

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF MADISON  
AND  
MICHELLE DREA**

This Agreement made this (DATE) by and between the City of Madison, a municipal corporation of Dane County, Wisconsin (hereafter, the "City") and Michelle Drea, a natural person (hereafter, the "City Assessor" or "Assessor").

WITNESSETH;

WHEREAS, the City desires to hire Michelle Drea as an employee of the City of Madison to perform the services described herein on its sole behalf as the City Assessor, and

WHEREAS, Michelle Drea possesses the necessary knowledge, skill, abilities and experience to perform such services and is willing to perform such services as the City Assessor, and

WHEREAS, Michelle Drea has been duly selected and has been confirmed for appointment to the position of City Assessor by the Common Council of the City of Madison on December 5, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City has authorized the execution of the Agreement by Resolution No. RES \_\_\_\_\_.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, and agreements contained in this document, the receipt and sufficiency of which is mutually acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

I. CITY ASSESSOR HIRED

Michelle Drea is hired as a non-civil service employee of the City, holding the position of City Assessor pursuant to the terms, conditions and provisions of this Agreement. The Assessor shall have and exercise full authority and discretion as a Department Head within the City's organizational structure and act as Appointing Authority for employees of the Assessor's Office in accordance with all appropriate City Ordinances and Mayor's Administrative Procedure Memoranda.

II. FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY ASSESSOR

The principal function of the City Assessor shall be the management of the City Assessor's Office.

A. General Responsibilities:

This is responsible managerial and administrative work responsible in planning, organizing and directing the appraisal of real and personal property for taxation purposes for the City of Madison. The City Assessor is responsible for carrying out all statutory and ordinance requirements relative to property assessment. This work includes identifying all real and personal property for tax purposes, determining the fair market value of these properties, and preparing and certifying values for the assessment rolls. Under the general direction of the Mayor, the City Assessor exercises considerable judgment and discretion in developing and implementing assessment activities within policy parameters.

B. Examples of Duties and Responsibilities:

- Hire, train, assign, and manage staff in the assessment of real and personal property incorporating both residential and commercial property appraisals both directly and through lower-level supervisors.
- Direct staff in administrative activities relating to the assessment process. Develop and implement the Board of Assessors and Board of Review, including the review and analysis of appeals relating to possible inequities in assessments. Develop and control assessment standards and controls, automated systems and procedures, and all communications.
- Develop and administer the Assessor's office budget, and provide for the general administration of the department (e.g., payroll, purchasing, human resources, etc.).
- Manage (both directly and through other supervisors) appraisal activities relating to the physical inspection and evaluation of properties. Manage the recording, preparation, and evaluation of the assessment rolls and property data. Review and evaluate the principles and procedures utilized in determining proper market value, including those physical, structural, cost, locational, and market variables utilized in the professional assessment of properties.
- Establish and control work methods and procedures, and continuously evaluate policies and procedures relating to the overall evaluation of existing services and responsibilities of the office. Provide staff support, assistance, and expertise on assessment methods to committees, administrative and public officials, and the general public. Receive and address complaints from the public. Testify on behalf of the City of Madison as appropriate.

- Instill a culture of continuous learning and a commitment to ongoing initiatives involving performance excellence systems.
  - Demonstrate and promote organizational values of equity, civic engagement, well-being, shared prosperity, and stewardship in everyday work, to further the mission and vision of the City of Madison.
  - Perform related work as required.
- C. The Assessor agrees to perform such functions and duties at a professional level of competence and efficiency. The Assessor shall abide by all requirements of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and of the ordinances, resolutions, regulations, rules and practices of the City which exist at the time of execution of this Agreement or which may, hereafter, be enacted or amended by the State of Wisconsin or the City in the exercise of their lawful authority. In the event a provision of this Agreement conflicts with any City ordinance, resolution, regulation, rule or policy, the provision of the Agreement shall control, except that nothing herein shall be interpreted as modifying the obligations or terms Madison General Ordinance §3.35 (the Ethics Code).
- D. The Assessor shall devote full time to the duties and responsibilities provided herein and shall engage in no pursuit that interferes with them. The Mayor, however, may approve the Assessor's reasonable time away from the regular duties and responsibilities provided such time is approved in advance and taken as vacation leave or absence without pay. Further, the Mayor may authorize other limited outside professional activities on City time provided that they are determined to be of benefit to the City and the Assessor is not compensated for such activities. Nothing herein limits the Assessor from performing outside services for compensation provided such outside services have been approved by the Mayor, are not done on City time, and otherwise comply with City ordinances and rules.
- E. The standard City workweek is 38.75 hours. However, the Assessor shall have reasonable flexibility from this standard to accommodate additional time expended outside regular working hours required by attendance at meetings and the like. Such flexibility is not intended to provide or be used as additional vacation or other paid leave.
- F. The Assessor shall have no right to make contracts or commitments for or on behalf of the City except as preauthorized by statute, ordinance or express written consent of the City.
- G. The Assessor shall continue to reside within the City of Madison for the duration of this contract. As a condition of accepting this contract, the

Assessor agrees to waive any right to challenge this residency requirement, by court action or otherwise.

### III. COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- A. The Assessor's salary shall be based on an annualized rate of \$ 149,227 and shall be paid in approximately equal biweekly payments according to regular City payroll practices. The starting salary will not be adjusted by the 1% wage increase effective in the fourth quarter of 2023. Annual salary adjustments during the term of this agreement may be made at the Mayor's discretion, subject to approval of the Common Council, as provided in the City's established managerial pay plan. The Assessor shall not be entitled to receive any additional overtime compensation, compensatory time off, or bonuses.
- B. The Assessor shall, in addition to the compensation provided in Paragraph A above, and except as otherwise set forth in the Agreement, be entitled to the following benefits:
  - 1. The Assessor shall receive the same benefits as all other non-represented professional employees in Compensation Group 18 as may be provided and/or modified by the Madison General Ordinances, Resolution of the Common Council, Administrative Procedure Memoranda or other official City action throughout the duration of this agreement subject to paragraph II. (G) above.
  - 2. The Assessor shall be entitled to twenty-seven (27) days of vacation in each year of this Agreement. Credited but unused vacation in excess of ten (10) days may be carried forward to the succeeding year with the approval of the Human Resources Director. Except as otherwise provided, the Assessor shall be paid in full for credited but unused vacation existing at the expiration of this Agreement or upon the Assessor's retirement, when qualified for receipt of Wisconsin Retirement Fund benefits. If the Assessor accrues a balance of more than five weeks from the preceding year(s), the Assessor may elect to convert up to twenty (20) days of their annual vacation to an amount of cash equivalent, calculated on their regular earnings. The Assessor shall apply for such conversion option in accordance with City procedures, and such amount shall be paid in a manner determined by the City.
  - 3. Sick Leave: If the Assessor leaves the position before the end of the contract period, the Assessor shall be entitled to payment in full (100%) of any earned but unused sick leave accumulated during each of the fully completed contract period(s). The Assessor shall be entitled to one-half (50%) of any earned but unused sick leave

accumulated to the day the Assessor terminated City employment during the contract period. If the City terminates the Assessor's contract before the end of the contract period or the Assessor leaves the position at the end of the contract period or the Assessor retires and qualifies for WRS benefits, they shall be entitled to payment in full (100%) of any sick leave the Assessor would have earned through the end of that year.

4. The Assessor shall be eligible to participate at City expense in professional seminars, conferences, workshops and related meetings consistent with the role as Assessor and in accordance with applicable Administrative Procedure Memoranda.
5. The City Assessor shall be reimbursed for relevant professional association and/or licensure dues, including but not limited to, assessment and legal professional dues with continuing education requirements for licensures.
6. The Assessor shall be eligible to be a CARS monitor in the City CARS program.
7. The Assessor shall be eligible for smart phone with data plan reimbursement up to seventy-five (75) dollars per month for City usage.

#### IV. TERM: RENEWAL OPPORTUNITY; NON-RENEWAL

- A. **This Agreement shall take effect on 11/21/2023, and shall expire on 11/20/2028, unless terminated sooner as provided herein. All salary and benefit changes shall apply the pay period following 10/31/2023.**
- B. The Mayor, in their sole discretion, may offer renewal of this Agreement to the Assessor. The Mayor shall notify the Assessor of the intent to renew the Agreement at least ninety (90) calendar days before the expiration of this Agreement. Failure to so notify the Assessor shall extend the term of this Agreement by the time of the delay in actual notification (but in no event for more than ninety (90) days) without change in the Assessor's anniversary date, and shall not act as a full renewal of the Agreement. Renewal of the agreement and of its provisions shall be subject to the approval of the Common Council. In the event the Common Council does not renew this Agreement, this Agreement will remain in effect for ninety (90) days following the non-renewal action by the Common Council or five (5) years from the date of this Agreement, whichever is later.
- D. The Mayor, in their sole discretion, may elect not to offer renewal of this

Agreement to the Assessor. In such event, the Mayor shall notify the Assessor of the intent not to renew the contract at least ninety (90) calendar days before the expiration of this Agreement. Failure to so notify shall extend the term of this Agreement by the time of the delay in actual notification (but in no event for more than ninety (90) days) and shall not act as a renewal of the Agreement. At the expiration of the Agreement, the parties' rights, duties, responsibilities and obligations shall end. However, the Assessor will, at the sole discretion of the Mayor, be eligible to take a voluntary demotion into any vacant or newly created position for which the Assessor is qualified.

- E. In the event of non-renewal of this Agreement, under either Paragraph D above, the Mayor may, in their sole discretion, terminate this Agreement at any earlier date within ninety (90) days of the expiration of this Agreement, as determined by the Mayor. The early termination is to be accomplished by (a) notifying the Assessor of the date of early termination, and (b) committing to buy out the balance of this Agreement by paying the Assessor the balance due under this Agreement in a lump sum, including salary and leave benefits (vacation, floating holiday, paid leave, sick leave) earned or to be earned through the original term of this Agreement, together with payment of the City's share of any health insurance premiums or the provision for such payment through the original term of this Agreement. The buy-out may be for the full period left on this Agreement, or any portion of the final ninety (90) days thereof. If this Agreement is terminated early through the provisions of this buy-out clause, the Assessor's employment with the City ends as of the date of early termination.

#### V. PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The Assessor is subject to the Mayor's supervision and is, during the term of this Agreement, subject to the Mayor's authority to impose discipline on or to discharge the Assessor as is provided in Sec. 9 of the City of Madison Personnel Rules, or as may be renumbered or amended hereafter. The Assessor shall be entitled to the procedural appeal and provisions contained in such subsection or as may be provided other non-represented employees at the time of imposition of suspension or discharge.

#### VI. CITY OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS

The City shall provide staff, equipment, supplies and space that it deems reasonable, in its sole discretion, for the conduct of the work of the Assessor. The City retains the sole right to determine the organizational structure and overall functioning of the Assessor's Office.

#### VII. REOPENING THE AGREEMENT

Either party may request that the Agreement be reopened for renegotiation if or when the Assessor's duties or responsibilities change significantly. A "significant" change in the Assessor's duties is defined as that degree of change in duties and responsibilities that would qualify a civil service position for reclassification pursuant to standard City personnel practices.

Factors which may be considered include the addition or deletion of duties, changes in Department services or the addition or deletion of programs. If there is no agreement, the original Agreement shall control and shall not be reopened. Agreement changes, if any, and any resulting reclassification of the position shall not be deemed the creation of a new position so as to require competition.

#### VIII. LIABILITY PROTECTION

The City shall defend and indemnify the Assessor against and for any and all demands, claims, suits, actions and legal proceedings brought against them in their official capacity or personally for acts performed within the scope of their employment to the extent and only to the extent authorized by the Wisconsin Statutes in effect at the time of the act complained of and as may be provided by any City insurance coverage for employees at such time.

#### IX. STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS

Pursuant to Madison General Ordinance §3.35 (the Ethics Code), the Assessor shall file a Statement of Economic Interests with the City Clerk within 14 days of their appointment. Each person required to file a Statement of Economic Interests shall annually file with the Clerk an updated Statement no later than April 30 of each year.

#### X. DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS PROPERTY OF THE CITY

All of the documents, materials, files, reports, data and the like which the Assessor prepares or receives while this Agreement is in effect are the sole property of the City of Madison. The Assessor will not publish any such materials or use them for any research or publication without attribution to the City other than as work performed pursuant to the terms of this Agreement.

#### XI. APPEARANCE BEFORE ANY CITY ENTITY FOLLOWING SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

The Assessor shall be subject to the provisions of Madison General Ordinance §3.35 (the Ethics Code).

#### XII. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

A. The Assessor may elect to terminate this Agreement before the expiration of the contract period. If the Assessor provides less than forty-five (45)

calendar days' notice in writing to the Mayor, the Assessor forfeits all rights to the cash equivalent of any of the benefits enumerated in Section III. B. of the Agreement. If the Assessor provides forty-five (45) calendar days' notice, or greater, in writing to the Mayor, the benefits enumerated in Section III. B. of the Agreement will be paid according to the terms of the Assessor leaving during the contract period. These forfeiture provisions do not apply if the Assessor retires from this position and qualifies for benefits under the Wisconsin Retirement System.

- B. The Assessor's discharge (as provided for in section 9 of the City of Madison Personnel Rules) during the term of this Agreement shall be deemed a breach of material provision of the Agreement. In the event of a discharge or other breach of a material provision of the Agreement by the Assessor, the Assessor shall forfeit all compensation and benefits from the date of notification of the breach by the City. This action shall not impact the receipt of benefits earned during the total period of employment. In the event of an alleged breach of a material provision of this Agreement by either party, the concerned party shall notify the other party in writing within thirty (30) working days, which shall be followed by a meeting of the parties to resolve the alleged breach. In the event the issue is not resolved, the Assessor or the City may pursue contract remedies.
- C. The City retains the right, in its sole discretion, to abolish the position of City Assessor or to reorganize as it deems in the best interest of the City. In the event the City abolishes the position of City Assessor or reorganizes the Department to the extent that the position of City Assessor is no longer required, this Agreement shall terminate and all rights, duties and obligations of the parties shall mutually end without recourse ninety (90) calendar days after final approval of such abolishment of position or reorganization by the Common Council, except as provided in Madison General Ordinance §3.35 (the Ethics Code). In such case, all benefits provided in renewal or non-renewal of the agreement apply.

### XIII. NO ASSIGNMENT OR SUBCONTRACT

The Assessor shall not assign or subcontract any interest or obligation under this Agreement.

### XIV. AMENDMENT

This Agreement shall be amended only by written Addendum to Agreement of the parties approved and authorized for execution in the same fashion as this original Agreement.

### XV. NO WAIVER



No failure to exercise and no delay in exercising any right, power or remedy on either party's part shall operate as a waiver thereof, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any right, power or remedy preclude any other or further exercise thereof, or the exercise of any other right, power, or remedy.

XVI. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

No agreements, oral or written, express or implied, have been made by either party hereto, except as expressly provided herein. All prior agreements and negotiations are superseded hereby. This Agreement and any duly executed addenda or amendments thereto constitute the entire Agreement between the parties hereto.

XVII. SEVERABILITY

In the event any provisions of this Agreement are determined by any court of law to be unconstitutional, illegal, or unenforceable, it is the intention of the parties that all other provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

XVIII. GOVERNING INTENT AND LAW

This Agreement shall be interpreted in the first instance in accordance with the spirit and intent of the Substitute Report of the Human Resources Committee Report approved by the Common Council on August 2, 1988 and shall be controlled, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement to be effective as of the day and year contained herein.

CITY OF MADISON  
A Municipal Corporation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor

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Witness

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Maribeth L. Witzel-Behl, City Clerk

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Witness

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Michelle Drea, City Assessor

APPROVED:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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David P. Schmiedicke  
Finance Director

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Michael Haas, City Attorney