



# Employee Class and Compensation Study Results

Maurice Jones, Town Manager Russell Campbell, Asst. Director MAG, Inc.

Town of Chapel Hill | 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. | www.townofchapelhill.org

**Background** 

- Initiated study in late 2019
- Consultant: Management Advisory Group, Inc (MAG) to conduct our study
- Pandemic delayed final results



## **Post-COVID Updates**

- Consultant re-examined the numbers due to recent changes in the economy.
- Department Directors provided on-going feedback.
- MAG incorporated feedback into the final report.



## A Compensation Study...

- Analyzes current pay practices.
- Determines if they are competitive for your labor market.
- Should examine overall salary structure at least every 3-5

**Years**. (Society for Human Resources Management)



## Why Now?

- Our last comprehensive Compensation Study was completed in early 2014.
- We conducted a small study in 2017.
- Our Base Pay is lagging in the Labor market for great candidates.



# Town of Chapel Hill, NC Classification and Compensation Study Presentation



January 12, 2022

#### MAG COMPANY BACKGROUND

- ➤ The Principals of MAG International, Inc. have a proven track record in providing in-depth management and human resource consulting services for over 25 years in more than 40 states.
- ➤ Our clients range from various state and local government agencies to many Municipalities, Counties, Utilities, EMS, Police, and Fire organizations nationally.
- ➤ MAG principals have completed over 500 similar compensation studies over the years, including many in North Carolina.



#### This project **IS NOT** designed to:

- · Identify staffing levels.
- Reorganize departments or functions.
- Evaluate individual employee performance/capabilities.
- · Guarantee salary increases.
- Recommend salary decreases.

#### Town Goals/Expectations For Study......

- Perform a review of the existing classification plan.
- Perform a market salary survey of identified labor markets.
- > Examine and compare benefits in relation to other Local Governments.
- > Review specific identified job descriptions and place them in the pay plan at the appropriate level.
- > Provide recommendations for salary administration guidelines.
- > Prepare one or more pay plan option schedules.



#### **Approach & Methodology**

- ✓ Identified jobs where recruitment and retention are concerns.
- ✓ Gathered salary and compensation data from competitor organizations;
- ✓ Reviewed job descriptions to validate classification duties and responsibilities.
- Evaluated each position within the study using MAG's 14-point criterion to establish internal relationships for equity.
- ✓ Recommended Changes to selected job titles to reflect work being done.
- ✓ Recommended policy changes to support new system.
- ✓ Developed implementation/transition costs.

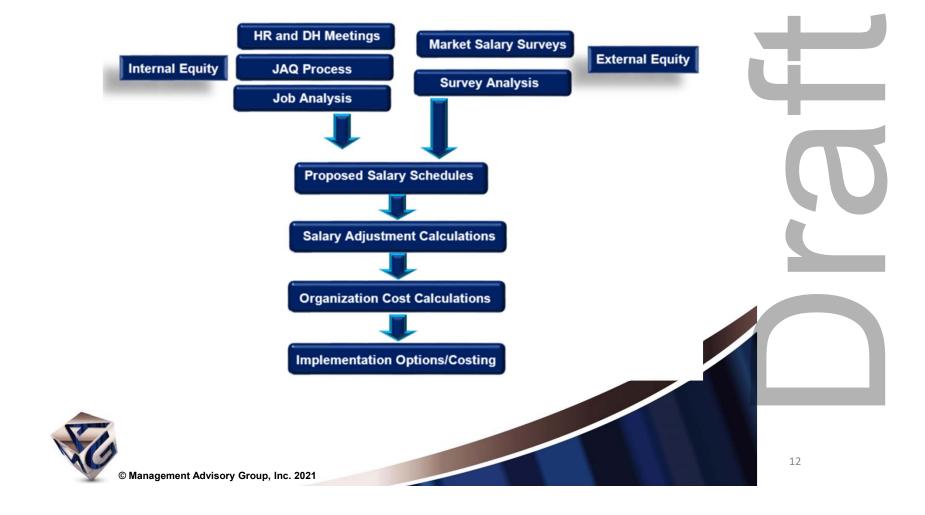


#### Job Factors (Criterion)

- Data Responsibility
- Judgment
- People Responsibility
- Complexity of Work
- Assets Responsibility
- Impact of Decisions
- Education

- Equipment Usage
- Physical Demands
- Communications
- Math
- Unavoidable Hazards
- Safety of Others
- Experience





#### **Targeted Agencies/Employers**

- > City of Raleigh, NC
- > City of Durham, NC
- > City of Greensboro, NC
- City of Charlotte, NC
- > City of Burlington, NC
- > Town of Carrboro, NC
- > Town of Cary, NC
- > Town of Apex, NC
- > Town of Holly Springs, NC

- ➤ Wake County Schools, NC
- ➤ Alamance County, NC
- > Durham County, NC
- Guilford County, NC
- Orange County, NC
- ➤ Wake County, NC
- ➤ O\*NET
- > Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools, NC
- > UNC-Chapel Hill, NC



#### **Market Survey Results**

✓ Overall, results show that surveyed Town positions lag the market at each level of the pay range:

✓ At minimum: - 8.5%

✓ At midpoint: - 9.0%

✓ At maximum: - 9.2%



#### Market Survey Results Cont'd.....

- Examples of positions that have competitive market hiring rates :
  - ✓ Library System Manager
  - ✓ Fire Captain
  - ✓ Transportation Director
  - ✓ Public Works Director
  - ✓ Facilities Supervisor
- Examples of positions that have below market hiring rates:
  - ✓ Police Officer I
  - ✓ Planner
  - ✓ Solid Waste Collector
  - ✓ Budget Analyst
  - ✓ Fire Battalion Chief



15

### Additional Recommendations

- Phase I: Bring any employee whose current pay is below the minimum of the new pay ranges up to the proposed minimum.
- Phase I: Give all current employees a general increase to address salary compression. Increase should be based on employee's current salary and in addition to any across the board increase.
- Consider developing a future Step-and-Grade pay plan structure for police, fire and transit operators to improve recruitment and retention.
- Starting July 1, 2023, the Town should consider adjusting the pay ranges on all plans based on a review of the Employment Cost Index (ECI), which is published by the federal department of labor.

#### Additional Recommendations Cont'd.....

- Reclassification requests should be limited to once a year and coincide with the annual budget process.
- Reinstate the Merit or Performance Pay program to recognize top performers.
   We recommend each department is allocated 2% of current payroll to distribute.
- Enhance the tuition reimbursement program to assist Town employees who are pursuing an Associates or Bachelors degree.
- Based on the police incentives suggested by MAG, adopt those deemed most impactful and fiscally sound for the FY'23 to address recruitment and retention issues.
- To address issues such succession, professional development and turnover,
   HR should develop a multi-year workforce plan and update annually.



## Any Questions?





## **Phased Implementation**

Goal: recognize the high level of service provided by our employees.

Goal: remain competitive with other employers in our region.

The final recommendations far exceeded our original estimates – use Phased Implementation.



Town of Chapel Hill | 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. | www.townofchapelhill.org

- Phase I will bring all our Permanent employees up to the new minimums.
  - This will create a significant amount of salary compression for existing workers who are not moved up.
- Phase I will begin to address compression



## Compression

- Address initial compression during Phase I by providing increases to those who are not being adjusted.
- Continue to work on the existing compression issues while keeping pace with our labor market trends.

### Recommendations

- Approve the recommendations of the Study and New Pay Plan
- Approve additional funding to implement Phase I
- Approve additional funding to start addressing Compression
- Review other recommendations and return to Council

