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PREAMBLE

Section - 1

This Master Agreement is made between the Department of Veterans Affairs (the Department) and the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) National Veterans Affairs Council of Locals (the Union).

Section - 2

The Department and the Union agree that a constructive and cooperative working relationship between labor and management is essential to achieving the Department's mission and to ensuring a quality work environment for all employees. The parties recognize that this relationship must be built on a solid foundation of trust, mutual respect, and a shared responsibility for organizational success. Therefore, the parties agree to work together using partnership principles, Labor-Management Forums, and the Master Agreement to identify problems and craft solutions, enhance productivity, and deliver the best quality of service to the nation's veterans.