

Dear Personnel Committee:

My name is Jim Schumitsch, and I am the business agent for the WPPA who represents the rank and file police officers employed by the City of Manitowoc. One of those employees, Amanda Devalk, is a 1 ½ - year veteran of the department. She has been given an opportunity to buy property owned by a close family friend. This property is a 25 acre site with a house and barn just outside of the County line, but is approximately 22.5 miles as the crow flies from the Manitowoc Police Department. This property is approximately 18.8 miles from the northern border of the City. While she is mindful of the residency restrictions in the collective bargaining agreement, she respectfully requests a waiver of these restrictions in this case to allow her to purchase this home.

The collective bargaining agreement allows for this committee to waive this requirement in circumstances it deems fit, and the Association requests that this committee grant such a waiver for many reasons. Amanda understands the importance of being able to arrive quickly to work when called in an emergency or call-in situation, and she has assured me that if she is allowed to move to this residence, that she will be available to the department as she has been. [Amanda has no discipline in her file for being tardy or any other attendance issues which would understandably give this committee concern.] Furthermore, the City agreed to different residency requirements in their CBA with the Fire Department employees, which require their employees to live within 25 miles of the City border, and this residence is closer than that. I mention this only for fairness sake, not because I think that the contract with the fire department contract necessarily applies to us.

Finally, and most importantly, Police Chief Oscar Dick has informed me that he does not object to the personnel committee granting this waiver under these circumstances. He is in the best position to properly determine whether granting this waiver would have an adverse effect on the department, and he has found that it will not.

Please inform us how you wish to proceed. Amanda can be available at your next meeting on September 8 if you have any additional questions for us. Please advise if she can and should attend. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Schumitsch  
WPPA Business Agent