W-2/W-2c Box Explanations

**Box 1** - Wages, Tips, and Other Compensation. This is subject to federal income tax. This box consists of the following components: gross wages, prizes, awards, non-cash compensation, plus other compensation (see explanation in box 12c), less employee contributions to health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, Flexible Spending Account (FSA), Medical Spending Account (FSA-MSA), Dependent Care Account (FSA-DCA), 403(b) retirement plan contributions, 457(b) deferred compensation plan contributions and parking and transit deductions. Under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), health insurance premiums, dental insurance premiums, vision insurance premiums, contributions to our FSA, HSA, and parking and transit deductions may be excluded from taxability.

**Box 2** - Federal Income Tax Withheld. This box shows the amount of Federal Income Tax withheld from your "Wages, Tips and Other Compensation" listed in Box 1.

**Box 3** - Social Security Wages. Social Security Wages is the amount of pay subject to social security tax. The 2023 maximum social security wage base was $160,200. Social Security Wages consist of the following components: gross pay plus non-cash compensation, less employee contributions to health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, Flexible Spending Account (FSA), Medical Spending Account (FSA-MSA), Dependent Care Account (FSA-DCA), parking and transit deductions. Retirement contributions are not excluded from Social Security Tax or Medicare Tax.

**Box 4** - Social Security Tax Withheld. In 2023, the Social Security Tax rate was 6.2%, which was withheld on the first $160,200 of taxable earnings. The maximum amount of Social Security Tax an employee must pay was $9,932.40. If an employee works for more than one employer during the year and had more than $9,932.40 withheld, the excess can be claimed on the individual’s tax return (Form 1040). The employer’s matching contribution is not recoverable.

**Box 5** - Medicare Wages and Tips. Medicare Wages and Tips is the amount of pay subject to Medicare Tax. It consists of the same components as Social Security Wages (see above). There is no maximum wage amount on which Medicare Tax is applied.

**Box 6** - Medicare Tax Withheld. In 2023, the Medicare Tax rate was 1.45%, which was withheld on the total Medicare Wages as explained above. There is no maximum to the amount of Medicare Tax an employee must pay.

**Box 10** - Dependent Care. This box shows the total amount of dependent care benefits under the dependent care assistance plan account (FSA).

**Box 12** - This box is used to report several items each identified with a separate specific code, such as Code E for elective deferrals under a section 403(b) salary reduction agreement, Code G for elective deferrals and employer contributions to any section 457(b), or Code DD for employer-sponsored health coverage.
Box 13 – For these checkboxes, if applicable, for statutory employee, retirement plan, and third-party sick.

Box 14 - This box is used to report other informational items, such as transit deductions, health insurance premiums deducted, or contributions to a pension plan.

Box 17 - State Income Tax. This box shows the amount of State Income Tax withheld from your "Wages, Tips and Other Compensation" listed in Box 1.