Letter of Agreement regarding
COVID 19 research testing between
The City of Racine Fire Department and IAFF Local 321

WHEREAS the City of Racine Fire Department (hereinafter "Employer") and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 321 (hereinafter "Union") are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement that is currently in force and;

WHEREAS on December 2019, a novel strain of the coronavirus was detected, now named COVID-19, and it has spread throughout the world, including every state in the United States;

WHEREAS on January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President proclaimed a National Emergency in response to COVID-19;

WHEREAS on March 18, 2020, April 9, 2020, and May 19, 2020, the City of Racine proclaimed a public health emergency to exist in the City of Racine as a result of the threat of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS millions of people around the world have tested positive for COVID-19, including more than one million people in the United States, and more than 10,000 people in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS COVID-19 is present throughout the City of Racine, with over 700 people testing positive as of this date;

WHEREAS the parties desire to create a research testing program for COVID 19 by testing First Responders, City Hall employees, and the community for the presence of the virus,

WHEREAS the parties desire to partner with Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) or other medical facilities to implement the research and testing program, and

WHEREAS such a research project which requires a modification of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement as it relates to new work;

NOW, THEREFORE the parties agree to the following conditions:

1. This agreement is non-precedent setting and is not expected to encompass skills that would become a regular part or important part of the job.
2. This Agreement will not exceed one year from the date of signing.

3. Racine Fire Department (RFD) members who volunteer to assist in this study will be trained by the Medical College of Wisconsin in the collection, processing, and testing of saliva samples and nasal swab samples, which samples will be tested for the presence of the 2019 novel coronavirus. Skills exercised will be similar to the collection of samples utilized for chemical identification.

4. RFD members assigned to the research project will come from on duty members who volunteer to assist. If daily staffing drops below 31 during the COVID 19 research project testing the department will then recall qualified and trained volunteers to assist with the research project testing on overtime.

5. Testing may be available seven days per week, including Saturdays and Sundays.

6. The on duty Battalion Chief will work with the DC of Professional Standards to insure adequate coverage daily depending on the number of samples to be collected. It is anticipated Fridays will be more robust for the collection of samples.

7. RFD members will maintain their scheduled time off for vacation or holidays.

8. RFD members participating in the research project will receive a $40 daily stipend on days assigned to this program. This compensation will cover a 24-hour period of time.

9. The Employer and Union will reconvene on or about December 31, 2020, to review data and assess possible adjustments for the program.

10. When approved by the Common Council and signed by all parties this agreement and the stipend shall be retroactive to the start date of the program.

11. There is no work out of class for this research project.

12. The union and city agree this Agreement will expire one year from the date of signing or sooner depending on the existence of the declared health emergency.

THE PARTIES have caused this Letter of Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

FOR THE CITY OF RACINE   **FOR Racine Firefighters Local 321:**
Fire Department:

_____   _____

Fire Chief   Date   President, IAFF Local 321   Date