

**EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE CITY OF BRAWLEY  
AND  
CRISTHIAN BARAJAS**

This Employment Agreement (hereinafter "Agreement") is made this 4th day of February 2025 by and between the City of Brawley, a municipal corporation (hereinafter "Employer"), and Cristhian Barajas (hereinafter "Employee").

**WITNESSETH**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Brawley desires to appoint Cristhian Barajas to the office of Development Services Director and to establish the terms and conditions of his employment; and

**WHEREAS**, Employer and Employee have negotiated the terms and conditions of employment; and

**WHEREAS**, Employee accepts such employment on the terms and conditions set forth herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties wish to execute an agreement covering terms and conditions of employment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARTIES HEREBY AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **Position and Duties.**  
Employee shall serve as the Development Services Director for the City of Brawley commencing February 4, 2025, and ending February 3, 2028. Thirty (30) days prior to the end of the term, the City Manager and the employee will negotiate terms and conditions of potential future employment.
2. **Compensation.**  
As payment and consideration for Employee's services, Employee shall be compensated at one hundred forty-five thousand dollars (\$145,000) for the first year and subsequent years as follows:
  - Effective 2/4/2026: \$147,500
  - Effective 2/4/2027: \$150,000

Business expenses reasonably incurred in performing the duties of the Development Services Director shall be reimbursed by the Employer in accordance with Employer's duly adopted travel policy. Employer shall also pay for Employee's annual dues for memberships needed for the position of Development Services Director. Expenses not specifically budgeted require prior approval of the City Manager.

3. **Annual Review.**  
Periodic and/or annual performance evaluations shall be based on execution of the Development Services Director duties and an approved work plan. Any change to compensation shall be at the discretion of the City Manager.

4. **Car Allowance.**  
Employee shall receive a car allowance in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) per month.
5. **Residence.**  
Employee agrees to reside within a thirty-minute response time to the Administration office.
6. **Cell Phone Allowance.**  
Employer agrees to pay Employee a cell phone allowance of \$75 per month.
7. **Medical/Life Insurance.**  
**Group Health Plan.** Employee shall be eligible for the Employer's comprehensive major medical, dental, life and vision care insurance program that is provided to other City management team employees.
8. **Retirement.**  
Employer shall maintain Employee in the PERS 2%@62 for PEPRM Miscellaneous Members, One Year Final Compensation Plan. Employee will continue to contribute to the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) the Employee portion which is currently at 7.75% of the base pay.
9. **At-Will Employment Status and Exemption from City's Personnel System.**  
Employee's employment is at-will and Employee is exempt from the City's Personnel System and has no property rights in his employment. It is further understood and agreed by and between the parties that the Employee serves at the will and pleasure of the City Manager.
10. **Leave.**  
Paid leave is provided to Employee for the purpose of rest and relaxation from duties and for attending to medical situations and personal business. Such leave includes time commonly referred to as administrative leave. Employee shall accrue vacation, sick leave and administrative leave in the same manner as other City management team employees.
  - a. **Scheduling.** Employee's requests to take leave must have prior approval of Employer. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.
  - b. **Payment of Annual Leave at Termination.** Upon termination of employment, Employee shall be paid for any accrued leave in the same manner as other City management team employees.
11. **Holidays.**  
Employee shall receive those holidays provided to City management team employees.
12. **Full-Time Commitment.**  
During the term of this Agreement, Employee shall dedicate full time to fulfilling his responsibilities hereunder. Employee shall not be involved in any outside activity that conflicts with the performance of his duties as the Development Services Director for the City of Brawley.

13. **Termination/Severance Pay.**  
In the event Employer wishes to terminate Employee for other than willful misconduct, the Employer shall give Employee thirty days written notice. In the absence of any further action by the City Manager, Employee shall receive a severance in an amount equal to fourteen (14) days salary at the end of the notice period.
14. **Severability.**  
If any of the provisions of this Agreement are held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable in any respect, the remainder of the agreement and all other provisions hereunder shall not be affected thereby, and such provision shall be deemed to be modified to the extent necessary to permit its enforcement to the maximum extent permitted by applicable law.
15. **Assignment.**  
This agreement shall be binding upon and insure to the benefit of Employer, its successors and assigns and to the benefit of Employee, his heirs, and legal representatives, except that Employee's duties to perform future services and the right to receive payment therefore are hereby expressly agreed to be nonassignable and nontransferable.
16. **Governing Law.**  
This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California, and any litigation concerning this Agreement shall be filed and maintained in the State of California.
17. **Complete Agreement.**  
This document between the parties constitutes the complete agreement and supersedes all previous agreements and understandings.
18. **Indemnification.**  
Employer agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the Employee from claims arising from Employee's acts within the scope of his employment as required by law.
19. **Notices.**  
Any notice to be given Employee hereunder shall be sufficiently served if given to him personally, or if deposited in the United States mail, registered or certified, addressed to him at the address on file, or at such other address as Employee may hereafter specify for the service of notices. Any notice to be given to the Employer hereunder shall be addressed to the City Manager of the City of Brawley and delivered to the City Clerk at City Hall, 383 Main Street, Brawley, California 92227.
20. **Attorney's Fees and Costs.**  
If any action of law or in equity is necessary to enforce or interpret the terms of this agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and necessary disbursements in addition to any other relief, which such party may be entitled. As used in this provision, a party shall be deemed to prevail only if they recover an amount in excess of an offer and compromise filed in the action pursuant to the provisions of Section 998 of the California Code of Civil Procedure. Any award of attorney's fees pursuant to this provision shall be based on only the amount recovered in excess of the offer and compromise.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the said parties have executed this agreement as of this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025.


**EMPLOYER**

By   
Jimmy Duran, Police Chief/Interim City Manager

**EMPLOYEE**

By   
Cristhian Barajas

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

By   
William Smerdon, City Attorney

**ATTEST:**

By   
Ana Gutierrez, City Clerk