to an approved Leave of Absence from the store, shall receive the contractual rate of pay in effect for the position involved for such time spent on relief.

In addition, an employee will be assigned to relieve a Department Head who is absent from the store for five (5) consecutive workdays of a one (1) week vacation that span across two calendar weeks, and such employee shall qualify for relief pay for the five days of vacation.

Relief pay shall not be paid for employees performing Manager on Duty (MOD) assignments, unless such employee is assigned for the entire week.

**9.03** Associates will be scheduled in their home department with the opportunity to be scheduled additional hours in other departments of the store. It is understood that part-time associates can be scheduled to work in any department. Associates will be scheduled based on availability, ability, and seniority to perform the work. It is further understood that the utilization of part-time associates shall be in accordance with Article 12.

If an employee is required to work in another department temporarily, the hours worked in that department will be counted as hours worked for the purpose of contributions to the employee's respective Pension Fund as described in Article 20.

Full-time employees within a store may transfer from night work to the day shift or from day shift to night work when vacancies occur on the basis of seniority. Employees will be given a two (2) week trial and training period. If at the end of such time employees are not qualified, they shall be returned to their previously held position. Employees may exercise their rights under this clause not more frequently than once every six (6) months.

## **ARTICLE 10 SEPARABILITY**

**10.01** Nothing contained in this Agreement is intended to violate any Federal or State Laws, rules or regulations made pursuant thereto. If any part of this Agreement is construed to be in such violation, then that part shall be null and void, and the parties agree that they will, within thirty (30) days, begin negotiations to replace said void part with a valid provision.

## ARTICLE 11 WORKING CONDITIONS

**11.01** The hours for each employee shall be scheduled by the Employer. A work schedule shall be posted by noon Friday for the succeeding week. Employees may be added as necessary. The schedule for full-time employees will not be otherwise changed unless such change is necessitated by an emergency such as fire, flood, windstorm, or other acts of nature, but in such cases, full-time employees schedules will not be changed to the extent they do not work the full work schedule of forty (40) hours provided enough hours remain in the workweek. For the purpose of this provision, daily overtime and night premium will be waived to allow the employee to make up lost hours, should they desire to make up lost hours.

The schedule for part-time employees may be changed provided the employee involved is notified of the change not later than the day before such change is to take effect except that such notice will be waived in case of sickness or emergency.

Schedules will be posted in designated areas of the store by work location, classification and seniority order. The schedule shall be posted in ink or other permanent type print and shall show the last name and initial of the employee, the employee's starting and quitting times and the scheduled day off. Copies of this weekly schedule will be maintained in the store for a minimum of thirty (30) days.

**11.02** A full-time employee shall be defined as an employee who works forty (40) hours per week. A part-time employee shall be defined as an employee who works less than forty (40) hours per week.

An employee, who was hired for full-time work and is normally scheduled forty (40) hours per week, shall be considered to be a full-time employee. Any other employee who is normally scheduled forty (40) hours per week for eight (8) consecutive weeks shall also be considered to be a full-time employee.

An employee who is hired for part-time work and is scheduled and works less than forty (40) hours per week, shall be considered to be a part-time employee. Any other employee who is scheduled and works less than forty (40) hours per week for eight (8) consecutive weeks shall also be considered to be a part-time employee.

**11.03** The workweek shall consist of not more than forty (40) hours to be worked in five (5) days or less, Sunday through Saturday. Employees will be paid time and one-half (1½) for hours worked over forty (40) in a holiday week.

Part-time employees will be scheduled for a minimum of twelve (12) hours per week Sunday through Saturday.

**11.04** The workweek shall consist of not more than forty (40) hours to be worked in five (5) days or less. This does not apply to part-time claiming of available hours. Part-time employees will be called in for additional hours in seniority order.

**11.05** All work in excess of nine (9) hours per day shall be paid for at time and one-half (1 ½).

**11.06** The Employer may schedule associates four (4) ten (10) hour shifts, without incurring daily overtime, provided it is agreeable between the associate and store.

**11.07** Time and one-half (1 ½) shall be paid on a weekly basis or daily basis, whichever is greater, but in no case on both.

**11.08** There shall be no split shift schedules.

**11.09** Full-time employees required to work outside of their schedule shall not be required to take time off from their schedule that week in order to avoid overtime.

**11.10** Employees working four (4) hours per day up to seven (7) hours per day shall receive one (1) uninterrupted fifteen (15) minute rest period per day. Employees working seven (7) hours or more per day shall receive two (2) uninterrupted fifteen (15) minute rest periods per day. Rest periods will be scheduled in accordance with the needs of the business but no earlier than one (1) hour after reporting time. Employees who work ten (10) or more hours in a workday shall receive a third uninterrupted fifteen (15) minute rest period.

**11.11** Employees shall be allowed one (1) hour without pay for lunch. No employee shall be required to work more than five (5) hours without a lunch period. By mutual agreement between an employee and store Management, a lunch period of thirty (30) minutes duration may be observed. The lunch period will be granted as close to the middle of the shift as possible.

**11.12** Any uniforms deemed necessary by the Employer for its employees shall be furnished by the Employer and laundered by the Employee. However, the parties agree that meat and seafood coats or similar coverings shall be laundered by the Company. The Company agrees to administer the uniform policy in a consistent manner for all associates across all stores and will provide the designated uniforms for the appropriate job classification.

**11.13** Any employee who is instructed to report for work shall be guaranteed at least four (4) hours work, except in cases where this would violate Child Labor Laws.

**11.14** If an employee is transferred from one store to another, he shall be given twenty-four (24) hours advance notice of such transfer, except in case of emergency.

**11.15** In case of a temporary transfer, at the request of the Employer, involving more than ten (10) additional miles of travel per day, the employee will be reimbursed for the additional miles traveled at the applicable Division cents per mile.

**11.16** Employees will be compensated at their regular contractual rate of pay for any store meetings including appropriate time for travel and mileage for any store meetings where their attendance is required by the Employer.

**11.17** Employees must be allowed to take up to two (2) hours off work unpaid, unless they have two (2) hours of free (non-work) time while the polls are open for the purpose of voting in Local, State, and National elections. To be eligible, employees must give the Employer reasonable notice of their need for the time off. The Employer may specify which hours employees may be absent.

**11.18** All work and services connected with or incidental to the handling or selling of merchandise (except potato chips, beverages, cookies, bakery products and rack jobbers) offered for sale to the public in the Employer's retail establishments covered by this Agreement shall be performed only by employees of the bargaining unit. This Agreement shall not be construed as restricting sales representatives from inspecting any and all merchandise of their respective company for spoilage or replacement, nor shall it apply to new or remodeled stores or to initial special displays unless such special displays have a tendency to become too constant or too often. There shall be no expansion of the present practice which might tend to erode bargaining unit employment during the life of this Agreement. The Employer may utilize any DSD (direct store delivery) vendor store assistance on Drug/GM products which are available to the trade without additional cost.

If the Employer violates this section using non-bargaining unit people, the most senior part-time clerk shall be paid the full-time top clerk rate for time spent by the non-bargaining unit person performing bargaining unit work.

**11.19** Courtesy Clerk shall be defined as an employee who sorts, bags, and packages sold merchandise; assists customers with carry-out service; takes care of salvage and returnable containers; returns shopping carts to the store; fills bag racks; and performs general housekeeping duties such as mopping, sweeping, dusting, shelf conditioning, including the removal of product as needed to perform cleaning activities; returns rejected merchandise to shelf or case; checks prices against shelf or case prices; handles and assembles seasonal merchandise including outdoor plants, Christmas trees, secures change from office, hangs signs shelf tags (only in SATH (store authorization) mapped grocery department sections) and store decorations.  
**Courtesy Clerks are not allowed to stock merchandise.**

When openings occur for part-time clerks, Courtesy Clerks shall be considered for openings based on ability, availability, seniority and interest in the position. Courtesy Clerks service shall be considered in determining their rate of pay upon promotion to a part-time or full-time clerk. Time spent as a Courtesy Clerk will count toward attaining eligibility for health care in the event of a promotion to a clerk.

The Employer agrees that the expansion of courtesy clerk duties shall not cause any employee hired prior to February 21, 2010, to experience a reduction of hours solely as a result of the implementation of this language.

The Union Representative will inform the Store Leader and Human Resources in writing of any violations of this section pertaining to Courtesy Clerks and shall result in the following remedy in the particular store where the violation occurs:

**First Violation**

The Union shall inform the Store Leader and Human Resources in writing.

**Second Violation**

The Union shall inform the Store Leader and Human Resources in writing and the most senior part-time employee shall be paid three (3) times their regular rate of pay for all hours the courtesy clerk worked that the most senior part-time employee could have worked.

**Third Violation**

The Union shall inform the Store Leader and Human Resources in writing and the most senior part-time employee shall be paid at four (4) times their regular rate of pay for all hours the courtesy clerk worked that the most senior part-time employee could have worked.

#### **Fourth Violation**

The Union shall inform the Store Leader and Human Resources in writing upon the fourth violation and the two (2) most senior courtesy clerks shall be reclassified to part-time. Recognition of their Courtesy Clerk service will be used to determine the rate of pay and to determine eligibility for Health and Welfare as outlined in Article 19, Health and Welfare.

It is understood that for purposes of this Article 11.19, each store shall be considered separately and that no violation shall be active after 9 months have passed without a recurrence of a violation.

**11.20** Full-time schedules (other than night stock employees) with hours after 6:30 p.m. will be rotated among available employees as far as it is practical to do so.

**11.21** There will be no pyramiding of premium pay. Any hours paid for at premium pay will not be used in computing overtime. Where an employee is being paid overtime at time and one-half (1 ½) rate, night premiums shall not apply.

**11.22** There shall be a break of ten (10) hours between shifts, unless mutually agreed upon between the employee and the Employer. The Union and the Employer will meet to resolve any issues related to this matter.

### **ARTICLE 12 SENIORITY**

**12.01** In layoffs, recalls, or permanent reduction of hours, seniority shall apply. There shall be one seniority list for full-time employees and a separate seniority list for part-time employees and a separate seniority list for courtesy clerks. Full-time seniority shall be defined as the date the employee was last classified full-time. Part-time seniority shall be defined as the length of last continuous employment. (Excluding time spent as courtesy clerk). Full-time employees shall have seniority over all part-time employees. Seniority for layoffs for Full-time and Part-time employees shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of Appendix "A" attached.

**12.02** In the matter of permanent transfers, ability and seniority shall be the controlling factor.

**12.03** In the matter of promotions within the bargaining unit, seniority will be the controlling factor as long as the employee has the ability to perform the work. A full-time employee who desires consideration for a department head, assistant, or lead position shall notify Human Resources, their Store Leader, District Manager and the Union in writing. When a vacancy occurs, the Employer will review any requests on file, along with any other candidates, and a decision will be made based upon ability, seniority. Requests will be valid for six (6) months from date received by the above referenced individuals.

For any Department Manager that steps down or is removed for performance reasons only, the associate must wait a minimum of one (1) year before applying for another Department Manager position. The time frame can be shortened if there is mutual agreement between the Company and the Union.

A Department Leader with Constructive advice notices for performance issues in their file, in accordance with Article 5.15, shall not be able to post/transfer to another store.

**12.04** Permanent vacancies for the positions of Department Manager: Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat and Drug/GM will be posted in each store in the areas covered by the bargaining agreement for a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the appointment, subject to the provisions of the above paragraph. Such notice shall be of a uniform size and shall be posted in a prominent location to be seen by all employees. The Company agrees to include the store wage level information on the job posting.

The Employer has the right to transfer a Department Manager to another store location, if he/she agrees to the transfer and the reciprocating store Department Manager also agrees to the transfer to the other location and it is documented in writing.

**12.05** In the event employees engage in an authorized work stoppage, employees will be called back by seniority within their classification as needed in their store on termination of the authorized work stoppage.

**12.06** Seniority shall be considered broken if an employee is justly discharged by the Employer, if the employee is promoted to a position outside the bargaining unit, if the employee voluntarily quits, if the employee has been laid off continuously for a period of more than six (6) months, or if the employee is called back to work after a lay-off and does not report for work within one (1) week. This should not apply to employees who are temporarily assigned to relieve employees outside the bargaining unit for vacation purposes or emergencies not to exceed five (5) weeks at any one time.

**12.07** During the first sixty (60) days all employees shall be on a trial basis. The Employer may discharge any new employee during said trial period for any reason whatsoever and there shall be no right of appeal to the grievance and arbitration

procedure by either the employee or the Union. However, after sixty (60) days of employment the employee's seniority date shall revert back to the employee's date of hire.

**12.08** Part-time employees will be given preference for full-time jobs if qualified. Employees interested in such full-time jobs will notify Human Resources, the Store Leader, and Union in writing. Part-time employees will be given first consideration for promotion to full-time when a vacancy exists; however, this shall not preclude an employee in another department from requesting a transfer for such vacancy or a vacancy that might become available. Store Clerks, Fuel Center and Starbucks clerks interested in transferring into or out of the Fuel Center or Starbucks, shall notify Human Resources, the Store Leader and the Union in writing.

**12.09** Each week the Employer will give the Union a listing of newly hired and active employees. This listing shall include names, social security numbers, home addresses, store numbers and seniority dates and shall be given to the Union in the form of a computerized tape or disk in the format that matches the Union's computer.

**12.10** The Union Shop Stewards (excluding the alternate Shop Stewards), not to exceed three (3), shall be the last employees in their classification in the store to be transferred or laid off. The Employer must receive written notification of the Steward's appointment prior to granting above.

**12.11** Part-time employees will be allowed to claim daily schedules Sunday through Saturday within the store in the employee's classification based on seniority in order to provide up to forty (40) straight-time hours per week, excluding overtime hours.

The senior part-time employee will be assigned the schedule with the most straight-time hours for their respective department, provided the employee has the ability and is available to do the work. All other part-time schedules in their respective department will be assigned based on seniority, availability, and ability to perform the work.

One or more senior part-time employees may claim hours from a junior employee so as to eliminate that junior employee from the schedule entirely. However, schedules may not be claimed from a part-time employee so as to leave the employee with less than the twelve (12) hour guarantee, unless that employee is totally removed from the schedule.

Part-time employees must claim hours within the area of their job assignment and must be available and able to perform the work. Night premium hours shall not be excluded for the purpose of claiming hours. Hours in newly remodeled stores and new stores will not be available for claiming until the store is classified. Job assignments where possible and where the employee is available to perform the work, may be combined on a given day. The Employer will not hire employees for twelve (12) hour schedules for the purpose of circumventing the available hour clause.

Employees claiming available hours must do so by noon Saturday following the posting of the work schedule.

**12.12** The Union Representative will inform the Store Leader and Human Resources of any violations pertaining to scheduling of hours on a seniority basis, and a decision will be rendered within one week.

**First Violation**

The Store Leader will correct such violation in the following manner:

Assign the hours to the most senior part-time employee who is available and qualified to perform the work. Should the hours have already been worked by a less senior employee, the most senior employee who is available and qualified shall be paid for said hours that the junior employee worked that the senior employee could have worked.

**Second Violation**

Should hours be assigned to a less senior employee, the more senior employee who is available and qualified to perform the work shall be paid at two (2) times their regular rate of pay for all hours the junior employee worked that the senior employee could have worked.

**Third Violation**

Should hours be assigned to a less senior employee, the most senior employee who is available and qualified to perform the work shall be paid at three (3) times their regular rate of pay for all hours assigned to the less senior employee that the senior employee could have worked.

Senior employees or the Union Representative shall be able to claim all or portion of less senior employee's schedules on a daily basis up to and including forty (40) hours.

Claims for payment as outlined above shall not be valid after thirty (30) days.

If after the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) violation, it is determined that the schedule is being deliberately manipulated to prevent senior part-time employees from claiming hours, the two (2) most senior part-time employees in the store shall be reclassified to full-time.

**12.13** When employees object to night stock work, the night stock work shall be assigned by seniority within their store beginning with the least senior full-time stock clerk.

**12.14** An employee who desires a transfer to another location may request such a transfer in writing to their District Human Resources Leader with a copy to Store Management and the Local Union. When a vacancy occurs, the District Human Resource Leader will review with the Store Leader any request on file for that location by seniority, and a decision will be made based on the employee's seniority, ability, and consistent with the needs of the business. Requests for transfer shall be valid for a period of six (6) months from the date received by District Human Resources. Employee's may request a transfer as provided above. However, in the case of such request, a decision will be made based upon the experience and ability to perform the work as determined by the Employer. Any granted transfer requests and their timing will be coordinated by the District Human Resource Leader with Store Management.

**12.15** If an employee transfers from one bargaining agreement to another, the employee will be covered under the terms and conditions of the bargaining agreement for the area they transferred into.

## **ARTICLE 13 VACATION**

**13.01** For employees hired on or before April 11, 1989, the following vacation schedule will apply:

1 year service	-	1 week vacation
4 years service	-	2 weeks vacation
7 years service	-	3 weeks vacation
15 years service	-	4 weeks vacation
20 years service	-	5 weeks vacation

For employees hired after April 11, 1989, the following vacation schedule will apply:

1 year service	-	1 week vacation
4 years service	-	2 weeks vacation
10 years service	-	3 weeks vacation
17 years service	-	4 weeks vacation

**13.02** A part-time employee shall be granted a part-time vacation under the same general provisions as provided above for full-time employees, except the part-time vacation will be figured on the number of hours in the vacation qualifying year divided by fifty-two (52).

The qualifying date for all vacation purposes of any part-time employee who subsequently, and without a break in employment, qualifies as a full-time employee (by Employer definition) shall be the date from which the employee's service has been counted for part-time vacation purposes, rather than the date qualified as a full-time employee.

**13.03** In case a granted holiday falls during a vacation, the employee shall be given an additional day or pay in lieu thereof.

**13.04** Employees will be paid their straight-time earnings for their basic workweek.

**13.05** Vacation pay will be paid in advance.

**13.06** Employees who have earned and are eligible for vacation are able to take in FLEX days. (FLEX day is defined as a vacation in days.) The employee is to provide 14 days advance notice to the employer and must be mutually agreed upon. In the event of illness, the associate may elect to use flex vacation days to cover for documented illness or emergency approved by Store Leader.

### **13.07 ELIGIBILITY**

1. An employee will become eligible for vacation upon the first anniversary of employment, provided the employee has completed one (1) year of continuous service as of that date.

2. Additional weeks shall be earned on the anniversary date based upon years of service.
3. Upon completion of the service requirements, vacation will be credited January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
4. Employees who qualify for one (1) week of vacation as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and are due to complete the service necessary for an additional week or weeks of vacation later in the year, may take the first week early or wait and take it all together.
5. Vacations must be scheduled in the calendar year except that where necessary, vacations that fall due in November or December may be carried over to January of the next year. No employee shall be given pay in lieu of vacation.
6. Vacations shall be permitted 52 weeks of the year. Choice of vacation dates will be granted on the basis of seniority, except the Employer reserves the right to grant vacations to employees when their absences will least affect the operation. Vacation schedule for employees shall be posted in each store not later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Once an employee's vacation has been scheduled, it will not be changed except by mutual agreement. A copy of the vacation schedule will be posted in the department in ink.
7. Employees who have not taken vacation which they have earned by reason of their service leaves (regardless of whether they give notice), go into military service or are separated for any reason other than confessed or proven dishonesty, shall receive vacation pay at the time of leaving.
8. Leaves totaling 90 days or less in any calendar year shall not affect vacation earned in that year; leaves totaling more than 90 days but not over 180 days shall reduce vacation and vacation pay by one-fourth (1/4); leaves totaling more than 180 days but not over 270 days shall reduce vacation and vacation pay by one-half (1/2); leaves totaling more than 270 days shall disqualify for vacation. This shall not apply in case of compensable (on the job) injury.

## **ARTICLE 14 SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS**

**14.01 For employees hired prior to October 30, 2005:** The following shall be recognized as holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day or on days legally celebrated in lieu thereof. Full-time employees who work their scheduled day immediately preceding a holiday and their scheduled day immediately following a holiday shall receive eight (8) hours pay in addition to the hours worked. Employees who are absent on their scheduled day immediately preceding a holiday or a scheduled day immediately following a holiday shall not be paid holiday pay unless absence is due to proven illness or the absence is excused by the Employer, in which case the employee shall receive holiday pay provided he worked any part of the holiday week.

**14.02 Employees hired on or before April 11, 1989,** will be eligible for three (3) personal holidays to be taken as days off in addition to the five (5) national holidays named in paragraph 1.

Holiday pay for part-time employees shall be figured on the average hours paid for the four (4) consecutive weeks immediately preceding the holiday week on the following basis:

<b>AVERAGE HOURS PAID</b>	<b>HOLIDAY PAY</b>
Less than 32 hours	4 hours
32 hours and over	8 hours

The personal holidays shall be celebrated on days that are mutually agreeable between the employee and the Store Leader. However, a personal holiday shall be granted no later than thirty (30) days after the employee's request.

**14.03 Employees hired after April 11, 1989,** will become eligible for the five (5) basic holidays named in paragraph 14.01 of this Article as of their first anniversary date. These employees will not be eligible for any other holidays listed in the Agreement, except as noted in paragraph 14.05.

**14.04 Employees hired on or after October 30, 2005,** will become eligible for three (3) basic holidays, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and two (2) additional floating holidays as of their first anniversary date.

The floating holidays shall be celebrated on days that are mutually agreeable between the employee and the Store Leader. However, a floating holiday shall be granted no later than thirty (30) days after the employee's request.

These employees will not be eligible for any other holidays listed in the Agreement, except as noted in paragraph 14.05.

**14.05 Employees hired after April 11, 1989,** will become eligible after two (2) years service for a personal holiday to be observed on a mutually agreed upon day.

Effective after four (4) years service, each employee will be eligible for a second personal holiday to be observed on a mutually agreed upon day.

Holiday pay for part-time employees shall be figured on the average hours paid for the four (4) consecutive weeks immediately preceding the holiday week on the following basis:

AVERAGE HOURS PAID	HOLIDAY PAY
Less than 32 hours	4 hours
32 hours and over	8 hours

The personal holidays shall be celebrated on days that are mutually agreeable between the employee and the Store Leader. However, a personal holiday shall be granted no later than thirty (30) days after the employee's request.

**14.06 Employees hired prior to July 14, 1985,** shall be paid at time and one-half (1 ½) for time worked on Sunday and holidays.

**14.07 Employees hired on or after July 14, 1985, and on or before April 11, 1989,** will receive Sunday and holiday pay as follows:

1. Part-time employees will receive fifty cents (\$.50) an hour in addition to their regular straight-time rate of pay.
2. Full-time employees will receive one dollar (\$1.00) an hour in addition to their regular straight-time rate of pay.

**14.08 Employees hired after April 11, 1989,** will be compensated at straight-time for hours worked on Sundays and holidays.

**14.09** Work performed after 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve will be paid for at double (2x) the employee's straight-time hourly rate.

**14.10** There shall be no work performed on Christmas Day. Scheduled work to be performed on Thanksgiving or Easter Sunday will be offered to senior employees by classification. In the event there are not enough volunteers, employees will be required to work in inverse seniority order. An employee shall not be required to work prior to 6:00 a.m. the day following Christmas Day. Any employee who works prior to 6:00 a.m. the day following Christmas Day will be paid for at time and one-half (1 ½) the employee's straight time hourly rate.

In the event of a change in the hours of a major competitor or a new competitor opens in the market, the Union and the Employer will meet and discuss the Christmas Eve closing time. Any change in the current practice will be mutually agreed upon.

**14.11** The Atlanta Division recognizes that associates may wish to exercise their own personal choice to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by taking that day off. Associates may take a personal holiday or flex vacation day, if applicable. Requests off will be permitted as long as multiple requests off by associates at the same store location do not create a hardship on the business and providing such requests are submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the holiday.

## **ARTICLE 15 SEPARATION PAY**

**15.01** Full-time employees with more than six (6) months full-time service who are discharged for incompetence or are permanently separated due to discontinuance of the job, store closing, or reduction in force shall be given one (1) week notice or one (1) week's pay in lieu of notice. Employees separated during the week for any of these reasons are entitled to pay through the day they were told of their dismissal, plus pay for one (1) additional week which, at the option of the Employer, may either be worked out or paid in lieu of notice.

**15.02** In the event the Employer closes or sells a store and employees are terminated as a result thereof, full-time employees who have completed two (2) years service shall receive severance pay equal to one (1) week's pay for each year of continuous full-time service, commencing with a third year, but not to exceed four (4) weeks pay at their regular rate. No benefits shall accrue under the terms of this Article if the employee refuses a transfer within a twenty-five (25) mile radius.

**15.03** Employees who are terminated and who are eligible for and accept severance pay, forfeit all seniority and recall rights. Employees who do not accept severance pay shall retain their recall rights for a period of six (6) months, and if still not recalled by the Employer, shall then receive their severance pay and have no further recall rights.



**15.04** In the event Savannah stores are sold or permanently closed, the Union and the Company will meet to establish guidelines for possible transfers to other locations in the Atlanta Marketing Area if there are any such positions available.

## **ARTICLE 16 NON-DISCRIMINATION**

**16.01** The Employer and the Union agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee due to Union activities, including being a Shop Steward, or affiliation or because of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, or veteran's status in accordance with existing law. Where the word "he" appears in this Agreement, the parties agree that it applies to both "male and female" employees.

## **ARTICLE 17 UNION COOPERATION**

**17.01** The Union agrees to uphold the rules and regulations of the Employer in regard to punctual and steady attendance, proper and sufficient notification in case of necessary absence, conduct on the job, and all other reasonable rules and regulations established by the Employer. Any new rules and regulations or methods shall be discussed with the Union before installation.

**17.02** The Union, while not responsible, agrees to cooperate with the Employer in its responsibility in maintaining and improving safe working conditions and practices, in improving the cleanliness and good housekeeping of the stores, and in caring for equipment and machinery.

**17.03** The Union recognizes the need for improved methods and output in the interest of the employees and the business and agrees to cooperate with the Employer in the installation of such methods, in suggesting improved methods, and in the education of its members in the necessity for such changes and improvements.

**17.04** The Union recognizes the need for conservation and the elimination of waste and agrees to cooperate with the Employer in suggesting and practicing methods in the interest of conservation and waste elimination.

**17.05** The Union agrees to cooperate in correcting inefficiencies of members which might otherwise necessitate discharge.

## **ARTICLE 18 INJURY ON THE JOB**

**18.01** When an employee is injured on the job, there shall be no deduction from the employee's pay for hours scheduled for the day on which the injury occurred and reported for medical care. When such employees return to work following an injury and are certified as ready and able to perform all regular duties but require medical treatment as a result of the same injury, the Employer shall adjust their work schedules without penalty to the employees, to provide both the time for medical care and the number of hours for which such employees are regularly scheduled.

**18.02** An employee who is injured on the job may be granted additional ninety (90) day extensions not to exceed three (3) years.

**18.03** The Employer will maintain a vigorous safety culture at each location and will allocate the resources necessary to assure a safe work environment. In keeping with this commitment, the Employer agrees to comply with all Federal, State, and Local laws and regulations regarding a safe working environment. The Employer agrees to promptly investigate all hazards, unsafe conditions, and accidents brought to its attention and to promptly remedy all hazards and unsafe conditions its investigation reveals.

**18.04** The Employer will provide employees training to perform their jobs safely. The Employer will not ask or allow any employee to work or operate any equipment until the employee has received all relevant training. The Employer will provide stores with the appropriate supplies and equipment needed for employees to perform their jobs safely.

**18.05** Only employees authorized and trained by Management are allowed to stop a shoplifter. Non-authorized employees who suspect someone of shoplifting are to notify a member of Management. No employee may pursue a fleeing suspect.

## **ARTICLE 19 HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **19.01 Trust Fund Participation:**

1. Employees qualifying for health and welfare coverage under this Article 19 will participate in the United Food and Commercial Workers Unions and Employers Health and Welfare Fund – Atlanta (the "Trust Fund").
2. Employees shall become eligible for benefits in accordance with the "Rules of Eligibility" as adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund, as may be amended from time to time by the Trustees. Such rules are in the Plan Document.

**19.02 Employees (except Courtesy Clerks) who had 36 previous contributions made on their behalf to the Trust Fund by January 1, 2015, or 48 previous Plan 2 full-time contributions made on their behalf to the Trust Fund by July 18, 2021, the following shall apply:**

1. For a stability period, the term “eligible employee” shall mean any employee who has averaged at least the required minimum hours during the applicable standard measurement period, as described in Section 19.07. The minimum required hours shall be as follows:
  - a. For eligibility for **Plan 1**: thirty-two (32) hours per week
  - b. For eligibility for **Plan 3**:
    - (1) For stability period(s) starting in 2021 and 2022: twenty-four (24) hours per week
    - (2) For stability period(s) starting in 2023: twenty-six (26) hours per week
    - (3) For stability period(s) starting on or after January 1, 2024: twenty-seven (27) hours per week.
  - c. For eligibility for **Ancillary Only** (Plan 4):
    - (1) For stability periods starting in 2021 or 2022: twelve (12) hours per week
    - (2) For stability periods starting in 2023: sixteen (16) hours per week
    - (3) For stability periods starting on or after January 1, 2024: twenty (20) hours per week.

**19.03 For all other employees (except Courtesy Clerks) the following shall apply if hired before July 18, 2021:**

1. For a stability period, the term “eligible employee” shall mean any employee, except Courtesy Clerks, who has been employed over a full measurement period, as described in Sections 19.07 and 19.08, and during said period has averaged at least the minimum required hours, as follows:
  - a. For eligibility for **Plan 1 or Plan 2**:
    - (1) For stability period(s) starting in 2021 or 2022: thirty-five (35) hours per week
    - (2) For stability period(s) starting on or after January 1, 2023: thirty-six (36) hours per week.

Such employee will be eligible for Plan 2 until such time as forty-eight (48) full-time contributions have been made on his/her behalf at the Plan 2 coverage level and then such employee will be eligible for Plan 1, provided they continue to meet the minimum required hours.

- b. For eligibility for **Plan 3**:
  - (1) For stability period(s) starting in 2021 or 2022: twenty-four (24) hours per week
  - (2) For stability period(s) starting in 2023: twenty-six (26) hours per week
  - (3) For stability period(s) starting on or after January 1, 2024: twenty-seven (27) hours per week.
- c. For eligibility for **Ancillary Only** (Plan 4):
  - (1) For stability periods starting in 2021 or 2022: twelve (12) hours per week
  - (2) For stability periods starting in 2023: sixteen (16) hours per week
  - (3) For stability periods starting on or after January 1, 2024: twenty (20) hours per week.

**19.04 For all other employees (except Courtesy Clerks) the following shall apply if hired on or after July 18, 2021:**

1. For a stability period, the term “eligible employee” shall mean, any employee, except Courtesy Clerks, who has been employed over a full measurement period, as described in Sections 19.07 and 19.08, and during said period has averaged at least the minimum required hours, as follows:
  - a. For eligibility for **Plan 1 or Plan 2**: thirty-six (36) hours per week

Such employee shall be eligible for Plan 2 until such time as forty-eight (48) full-time contributions have been made on his/her behalf at the Plan 2 coverage level and then such employee will be eligible for Plan 1, provided they continue to meet the minimum required hours.

- b. For eligibility for **Plan 3**: twenty-seven (27) hours per week
- c. For eligibility or **Ancillary Only** (Plan 4): twenty (20) hours per week

**19.05 Courtesy Clerks:**

Effective January 1, 2016, for a stability period, the term “eligible employee” shall mean a Courtesy Clerk who has averaged at least thirty (30) hours per week during the applicable measurement period, as described in Sections 19.07 and 19.08. Such employee will be eligible for **Plan 3**.

**19.06 Ancillary Only (Plan 4):**

The Ancillary Only Plan (Plan 4) includes Plan 3 level Dental, Vision, Life, AD&D and Weekly Disability benefits, as well as a Discount Prescription Drug Card. Employees eligible for Ancillary Plan will also be eligible for legal benefits under the UFCW Unions & Employers Legal Assistance Fund.

**19.07 Standard Measurement and Stability Periods and Maximum 90 Day Waiting Periods:**

1. For ongoing employees, the average hours for eligibility for Plans 1, 2, 3 or Ancillary Only (Plan 4), shall be determined over twelve (12) month measurement periods (measured over 52 or 53 weekly payroll periods, as necessary for compliance with health care law) that will result in twelve (12) month stability periods during which time the employee shall be considered an “eligible employee.” The standard measurement period shall be October 3<sup>rd</sup> through October 2<sup>nd</sup> of the following year, provided that this period shall be adjusted to start on the first day of the payroll period starting on or after October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If the payroll period then starts after October 3<sup>rd</sup>, it will go through the last day of the payroll period that contains October 2<sup>nd</sup>. A twelve (12) month standard stability period during which an employee shall be considered an “eligible employee” shall be the calendar year immediately following the end of the standard measurement period. The Board of Trustees of the Fund, at their sole discretion, may apply an administrative period between the end of a measurement period and the start of the standard stability period as long as the administrative period is in compliance with health care law.

**19.08 Initial Measurement and Stability Periods:**

1. For a newly hired employee, the average hours for Plan 1, 2, or 3, shall be determined over the fifty-two (52) full payroll periods beginning on or immediately after the employee’s date of hire. This measurement will establish an initial stability period which shall be a twelve (12) month period following the initial measurement period. For those employees qualifying as eligible employees, such initial stability period shall begin no later than the first day of the fourteenth (14th) full month of employment and the first day of such initial eligibility shall hereinafter be referred to as the employee’s “eligibility date.”
2. For a newly hired employee, the average hours for Ancillary Only (Plan 4), shall be determined over the twenty-six (26) full payroll periods beginning on or immediately after the employee’s date of hire. This measurement will establish an initial stability period which shall be a six (6) month period following the initial measurement period. For those employees qualifying as eligible employees, such initial stability period shall begin no later than the first day of the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) full month of employment, hereinafter referred to as the employee’s “eligibility date.” Such employees will also be subject to measurement under Section 19.08(1) above.
3. If the Employer hires an employee that the Employer reasonably anticipates will work on average at least thirty (30) hours per week such employee shall be considered a known full-time employee for purposes of health care and shall become eligible for Plan 2 coverage on the first day of the month following sixty (60) days of employment and such date shall hereinafter be referred to as the employee’s eligibility date. Such coverage will remain in effect until such employee reaches the first standard stability period, at which time coverage will be determined in accordance with the average hours requirements calculated over the standard measurement periods. If the Employer promotes an employee to a known full-time position for purposes of health care prior to the end of the initial measurement period, such employee shall become eligible for Plan 2 coverage no later than the earlier of the (1) the 1st day of the month following sixty (60) days from the date of promotion or (2) the first day of the initial stability period and such date shall hereinafter be referred to as the employee’s eligibility date. Such coverage shall remain in effect until such employee reaches the first standard stability period, at which time coverage will be determined in accordance with the average hours requirements calculated

over the standard measurement periods. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the Employer will pay a Plan 2 contribution to the Fund on behalf of such employees no later than the month following thirty (30) days of full-time employment.

References to “full-time” in this Section 19.08 relate to the Employer Shared Responsibility provisions under the ACA to offer health care to employees who average thirty (30) or more hours.

4. In applying the eligibility rules of Sections 19.07 and 19.08, if there is a gap between the end of the initial stability period and the start of the standard stability period established by the Board of Trustees, the employee shall continue to be eligible for coverage during the gap period based on the employee’s eligibility during the initial stability period. In the case of an overlap of the initial stability period and the first standard stability period the employee shall be eligible for the highest level of coverage the employee would qualify for during the overlap period.

**19.09 Enrollment for Coverage:**

1. When a participant becomes initially eligible for coverage and on an annual basis for all employees, there will be a participant enrollment procedure and an annual dependent and eligibility audit conducted by the Fund Administrator.
2. An employee who waives coverage or fails to complete the required enrollment will be ineligible to re-enroll until the next annual enrollment period, unless there is a qualifying life event in accordance with Trust Fund rules and applicable law.
3. Eligible employees who qualify for Plan 1, Plan 2 or Plan 3 coverage who waive coverage or fail to complete the required enrollment will only receive life/AD&D benefits under the Trust Fund.
4. Eligible employees who qualify for Ancillary Only (Plan 4) coverage who waive coverage or fail to complete the required enrollment will not receive any benefits under the Trust Fund.

**19.10 Coverage Options for Eligible Employees:**

1. Eligible employees qualifying for Plan 1 coverage can choose to enroll in:
  - a. Plan 1 full health coverage; or
  - b. Effective on and after January 1, 2022, Plan 2 health coverage; or
  - c. Effective on and after January 1, 2022, Plan 1 ancillary only coverage (consisting of dental, vision, weekly disability, and life/ad&d benefits, as well as a discount prescription drug card). No coverage for dependent children is available under this option.
2. Eligible employees qualifying for Plan 2 coverage can choose to enroll in:
  - a. Plan 2 full health coverage; or
  - b. Effective on and after January 1, 2022, Plan 2 ancillary only coverage (consisting of dental, vision, weekly disability, and life/ad&d benefits, as well as a discount prescription drug card). No coverage for dependent children is available under this option.
3. Eligible employees qualifying for Plan 3 coverage can choose to enroll in:
  - a. Plan 3 full health coverage; or
  - b. Effective on and after January 1, 2022, Plan 3 ancillary only coverage (consisting of dental, vision, weekly disability, and life/ad&d benefits, as well as a discount prescription drug card). No coverage for dependent children is available under this option.
4. Eligible employees qualifying for Ancillary Only (Plan 4) coverage can only choose to enroll in Ancillary Only (Plan 4).

**19.11 Eligibility for Dependent Coverage:**

1. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 1 full health coverage can choose to enroll their eligible dependents (as defined by the Trust Fund) as follows:
  - a. Dependent spouses can be enrolled for:
    - (1) Coverage consisting of only dental and vision benefits; or

- (2) Health coverage, provided that such spouse does not have access to group health care through his/her own employer.
  - b. Dependent children can be enrolled for health coverage.
2. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 2 full health coverage can choose to enroll their eligible dependents (as defined by the Trust Fund) as follows:
    - a. Dependent spouses can be enrolled for:
      - (1) Coverage consisting of only dental and vision benefits; or
      - (2) Effective on and after January 1, 2022, health coverage, provided that such spouse does not have access to group health coverage through his/her own employer.
    - b. Dependent children can be enrolled for health coverage.
  3. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 1 ancillary only coverage or Plan 2 ancillary only coverage can enroll their eligible dependent spouse for coverage consisting of dental and vision benefits. No dependent children can be enrolled in ancillary only coverage.
  4. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 3 full health coverage who measure a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week can choose to enroll their eligible dependent children (as defined by the Trust Fund) for health coverage.
  5. No dependent coverage is available for:
    - a. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 3 full health coverage who measure less than thirty (30) hours per week;
    - b. Eligible employees that enroll under Plan 3 ancillary only coverage; or
    - c. Eligible employees that enroll under Ancillary Only (Plan 4) coverage.

**19.12 Employer Contributions**

1. The Employer will contribute the following monthly contribution rates to the Trust Fund. The Employer will remit contributions by the 20th of each month for that month. Contributions will be made for newly eligible employees in the month immediately preceding the month of the employee’s eligibility date.

	Plan 1	Plan 2	Plan 3	Ancillary Plan (Plan 4)
Effective January 1, 2021	\$891.79	\$347.01	\$211.38-211.42 <sup>1</sup>	\$211.40

2. Effective 1/22, 1/23, 1/24 and 1/25 employer contributions may be increased up to the maximum shown in the chart below. The Trustees of the H&W Fund in conjunction with the Plan Consultant will determine the necessity for such increases based on the criteria of maintaining annual operation balance (total income equal to total expense) and maintaining at least a minimum prospective reserve level in calendar year 2025 of 3.25 months of non-insured expenses. If the maximum increase is not needed 1/23 and/or 1/24, the remaining percentage may be rolled over into 2024 and 2025.

Rate Increase Date:	1/1/22	1/1/23	1/1/24	1/1/25
	<b>Maximum Rates</b>	<b>Maximum Increase</b>	<b>Maximum Increase</b>	<b>Maximum Increase</b>
Plan 1	Up to \$1,007.72	Up to 7.0%	Up to 6.5%	Up to 6.0%
Plan 2	Up to \$454.58	Up to 8.5%	Up to 5.0%	Up to 5.0%
Plan 3	Up to \$264.25	Up to 14.0%	Up to 8.0%	Up to 8.0%
Ancillary Plan (Plan 4)	Up to \$12.68	Up to 25.0%	No Increase	No Increase

3. The Employer will make monthly contributions on behalf of employees who have waived coverage or who fail to complete the required enrollment.

**19.13 Contributions to the Trust Fund shall be discontinued after the first of the month immediately following:**

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<sup>1</sup> Contribution differences of 1-cent increments may be used to differentiate between different levels of coverage as set forth in this agreement.

1. A layoff or leave of absence of ninety (90) calendar days or more, other than an approved Family and Medical leave of absence, except as otherwise provided below. For the purpose of this section an eligible employee who is on an approved personal leave of absence of two (2) weeks or less or on military leave of absence of two (2) weeks or less shall be credited with the hours he would normally have worked in such week or weeks. Effective January 1, 2015, contributions will not be discontinued in the case of a leave of absence for those months that employee remains in a stability period.
2. The employee's ceasing to be an eligible employee due to failure to meet the requirements in paragraphs 19.02 through 19.05.

**19.14 Contributions to the Trust Fund shall be continued under the following conditions:**

1. In case of illness or non-compensable injury, while on an approved leave of absence, up to six (6) months of contributions following the month in which the illness or injury occurred. In case of compensable injury, up to twelve (12) months of contributions will be made.
2. The Employer agrees to pay the contributions to the Trust Fund for eligible employees on an approved Family and Medical Leave of absence, not to exceed twelve (12) weeks pursuant to the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act.
3. The Employer agrees to pay the contributions to the Trust Fund for eligible employees for one (1) month following termination of employment. This obligation shall not be required when employees are discharged for dishonesty, drinking, or drunkenness on the job or resigns to go into business for themselves.
4. Effective January 1, 2015, the Employer agrees to pay the contributions to the Trust Fund for all remaining months of a stability period for eligible employees on leave of absence.

**19.15** Employee contributions which have been discontinued as provided above will be resumed on the first day of the month following a return to work on the Employer's active payroll after illness or injury.

**19.16 Employee Contributions:**

1. Eligible employees who enroll in coverage under the Health Fund agree to pay the required employee contributions or "co-premiums" for the coverage selected as follows:

Plan and Enrollment Election	PLAN 1	PLAN 2	PLAN 3	ANCILLARY ONLY (PLAN 4)
<b>FOR COVERAGE IN 2021</b>				
Employee Only	\$12.00/week	\$12.00/week	\$10.00/week	NA
Employee + Child(ren)	\$22.00/week	\$22.00/week	\$22.00/week	NA
Full Spouse Coverage Add-on	\$57.69/week	NA	NA	NA
Spouse Dental/Vision Add-on	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week	NA	NA
Ancillary Employee Only	NA	NA	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week
<b>FOR COVERAGE IN 2022</b>				
Employee Only	\$14.25/week	\$14.00/week	\$10.00/week	NA
Employee + Child(ren)	\$24.25/week	\$24.00/week	\$22.00/week	NA
Full Spouse Coverage Add-on	\$57.69/week	\$57.69/week	NA	NA
Spouse Dental/Vision Add-on	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week	NA	NA
Ancillary Employee Only	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week	\$5.00/week
<b>FOR COVERAGE IN 2023</b>				
Employee Only	\$16.50/week	\$15.00/week	\$10.00/week	NA
Employee + Child(ren)	\$26.50/week	\$25.00/week	\$22.00/week	NA
Full Spouse Coverage Add-on	\$57.69/week	\$57.69/week	NA	NA
Spouse Dental/Vision Add-on	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	NA	NA
Ancillary Employee Only	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week
<b>FOR COVERAGE IN 2024</b>				
Employee Only	\$18.75/week	\$16.00/week	\$10.00/week	NA
Employee + Child(ren)	\$28.75/week	\$26.00/week	\$22.00/week	NA
Full Spouse Coverage Add-on	\$57.69/week	\$57.69/week	NA	NA
Spouse Dental/Vision Add-on	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	NA	NA

Ancillary Employee Only	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week
<b>FOR COVERAGE IN 2025</b>				
Employee Only	\$21.00/week	\$17.00/week	\$10.00/week	NA
Employee + Child(ren)	\$31.00/week	\$27.00/week	\$22.00/week	NA
Full Spouse Coverage Add-on	\$57.69/week	\$57.69/week	NA	NA
Spouse Dental/Vision Add-on	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	NA	NA
Ancillary Employee Only	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week	\$6.00/week

2. **Dual Employee Enrollment:** If two employees are legally married and both are employed by the Employer and each qualify for coverage under Plan 1 or Plan 2, they will qualify as dual employees” and can elect to cover each other for secondary coverage. Employee contributions for Duals are as follows:

Plan and Enrollment Election	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>PLAN 1</b>					
Dual Employee + Spouse	\$22.00/week	\$24.25/week	\$26.50/week	\$28.75/week	\$31.00/week
Dual Employee + Family	\$25.00/week	\$27.25/week	\$29.50/week	\$31.75/week	\$34.00/week
<b>PLAN 2</b>					
Dual Employee + Spouse	\$22.00/week	\$24.00/week	\$25.00/week	\$26.00/week	\$27.00/week
Dual Employee + Family	\$25.00/week	\$27.00/week	\$28.00/week	\$29.00/week	\$30.00/week

3. **Wellness Program:** Employees enrolling during annual enrollment for benefits in calendar year 2021 and beyond will be required to take a **biometric screening test** through a wellness program to be developed by the Board of Trustees of the Trust Fund. Failure to timely complete the screening will result in an employee contribution surcharge in addition to the regular employee contribution amount.

	2021-2025
Wellness Program Surcharge	\$15.00 per week

4. The Employer shall collect the employee contributions via payroll deduction on a pre-tax basis and remit contributions to the Trust Fund.

#### 19.17 Miscellaneous:

- Health Care Legislation:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the Agreement, to the extent that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (“PPACA”) or other specific federal laws related to health care are repealed or significantly modified in a manner that materially impact the United Food and Commercial Workers Unions and Employers Health and Welfare Fund – Atlanta, the Union or the Company may at any time reopen the Health and Welfare articles of the Agreement to negotiate changes directly related to such repeals or modifications so long as such agreed upon changes do not change the overall economic value of the bargained package for the contract period. If following a reopener no agreement on modifications to the Agreement is reached through good-faith bargaining, the Union may exercise its right to strike over applicable articles dealing with Health and Welfare only, notwithstanding any language in the Agreement restricting the Union’s right to strike during the term of the Agreement and/or the Company may exercise its right to lock out notwithstanding any language in the Agreement restricting the Company’s right to lock out during the term of the Agreement.
- Reduction in Benefits:** The parties agree that should a reduction in Health and Welfare benefits become necessary during the term of any existing collective bargaining agreement with Local 1996, that both parties will reopen discussions for the purpose of Health and Welfare, Article 19 or applicable articles dealing with Health and Welfare benefits under other collective bargaining agreements between Local 1996 and the Atlanta Marketing Area. Both parties further agree that Article 6, No Strike – No Lockout or articles containing No Strike – No Lockout in other collective bargaining agreements between Local 1996 and the Atlanta Marketing Area will not prohibit the members from exercising their right to strike the employer over applicable articles dealing with Health and Welfare should no agreement be reached. However, if the Company contributes in the amount of the shortfall and maintains benefits, then it is agreed that it is not necessary for the parties to meet.
- Cost Savings:** Measurable cost savings adopted by the Trustees of the Trust Fund, such as plan design changes, changes in vendors providing services or goods to the Fund, and health claims management measures may be utilized to provide benefit improvements for plan participants or reductions in employee co-premiums and not to directly reduce employer

contribution requirements so long as such changes do not cause an increase to the overall costs of the Trust Fund as negotiated for this agreement.

#### **19.18 Legal Fund:**

1. For each employee that is an eligible employee per Sections 19.02 through 19.05 above, the Employer shall contribute eight dollars (\$8.00) per month to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union and Employers Legal Assistance Fund, which Fund is a jointly administered Employer and Union Trust Fund, as provided in the Trust agreement.
2. In the event the legal plan's reserves exceed eight (8) months, contributions will be suspended until the Trustee's deem additional monies are necessary (goal of six (6) months reserves).
3. The parties agree that should the Plan be terminated, the assets of the Plan will be transferred to the Health Care Plan if allowed by law subject to approval of the Board of Trustees.

## **ARTICLE 20 PENSION**

#### **20.01 United Food and Commercial Workers Union Consolidated Pension Fund, the Atlanta Fund for - Front-End, Grocery, Produce, and effective January 1, 2006, for Drug/GM, Deli/Bakery, Pharmacy Technicians, 600 series employees, Fuel and Starbucks employees:** (Note: For Fuel and Starbucks clerks, all time served prior to this date will count toward eligibility.)

The Kroger Co. and UFCW Local Union # 1996, Savannah, GA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 2011 (the UFCW/Kroger MOU), the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference (in their entirety). The UFCW/Kroger MOU was extended by agreement between Kroger and Local 1996 through January 1, 2025. The UFCW/Kroger MOU establishes all of the terms and conditions of employment as they relate to the provision of retirement benefits provided to Front End, Grocery, Produce, Drug/GM, Deli, Pharmacy Technicians, 600 series, Fuel and Starbucks employees under this CBA and governs Kroger's participation in, and contributions to, the UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund (the "Fund"). A copy of the UFCW/Kroger MOU is available upon request.

**20.02** Employees in the Front End, Grocery, Produce, Drug/GM, Deli/Bakery, Pharmacy Technicians, 600 series employees, Fuel and Starbucks, in the bargaining unit covered by this CBA shall participate in the UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund, subject to the eligibility, vesting and other requirements and in accordance with the plan of benefits ("Plan") of the Fund.

**20.03** Kroger agrees to be bound by the terms of the Agreement and Declaration of Trust of the Consolidated Fund and agrees to provide to the Board of Trustees of the Fund or its designee, all information needed in connection with the administration of the Fund, including but not limited to all hours worked, paid, or for which employees are entitled to payment, and total compensation, with respect to all bargaining unit employees. In order to ensure that all employees entitled to participate in the Fund are appropriately reflected in the records of the Fund, Kroger further agrees to the examination of its payroll records by the Board of Trustees of the Fund or its designee.

#### **20.04 Variable Annuity Pension Plan – UFCW International Union- Variable Annuity Pension Plan for Meat and Seafood employees:**

Kroger Atlanta Division ("Kroger") and Local 1996 of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union entered into a Memorandum of Understanding dated June 30, 2020 (the "Pension MOU"), the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference. The Pension MOU establishes all of the terms and conditions of employment as they relate to the provision of retirement benefits provided to Meat and Seafood employees under this CBA. Among other things, the Pension MOU provides that Kroger ceased to have any obligation to contribute to the UFCW International Union - Industry Pension Fund ("National Fund") as of June 30, 2020, and completely withdrew from the National Fund as of that date. Beginning July 1, 2020, retirement benefits for Meat and Seafood employees covered by this CBA will be provided through the UFCW International Union - Industry Variable Annuity Pension Plan ("VAPP") and Kroger shall be obligated to make contributions to the VAPP in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Pension MOU.

Meat and Seafood employees in the bargaining unit covered by this CBA shall participate in the VAPP in accordance with the terms of the Pension MOU and subject to the eligibility, vesting and other requirements and in accordance with the plan of benefits of the VAPP.

Kroger agrees to be bound by the Agreement and Declaration of Trust of the VAPP and to provide to the Board of Trustees of the VAPP or its designee all information with respect to Meat and Seafood bargaining unit employees that is needed in connection with the administration of the VAPP, including but not limited to all hours or months worked, paid, or for which employees are entitled to payment. In order to ensure that all bargaining unit employees entitled to participate in the VAPP



are appropriately reflected in the records of the VAPP, Kroger further agrees to the examination of its payroll records by the Board of Trustees of the VAPP or its designee.

**20.05** In case of compensable injuries, the Employer will make contributions for three (3) months including the month in which the injury occurred.

## ARTICLE 21 TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

**21.01** The Employer and the Union recognize that technological change involving certain automated equipment is now available to the retail food industry, particularly as it pertains to the Universal Product Code and electronic checkout equipment. In recognition of this, the parties agree that:


1. Where installations of such equipment will materially affect bargaining unit work, the Union will be pre-notified by the Employer sixty (60) days prior to installation.
2. The Employer has the right to install such equipment.
3. Any training or necessary retraining will be furnished expense free by the Employer to affected employees.
4. Where full-time employees would be displaced by such installation, the Employer will make every effort to affect a transfer.
5. If a full-time employee is not retrained or transferred and would be displaced as a direct result of major technological change, as defined above, then the employee would qualify for separation pay if:
  - a. The employee (except Courtesy Clerks) had two (2) or more years of full-time service.
  - b. Does not refuse a transfer within a twenty-five (25) mile radius.
  - c. Does not refuse to be retrained.
  - d. Such action does not occur more than six (6) months from date of installation.
  - e. Does not voluntarily terminate employment.
6. Severance pay would be paid at the rate of one (1) week's pay for each year of full-time service in excess of two (2) years not to exceed eight (8) weeks.

## ARTICLE 22 EXPIRATION


**22.01** This agreement shall continue in effect from March 21, 2021, through March 22, 2025, and shall automatically be renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party serves notice in writing to the other party sixty (60) days prior to the expiration date or prior to any anniversary date thereafter of a desire for termination of or for changes in this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said parties have caused duplicate copies to be executed by their duly authorized officers this 10th day of June 2021. DocuSign Envelope ID: AD14488D-3BD9-4F1E-B539-7BA294672C4E

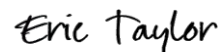
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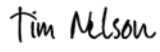
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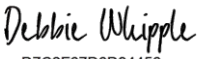
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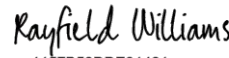
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**APPENDIX “A” APPLICATION OF SENIORITY**

For purposes of layoffs, permanent reduction of hours, or store closings, the following classifications shall be established.

<b><u>Grocery</u></b>	<b><u>Meat/Seafood</u></b>	<b><u>Produce</u></b>	<b><u>Deli/Bakery</u></b>	<b><u>Drug/GM</u></b>
Grocery Manager, Assistant Grocery Manager, Clerks – Includes: Grocery, Dairy, Frozen, Receiving and Nutrition Clerks	Meat Department Manager, Assistant Meat Manager, Lead Seafood, Clerks – Includes: Meat and Seafood	Produce Manager, Assistant Produce Manager, Clerks – Includes: Produce, and Floral	Deli Manager, Bakery Manager, Assistant Deli Manager, Clerks: - Includes: Deli, Bakery, and Cake Decorator	Drug/GM Manager, Asst. Drug/GM Manager, Drug/GM Clerks Pharmacy, Technician
<b><u>Front-End</u></b>	<b><u>Fuel Center</u></b>	<b><u>Starbucks</u></b>	<b><u>Murrays</u></b>	<b><u>Grocery Pick-Up</u></b>
Front-End Manager, Assistant Front-End Manager, Cashiers, Courtesy Clerks	Lead Fuel Clerk, Fuel Clerks	Lead Starbucks Clerk, Starbucks Clerks	Cheese Master, Murrays Cheese Clerks	Lead Grocery Pick- Up Clerk, Grocery Pick-Up Clerks Note: In the event of a reduction or closing, this position is covered under the department from which the employee originated.
<b><u>Chefs</u></b>	<b><u>Lead File Maintenance Clerk</u></b>	<b><u>Lead Wine Steward</u></b>		
Note: In the event of a reduction or closing, this position is covered under the department from which the employee originated.	Note: In the event of a reduction or closing, this position is covered under the department from which the employee originated.	Note: In the event of a reduction or closing, this position is covered under the department from which the employee originated.		

1. For purposes of layoffs or permanent reduction of hours in Sav-On and 600 series stores, or store closings for Sav-On stores only (excluding Waycross), employees shall have the right to exercise their seniority in accordance with Article 12 within their classification as outlined below. The Employer shall have the right to exercise final judgment after giving due regard to seniority and the ability to perform the work.

The following procedures shall apply:

The employee affected may displace the least senior employee within their classification on the following basis: (1) store, (2) city, (3) county, and (4) the Savannah contract area.

**In case of permanent reductions due to store closings,** Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Bakery, Meat, and Drug/GM Managers shall be given the option of displacing either the least senior employee within their classification or the least senior employee in their respective department classification as outlined above. (For this provision only, Assistant Department Manager positions and clerk positions will be classified together on the same seniority list.)

**In case of permanent reductions due to store closings,** Assistant Front-End, Assistant Grocery, Assistant Produce, Assistant Deli, Assistant Meat, and Assistant Drug/GM Managers, Lead Seafood, Lead File Maintenance, Lead Wine, Lead Fuel and Lead Starbucks shall be given the option of displacing either the least senior employee within their classification or the least senior employee in their respective department as outlined above. (Note: Once options are exhausted within the Fuel Department, employees will displace the least senior employee in the Front-End and Starbucks employees will displace the least senior employee in the Deli department. In addition, Lead File Maintenance and Lead Wine Stewards will displace the least senior employee in the department from which they originated once their options are exhausted. If such employees were hired directly into the position, then the Company and the Union will discuss.)

A full-time employee may choose the option as outlined above or elect to be reclassified to part-time within their store. Any employee who has the option to displace a full-time employee but chooses to elect part-time will be considered to be a voluntary reduction and shall have part-time seniority based upon employment date. Part-time employees will be laid off on the same basis as full-time employees.

Prior to the Employer implementing any layoff of employees, the Human Resources Manager or designee will meet with the President of the Union or designee for the purpose of explaining which employees will be affected and what options those employees may have under the contract. After that meeting, layoff notices and options available to employees will be reduced to writing and provided to the employees and the Union.

It is understood by the parties that since the contract may provide certain choices as to new assignments, it is recognized that the entire process cannot be completed until all affected employees exercise their choices per the contract. The parties agree that period will not exceed one (1) week (or a longer period if mutually agreed upon by the parties) after notice is given to the employee. During that period the Union and the Employer will insure that the employees affected will indicate their preferences in a timely manner.

2. In the event of a store closing in a 600 series store, the Employer will place affected employees, where openings exist, in a store of the Employer's choice, except in the event of a Waycross store closing in which case the Employer will offer interested employees a transfer to a Savannah bargaining unit store. In the event an employee is not interested in such a transfer, they will be eligible for separation pay as outlined in this Agreement.

3. In the event of a layoff, permanent reduction of hours, or a store closing, an employee can request a transfer to the Atlanta Contract area. If a transfer is granted, the employee shall be given a new seniority date in accordance with the Atlanta contract.

## **SCHEDULE A WAGES**

1. Rates of pay as set forth in Wage Schedule "A" attached hereto, shall remain in effect for the life of this Agreement and shall constitute the basis for determination of wages for time worked.
2. When an employee works less than a full week, payment for the time worked shall be computed by multiplying the hourly rate by the actual number of hours worked.
3. During the term of this agreement, should the Company determine the need to utilize experience credit for hiring associates, the Company and Union will discuss and must mutually agree.
4. **Night Premium:** Effective 6/18/2017 the night premium for all hours worked between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Sunday through Saturday, will be increased to one dollar (\$1.00). Employees hired prior to October 30, 2005, will be paid.

5. The Employer has the ability to increase wage rates as it deems necessary based upon market conditions. The Employer and Union will discuss and must mutually agree.

6. **Lead and Assistant positions** (Store volumes noted exclude Fuel sales effective 1/1/06):

**Assistant Department Heads** (Stores \$250,000 and over, excluding fuel sales) Receive one dollar (\$1.00) per hour above their personal rate. Assistants shall be placed at the top rate third step of the clerk scale, unless their personal rate is higher, in addition to the premium.

Assistant Front-End  
Assistant Produce  
Assistant Meat  
Assistant Deli/Bakery  
Assistant Drug/GM  
Administrative Assistant  
Dairy Assistant – See separate scale under Wage Schedule.  
Starbucks Assistant  
Assistant Grocery Manager – See separate scale under Wage Schedule.

**Lead Clerks** Receive forty cents (\$.40) per hour above their personal rate. Lead Clerks shall be placed at the top rate third step of the clerk scale, unless their personal rate is higher, in addition to the premium.

Lead Frozen  
Lead Floral  
Lead Grocery Receiving  
Lead Nutrition (No new Leads will be appointed as of 7/18/2021)  
Lead Cake Decorator  
Lead Seafood  
Lead Fuel  
Lead Grocery Pick-up Clerk  
Lead Wine Steward– where appointed  
Lead Cheese Clerk – where appointed (Effective 9/14/2014)  
Lead Domestic Clerk – in Marketplace stores only (see # 15)  
Lead Certified Pharmacy Clerk (See #19)

#### 7. **Lead Wine Stewards**

Effective Sunday following October 30, 2005, when the Employer determines a need for or replacement of a Wine Steward in a store, the Employer will review all requests on file, along with any other qualified candidates, and the decision will be made based upon ability, seniority, and the needs of the business.

The Wine Steward will be required to manage the wine area of the store, including ordering product and managing wine inventories. The Wine steward must be knowledgeable in wine products, communicate with customers, and sell products.

The Union and the Employer will mutually agree on any rate of pay above the existing full-time scale.

#### 8. **Fuel Clerks**

A separate department and employee classification will be established for “Fuel Center Clerks”. It is understood that all terms and conditions of employment of this Agreement shall apply unless specified below.

As discussed, a Fuel Center clerk’s responsibility will be to perform all tasks associated with the operation of the Fuel Center as directed by store Management.

It is understood that Health and Welfare benefits shall not apply except in the case of the designated Lead Fuel Center Clerk and Full-time Fuel clerks (effective January 1, 2011). Further, it is the intent of the Employer that Lead Fuel Clerks shall be Full-time employees.

A Fuel Center clerk shall be given preference by ability, and availability, should an opening occur for a part-time store employee and shall further be given preference in the same way for full-time store positions after they have been offered to the part-time store employees. Seniority shall be the controlling factor. In the event a transfer out of the Fuel Center is granted, all time worked with Kroger shall be applied toward eligibility for Health and Welfare, legal, and pension benefits.

Employees hired prior to October 30, 2005, will continue to qualify for their first personal holiday after one (1) year of service and effective upon October 30, 2005, will earn a second personal holiday after four (4) years of service.

It is understood that Courtesy Clerks shall not perform the work of Fuel Center Clerks.

It is agreed that should the Employer expand the current square footage of Fuel Centers to the degree that it materially affects bargaining unit work, the parties will meet to discuss the situation.

#### **9. Starbucks Clerks**

A separate department and employee classification will be established for "Starbucks Specialty Clerks". It is understood that all terms and conditions of employment of this Agreement shall apply unless specified below.

A Starbucks clerk responsibility will be to perform all tasks associated with the operation of the Starbucks Coffee Shop as directed by store Management and the Deli Department. Deli Department employees who have been trained in accordance with the Starbucks guidelines will be allowed to perform work in the department as needed to ensure the efficient operation of the department.

It is understood that Health and Welfare benefits shall not apply, except in the case of the designated Lead Starbucks Specialty Clerk. Further, it is the intent of the Employer that Lead Starbucks Clerks shall be Full-time employees.

In the event a transfer out of the Starbucks Coffee Shop is granted, all time worked with Kroger shall be applied toward eligibility for Health and Welfare benefits.

In the event of the closing of a Starbucks Department, the Employer and the Union will meet to establish guidelines for possible transfers to other departments or locations if there are any such positions available.

#### **10. In-Store Hourly Chef**

At ratification it is understood that In-Store Hourly Chef's position will no longer be utilized. No new positions will be added. All language related to In-Store Hourly Chefs will be deleted from the contract. Any existing In-Store Hourly Chef's while they remain in the position will remain at their current rate until they change position, transfer stores, or leave the Company.

#### **11. Murrays Clerks**

The Murray's Department will have the following positions: Murray's Cheese Shop Master and Murray's Cheese Shop Clerk. It is understood that Murray's Cheese Shop associates will be considered Deli Department associates. A Murray's Cheese Shop associate's responsibilities will be to perform all tasks associated with the operation of the Murray's Cheese Shop as directed by store management. Murray's Cheese Masters and Murrays Cheese Clerks will be required to successfully complete the Murray's certification training program.

#### **12. Grocery Pick-Up Clerks**

Grocery Pick-up Department is to be added as separate department and will have a Lead Grocery Pick-up Clerk on the Lead wage schedule.

#### **13. Manager on Duty**

Relief of a member of Store Management by a member of the bargaining unit shall be on a voluntary basis. Any employee interested or not interested may place their request in writing to the Store Leader with a copy to the Union, District Manager, and Human Resources. The employee shall be required to have completed a Manager on Duty (MOD) training program. Effective August 15, 2021, the employee so designated by Management shall receive a premium of two dollars (\$2.00) per hour for hours scheduled and worked in this capacity between 7am and 11pm. Article 11.21 shall not apply. It is understood Management's absence from the store during lunches, breaks, or for periods of less than three (3) hours shall not constitute MOD assignments. However, the three (3) hour limitation shall not apply for an employee assigned an evening MOD shift, (prior to 11:00 pm). It is also understood that any employee designated as an MOD cannot discipline any other employee for any reason.

#### **14. Special Assignments**

The Employer will provide employees the opportunity during the months of December and June to express their interest in special assignment work in writing to their District Manager, Human Resources department, and the Union. Interest requests will be retained for six (6) months. The Employer will consider such requests when selecting individuals with the required ability, skills, and seniority.

If the Employee selected is assigned to a special assignment position for a period of less than six (6) months, the employee's job assignment and seniority will be maintained within the store. If the assignment is for more than six (6) months, the job assignment within the store will be filled and upon completion of such assignment, the Employer and the Union will, meet as

needed, to discuss options for placement of the affected employee, with the intention not to negatively impact the employee. The Employer will provide the Union with a list quarterly of employees assigned to a special assignment position, including job assignment, rates of pay, and hours worked. It is also understood that any employee working on a special assignment cannot discipline any other employee for any reason.

#### **15. Marketplace Stores**

It is understood and agreed by the parties that whenever the Employer opens and operates what will be known as an "Marketplace" store, such store shall be covered by the Savannah Collective Bargaining Agreement, with the following exceptions:

The Employer will have one (1) Department Manager for the Drug/GM department and they will be called a Drug/GM Marketplace Manager. This Drug/GM Marketplace Manager will be paid the contractual sales volume wage rate for a Drug/GM Manager. Also, the Employer will appoint an additional Assistant Drug/GM Manager that will be paid the Assistant Drug/GM Manager premium. All clerks in the Drug/GM and Home areas are interchangeable.

Where the Employer deems it necessary, each of the sub-departments (expanded kitchen, home décor/ furniture, soft goods/clothing and expanded toys/baby world) may have one or more lead positions at the lead clerk premium.

In addition to the sub departments leads, where the Employer deems it necessary, a Marketplace store will appoint an additional "Scan Coordinator".

When the Employer deems it necessary, it will appoint more than one Assistant Department Manager in the other departments in the store based upon the needs of the store.

When multiple Assistant Department Managers are appointed, relief pay in accordance with Article 9.02, will be rotated based upon ability.

The Employer may utilize an outside service for the delivery of Drug/GM and Home Department merchandise.

In Marketplace stores, store management has the ability to construct two (2) displays per week in the General Merchandise Home Department (expanded kitchen, home décor/furniture, soft goods/clothing and expanded toys/baby world).

It is understood that in the event of a Marketplace Store closing that the Company and the Union will meet and discuss.

#### **16. Training Seminar**

Effective 1/1/06: The Employer agrees to pay up to two (2) Stewards or an employee appointed by the Union per store, two (2) days of pay at the employee's base wage rate, not to exceed eight (8) hours per day, one time per calendar year.

#### **17. Minimum Wage**

In the event of a minimum wage change, the Company and the Union will discuss the impact of the change, if any.

#### **18. Lead Nutrition Clerks**

At ratification it is understood that as Nutrition is integrated into the Grocery Department the classification of Lead Nutrition will no longer be utilized. No new Leads will be appointed. All language related to Lead Nutrition Clerks will be deleted from the contract. All existing Lead Nutrition Clerks will retain the Lead premium until they change position, transfer stores, or leave the Company.

#### **19. Lead Certified Pharmacy Clerk**

The Employer has the ability to appoint where it deems necessary a Lead Certified Pharmacy Clerk. The appointment of a Lead Certified Pharmacy Clerk will be based upon skills, abilities and responsibilities assigned within the Pharmacy Clerk and will be based upon the skills, abilities and responsibilities assigned within the Pharmacy department. The Pharmacy Clerk must be Certified and Full-Time. A two dollar per hour (\$2.00) premium will be paid for this position.

#### **20. Grocery Night Stock Clerks**

Shall be placed at the top rate, third step of the clerk scale, unless their personal rate is higher, in addition to receiving the one dollar per hour (\$1.00) night premium.

## FOR 600 SERIES STORES

### WORKING CONDITIONS

A current full-time employee in a 600 series store who has averaged thirty-two (32) hours per week or more shall be considered a full-time employee under the terms of this agreement until such time that such employee loses their full-time status, at which point they shall need to requalify at the forty (40) hour per week provision.

In 600 series stores, employees who desire to work six (6) days in a work week, will be allowed to, provided it is mutually agreed to by the Employer and employee.

The night shift will be paid at fifty cents (\$.50) per hour for hours worked between 9:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. in the 600 series stores for employees who were previously receiving fifty cents (\$.50) prior to March 22, 1993. Employees who work more than four (4) hours on this shift will receive the shift differential for all hours worked on that workday.

When a Department Head is relieved for five (5) days in a workweek, the employee who performs the relief work will be paid at the rate of the employee he relieved. In 600 series stores, if the store sales are under \$225,000, then the store will use an employee that has been in a previously similar or like position or use no one.

### SENIORITY

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following departments are established:

**Front-End Department**  
**Deli/Bakery Department**  
**Produce Department**  
**Grocery Department**  
**Meat Department**

It is the intent of the Company and the Union that the previously referred to "M&M" employees should not suffer any loss of wages through the signing of this Agreement.

Effective March 22, 1993, it is the intent of the Company and the Union to merge the previously referred to M&M Company, into what is presently known as the Savannah bargaining unit. The M&M employees will hereafter become part of the Kroger Savannah group and shall hereafter enjoy all rights, privileges, and benefits as noted in this Agreement.

### VACATIONS

Employees in the 600 series stores hired prior to January 1, 1993, will be entitled to vacation according to the schedule below:

1 year service	-	1 week vacation
4 years service	-	2 weeks vacation
8 years service	-	3 weeks vacation
15 years service	-	4 weeks vacation

Employees in the 600 series stores hired after January 1, 1993, will be entitled to vacation according to the schedule below:

1 year service	-	1 week vacation
4 years service	-	2 weeks vacation
10 years service	-	3 weeks vacation
17 years service	-	4 weeks vacation

### PENSION

Employees working in 600 series stores will continue to receive pension coverage pursuant to the Kroger Retirement Benefit Plan through December 31, 2005. Effective January 1, 2006, employees working in 600 series stores will receive pension coverage pursuant to the Union and Employers Pension Fund.



## **HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAY WORK**

It is also understood that employees in the 600 series stores who were eligible for Sunday and holiday premium prior to March 22, 1993, will continue to receive such pay as follows.

Employees will receive six paid holidays during the year which are:

New Year's Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Birthday.

Full-time employees must be employed thirty (30) days and work the last scheduled day before and the first scheduled day after the holiday.

Part-time employees who work eight (8) weeks prior to the holiday and average at least twenty (20) hours per week will receive four (4) hours holiday pay at their straight-time hourly rate, provided they work as scheduled during the holiday week.

If a holiday falls during a vacation week, employees will be given an extra day off with pay.

All time worked by full and part-time employees on a paid holiday will be paid at the rate of time and one-half excluding birthdays which can be substituted by mutual agreement with Management.

Personal days with pay may be taken when an employee is ill or for any other reason, except to extend vacation or paid holidays. Full-time employees with twenty-four (24) months or more of service will receive two personal days with pay. Full-time employees with twelve (12) months of service will receive one personal day with pay.

**Employees hired prior to 11/4/90** who work on a Sunday and are full-time employees will be compensated at the rate of one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular hourly rate of pay. Employees hired after 11/4/90 will receive straight time pay for Sunday hours.

**Employees hired after March 22, 1993**, will become eligible for the five (5) basic holidays named in Article 11, as of their first anniversary date. These employees will not be eligible for any other holidays listed in this Agreement.

For employees covered by this provision, the following shall apply:

Effective after two (2) years service, each employee will be eligible for a personal holiday to be observed on a mutually agreed upon day.

Effective after four (4) years service, each employee will be eligible for a second personal holiday to be observed on a mutually agreed upon day.

## **WAGES**

Employees in 600 series stores on F.T. or P.T. clerk wage scale will stay at their current rate and on next increase date will move to the next highest rate on the appropriate wage scale.

Employees in 600 series stores on wage scale other than F.T. Clerk, P.T. Clerk, or Department Manager will be red-circled. If employee is at a rate lower than appropriate top clerk rate, they will follow the provisions of the paragraph above. If employee is at a rate higher than appropriate top clerk rate, they will receive the increases of the F.T. top rate or P.T. top rate, whichever is applicable.

### **Savannah Reclass:**

Each fiscal year thereafter through the life of this contract: Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, and Drug/GM Managers, Assistant Grocery Managers in the Savannah Contract as well as Lead File Maintenance, Bakery Managers, in the Savannah Contract, will be classified based on average sales minus fuel sales for the prior full thirteen (13) Kroger periods. A new list of Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat and Drug/GM Managers, Assistant Grocery Managers, as well as Lead File Maintenance, Bakery Managers, rates will be established based on the reclassification if changes are involved.

New stores and replacement stores will be placed in the appropriate level in the wage schedule based on sales projections. The Company will notify the Union prior to recruiting for the new or replacement store.

## SAVANNAH WAGE SCHEDULE

### Appendix "A" Wages

#### Department Managers (Grocery, Produce, Front-End, Drug/GM and Deli/Bakery)

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Level 6	\$22.45	\$23.20	\$23.95	\$24.70
Level 5	\$22.20	\$22.95	\$23.70	\$24.45
Level 4	\$21.95	\$22.70	\$23.45	\$24.20

#### Meat Managers

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Level 6	\$22.85	\$23.45	\$24.05	\$24.70
Level 5	\$22.60	\$23.20	\$23.80	\$24.45
Level 4	\$22.35	\$22.95	\$23.55	\$24.20

#### Bakery Manager

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Level 6	\$19.50	\$20.25	\$21.00	\$21.75
Level 5	\$19.25	\$20.00	\$20.75	\$21.50
Level 4	\$19.00	\$19.75	\$20.50	\$21.25

#### Assistant Grocery Manager, Dairy Assistant and File Maintenance Lead

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Level 6	\$18.75	\$19.40	\$20.05	\$20.70
Level 5	\$18.50	\$19.15	\$19.80	\$20.45
Level 4	\$18.25	\$18.90	\$19.55	\$20.20

#### Murray's Cheese Master

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Payrate	\$17.40	\$18.05	\$18.70	\$19.35

#### Legacy Clerks

(Hired prior to 3/22/1993)

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
	\$15.55	\$15.95	\$16.35	\$16.75

#### Clerks, Fuel Clerks, Murray's Cheese Clerks, Grocery Pick-Up & Non-Certified Pharmacy Techs

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
1st Step	\$12.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$13.50
2nd Step	\$13.50	\$14.00	\$14.50	\$15.00
3rd Step	\$15.00	\$15.50	\$16.00	\$16.50

#### Certified Pharmacy Techs

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
1st Step	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$13.50	\$14.00
2nd Step	\$14.00	\$14.50	\$15.00	\$15.50
3rd Step	\$15.50	\$16.00	\$16.50	\$17.00

#### Wage Notes

- \* Employees that move to the 1st step of the scale will be subject to a twelve (12) month waiting period. New hires will be placed on the 1st step of the scale and will be subject to a twelve (12) month waiting period, starting with their date of hire. Upon completion of the twelve-month waiting period, employees will have the ability to progress to the 2nd step of the scale if they average thirty-two (32+) weekly hours over the Company's next standard measurement period.
- \* Employees at the 2nd step have the ability to progress to the top rate if they average thirty-eight (38+) weekly hours over 12 months.

- \* Top rate employees who fail to average thirty-eight (38+) weekly hours will move back to 2nd step in the pay scale but have the ability to requalify for the top rate if they average thirty-eight (38+) hours in a subsequent year.
- \* Employees who qualify for the 2nd step of pay will not fall below that step due to a decrease in hours but may qualify for the top rate if they average thirty-eight (38+) weekly hours in the subsequent year.
- \* The Company's standard measurement period (generally the first week of October through last week of September) will be used to determine movement between wage steps, which will be effective January 1st of the following year.
- \* Associates will first become eligible to move between steps on 1/1/2023, based on the standard measurement period that spans from 10/2021 - 9/2022.

**Courtesy Clerks**

Progression	7/18/21	6/26/22	6/25/23	6/23/24
Payrate	\$10.25	\$10.50	\$10.75	\$11.00

**Night Premium**

Increase from current .65/Hr to \$1.00/ Hr effective 06/18/17

**LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING**

July 18, 2021

Mr. Steve Lomax  
 President  
 UFCW Local 1996  
 3302 McGinnis Ferry Rd.  
 Suwanee, GA 30024

Dear Mr. Lomax

This letter contains agreements from previous Letters of Understanding that have been agreed upon by both the Company and the Union. The parties agreed the following would be covered by letter of understanding:

1. The employees listed below would be converted from an annual salary to an hourly rate. We also agree that these employees would be allowed to work up to 45 hours per week and that time worked on Sundays and holidays would be paid at straight time.

These employees rates were calculated in prior negotiations and they will either remain on their personal rate with the appropriate F.T. Clerk increases or be put on the appropriate contract rate, whichever is greater.

Employee list:

Jay Parkman or any other employee not known to us at this time.

2. **Grandfathered Positions:**

The following positions are considered to be grandfathered positions and all references have been removed from the bargaining agreement. Employees in this grandfathered position will continue to receive the rates of pay outlined in the bargaining agreement and/or premiums as long as the employee remains in the position:

**Journeyman Meat Cutters**

Journeyman Meat Cutters will be Grandfathered and their rate of pay "red circled". In the event a Meat Manager steps down or is demoted from their position, they will be placed in the classification from which they came prior to being assigned as Meat Manager. In the event of a layoff, reduction of hours, and store closing, seniority will apply. (For these purposes, seniority will be defined to provide Grandfathered Journeyman and Meat Clerks to be in the same classification.) If a Journeyman Meat Cutter is laid off and recalled at a later date, he will be returned to the rate of pay he was at prior to being laid off.

3. Front-End Manager, Produce Manager, and Grocery Manager will either remain on their personal rate with the appropriate F.T. clerk increases or be put on the appropriate contract rate, whichever is greater.
4. In any new store where a majority of the workforce has transferred from the bargaining unit covered by this Agreement, Kroger will recognize Local 1996 and the appropriate Agreement will apply to the new store's workforce.
5. In any other store where some of the work force, but less than a majority, has transferred and/or been assigned from the bargaining unit covered by this Agreement, Local 1996 shall have "access" to the new store. "Access" means that Local 1996 Representatives may enter the store and meet with employees about membership in the Union, but employees are not to be solicited in such ways as to interfere with their work. Local 1996 Representatives may also meet with non-working employees in non-sales floor areas. Upon presentation to Kroger of proof that Local 1996 represents an uncoerced majority of the employees in the new store, Kroger will recognize Local 1996 as the bargaining Representative and the appropriate agreement will apply to the new store's workforce.
6. The Atlanta Division has no current plans to open new stores within the jurisdiction of Local 1996 without transferring and/or assigning some employees from existing Kroger stores. In the event Kroger were to do so during the term of the Savannah Agreement, Kroger agrees to notify Local 1996 in advance of such opening and, should Local 1996 request, Representatives of the Atlanta Division and Local 1996 will discuss "access" terms for any such stores. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement regarding access, or if the Atlanta Division declines to provide access, Local 1996 may file a grievance and seek the ruling of an expedited arbitration pursuant to Article 5 of this Agreement. Upon presentation to Kroger of proof that Local 1996 represent an uncoerced majority of the employees in the new store, Kroger will recognize Local 1996 as the bargaining Representative and the appropriate agreement will apply to the new store's workforce.
7. Both parties further agree that Article 6, No Strike-No Lockout or Articles containing No Strike-No Lockout in other Collective Bargaining Agreements between Local 1996 and the Atlanta Marketing Area will not prohibit the members from exercising their right to strike the employer over applicable articles dealing with Health & Welfare, should no agreement be reached.
8. The Company agrees to meet with the Union twice a year to discuss any current outstanding labor issues and update each party about current trends. The number of meetings per year may be increased or decreased by mutual agreement. This meeting will include Union Officials, including Union members and Company Officials including District Managers and District Operations Coordinators. These meetings are in addition to the current Labor/Management meetings. The Company agrees to pay the expenses associated with these meetings.
9. Savannah Reclass: The parties agree to collapse store levels 2 and 3 then redistribute into levels 4, 5 and 6 in Reclass. Effective April 20, 2014, New Schedule "B" is in effect for all stores covered under this agreement. Beginning January 30, 2015, and each fiscal year thereafter through the life of this contract (March 22, 2025): Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, Drug/GM Managers, and Assistant Grocery Managers in Savannah as well as Lead File Maintenance and Bakery Managers in the Savannah contract will be classified based on average sales minus fuel sales for the prior full thirteen (13) Kroger periods. A new list of Front-End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, Drug/GM Managers, and Assistant Grocery Managers, as well as Lead File Maintenance and Bakery Managers, and rates will be established based on the reclassification if changes are involved. The raises will be applied to these positions during the prior contract and the existing contract and will be added to the rates of pay beginning with the archived prior levels below when determining the rate of pay.

As agreed on 6/29/2021, associates in the following classifications prior to April 20, 2014: Front End, Grocery, Produce, Deli, Meat, Drug GM Leaders, and Assistant Grocery Leaders, File Maintenance Leads and Bakery Leaders, who as a result of the new 3 tier volume-rated structure are currently classified at a level higher than their actual store level, will be held at the higher level. However, if an associate transfers stores, changes positions or their current store becomes classified at that higher level, those associates will be reclassified each year thereafter in accordance with the actual level of the store.

It is understood that in the event of a store closing and in any other situation that could impact employees whose job dates are prior to April 20, 2014, that the Company and the Union will meet to discuss the application of wages with the understanding that it is the intent of the bargaining parties to avoid a reduction of pay that occurs solely as a result of the implementation of New Schedule "B".

10. There will be a Bakery Manager position in stores where the Deli and Bakery are located in separate parts of the store. The Employer may appoint Bakery Leaders in Bakeries that are not in separate parts of the store where they deem necessary. The Employer may appoint additional Assistant Department Leaders and Lead Clerk positions where it deems necessary. The Employer agrees to maintain the job date seniority at the store for all seniority provisions in the agreement. In non Kroger Marketplace locations where multiple or additional assistant Department Leaders and

Lead Clerks are utilized, relief pay will follow Article 9.02 and shall be given to the Assistant Department Leaders and Lead Clerks who have the greater job seniority date at the store, unless mutually agreed upon. These provisions shall be in accordance with Article 12.

- 11.** If during the term of the agreement, Kroger implements new Human Resource Information Systems, the company and the union will meet and discuss the practice of sharing job openings.



**a VOICE for working America**

Steve Lomax  
President

Leon Holderfield  
Secretary – Treasurer

Please use the space provided below to write in the names of your Union Representative & Union Steward.

Union

Representative:

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Union Steward:

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Please notify the Local Union of any address changes or name changes.

**UFCW Local 1996**  
**3302 McGinnis Ferry Road** 678-714-3500  
**Suite 201** 800-428-2972  
**Suwanee, GA 30024** [www.ufcw1996.org](http://www.ufcw1996.org)