

## Decision Paper

Christopher Hudson

### Request for Extension of LOD Leave

#### Issue

Christopher Hudson, Fire Engineer, assigned to Medic 31-A, seeks an extension of Line of Duty leave from March 20, 2016 until June 11, 2017 for an on the job injury which occurred while on duty March 4, 2015. This extension will restore 2,688 hours, or 112 shifts, of his personal leave. This extension requires an approval by City Council. The department needs to submit a request for ordinance that will include the Fire Chief's recommendation.

#### Facts

- Date of injury – March 4, 2015.
- Engineer Hudson sustained a low back injury while exiting an ambulance with a heavy patient when another responder released the stretcher prematurely causing the stretcher to tip over. Mr. Hudson reached to keep the patient and stretcher from falling.
- He was diagnosed with lumbar strain, spondylolisthesis at L4-5, disc bulges and herniations from L3-4 to S1 and S1 radiculopathy.
- On December 3, 2015, Engineer Hudson underwent L4-5 anterior interbody fusion, L4-5 anterior cage instrumentation, with application of pedicle screws and rods. He then underwent post-operative therapy.
- Mr. Hudson underwent removal of implant (lateral interbody fusion cage), and revision fusion at L4-5 and instrumentation at L4-5, partial corpectomy at L4 and exploration of L4-5 fusion on October 18, 2016, however, he developed a seroma in his abdomen post-surgery. This developed into an infected seroma with staph infection in December 2016.
- Engineer Hudson continued physical therapy as tolerated until he underwent removal of posterior hardware on 5/16/17.
- Christopher Hudson returned to Light Duty status on June 12, 2017 and continues to have physical therapy.
- On Line of Duty leave from March 20, 2015 until March 20, 2016. He began using his own leave on March 21, 2016 until June 11, 2017 when he returned to Light Duty.

#### Considerations

There were delays in Engineer Hudson's treatment and care due to him having to go through the Workers' Compensation Insurance Administrative hearing process to dispute denials on this claim.

#### Recommendation

Fire Department staff recommends approval.

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

  
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Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief

11/8/17  
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Date