

**RESOLUTION NO. 23-3**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SALARY SETTING COMMISSION OF  
THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, SETTING THE  
COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE  
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2023, TO JUNE 30, 2025,  
INCLUSIVE, PURSUANT TO CITY CODE SECTION 2.80.015  
AND CHARTER SECTION 702**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with City Charter Section 702, a Salary Setting Commission consisting of qualified electors of the City was appointed by the Civil Service Commission, and commenced performance of its duties in February 2023;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to City Code Section 2.80.015 and City Charter Section 702, the Salary Setting Commission is charged with establishing the compensation of the Chief of Police for the period commencing on July 1, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2025;

**WHEREAS**, the Salary Setting Commission met during the months of February through May of 2021, during which the compensation level for the position of Chief of Police was discussed;

**WHEREAS**, the Salary Setting Commission was presented with, and took into consideration, various data points including, but not limited to, the history of compensation for the position of Chief of Police; comparator agency salary levels; comparisons of the positions of Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police under the City Charter, City Code, and job specifications; compensation levels for the position of Assistant Chief of Police; City budget projections; potential impacts upon decision-making of future commissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the final decision of the Salary Setting Commission as to compensation for the Chief of Police, as set forth in this Resolution, is based upon the following:

1. In the 2000 special election, the voters passed Measure I, adding Section 701.1 to the City Charter, which imposed upon candidates for the office of Chief of Police a requirement to meet the minimum eligibility and qualification requirements imposed by state law upon candidates for the office of county sheriff.

- a. The minimum qualifications for the office of sheriff require only a California POST advanced certificate, and a combination of education (ranging from high school diploma to master's degree) and work experience (ranging from one to four years).
  - b. These Charter requirements are the only official substantive requirements for the position; because the position is elected, there exists no further job description or other requirement for seeking, or holding, the position of Chief of Police.
2. The Chief of Police, akin to a county sheriff, is elected by the voters of the City of Santa Clara; it is, therefore, solely within the purview of the voters to determine the quality of performance by the current office holder. Accordingly, the role of the Salary Setting Commission is to set the salary for the position of Chief of Police, irrespective of the identity, experience, or performance of the current office holder.
3. Unlike the other elected positions in the City, the position of Chief of Police is a full time regular employee of the City.
4. Currently, the salary level of \$26,141 per month is approximately 3% lower than the average salary level for the position in the comparator agencies reviewed by the Salary Setting Commission. When taking into consideration medical and other benefits, the current total compensation is approximately 2% lower than the average total compensation paid by the comparator agencies.
5. Currently, the average salary of the two incumbents in the position of Assistant Chief of Police Salary is approximately \$29,000, which is approximately 11% higher than the current monthly salary for the position of Chief of Police. The Unit 9A Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU"), which covers the position of Assistant Chief of Police, expires in December 2023 and a successor MOU may result in a wage increase for that position. The Salary Setting Commission is concerned about the potential consequences of continuation and exacerbation of compaction of the salaries for these two positions.

6. The next Salary Setting Commission will meet in early 2025 to again analyze the salary level for the position of Chief of Police. By that time, if the Assistant Chief of Police position receives a wage increase under the new MOU (and in light of the 10% maximum salary increase under Charter Section 702), the Salary Setting Commission may not be in a position to adequately or meaningfully address compaction.
7. The Salary Setting Commission reviewed and considered the short- and long-term budget projections provided by staff; the Commission strives to arrive at a prudent and fiscally responsible decision. The Commission does not believe that the salary increase granted to the position of Chief of Police will negatively impact, in any meaningful way, the City's financial position.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE SALARY SETTING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA AS FOLLOWS:**

1. In accordance with Resolution 21-3 of the Salary Setting Commission, up to and including June 30, 2023, the monthly salary for the position of Chief of Police shall be \$26,141.00. For the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the monthly salary for the position of Chief of Police shall be increased by 10% for a new monthly salary of \$28,755.00.
2. That for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, the position of the Chief of Police shall continue to receive benefits equivalent to those currently received by members of the Unclassified Police Management Unit (9A) under the Memorandum of Understanding set to expire on December 25, 2023.
3. That for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, inclusive, any accrued leave balances held by the Chief of Police shall continue to be "frozen" as of the date he/she takes office (i.e., shall neither accrue increases in leave balances, nor be subject to decreases in those balances, during his/her term of elected office).
4. Effective date. This resolution shall become effective immediately.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION PASSED

AND ADOPTED BY THE SALARY SETTING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA,  
CALIFORNIA, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF HELD ON THE 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2023,  
BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 3 COMMISSIONERS: Kumar, Sontag, Lawson

NOES: 0 COMMISSIONERS:

ABSENT: 1 COMMISSIONERS: Humphries

ABSTAINED: 0 COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:



MV KUMAR, CHAIR  
SALARY SETTING COMMISSION

Attachments incorporated by reference: None