

LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL

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For Immediate Release:

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1ST DISTRICT
DAVID HAMM

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Lake County reaches agreement on police contract

2ND DISTRICT
RONALD G. BREWER, SR.

(Crown Point – July 9, 2024) The Lake County Council Tuesday approved an agreement with Fraternal Order of Police Union Chris Anton Lodge No. 125/Lake County Police Association Local 72 AFL/CIO resolving the ongoing contract negotiations for the Sheriff's Department.

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The deal includes a 7% increase in pay for 2024, retroactive to Jan. 1; a 5% increase in 2025 and a 4% increase in 2026.

3RD DISTRICT
CHARLIE BROWN

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Council President Christine Cid, D-East Chicago, praised the negotiation team, which included Councilman Randy Niemeyer, R-Cedar Lake, and Councilman Charlie Brown, D-Gary, who replaced the late Councilman Clorius Lay, D-Gary, for their "relentless hours spent negotiating" for more than a year.

4TH DISTRICT
PETE LINDEMULDER

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She also thanked the full council, financial director Scott Schmal, the FOP and Sheriff Oscar Martinez for their efforts to bring negotiations to a close. She said the sheriff helped in the process by agreeing to move unused funding to help pay for the raises.

5TH DISTRICT
CHRISTINE CID

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"We are happy to reach an agreement with the sheriff's association that provides a significant salary increase for our officers over the next three years," Cid said.

The agreement is a positive for the county and will help ensure Lake County Sheriff officers remain among the best compensated in Northwest Indiana, she continued.

6TH DISTRICT
TED F. BILSKI

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"Public safety remains a top priority for the council. Making sure our officers are fairly compensated for their hard work helps ensure the safety of all of the residents of Lake County," Cid said.

Niemeyer said the agreement recognizes the invaluable service law enforcement officers provide to the community.

7TH DISTRICT
RANDALL NIEMEYER

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"Their commitment to ensuring our safety and upholding the rule of law is unparalleled, and it is only fitting that their dedication is met with fair compensation," he said.

"As a steadfast supporter of both law enforcement and organized labor, I believe this agreement reflects our mutual respect and commitment to collaboration," Niemeyer said.