

City settles suit over 'temps'

\$11.5 million for 2,000 long-term workers who were denied benefits

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The city of Seattle has settled for \$11.5 million a class-action lawsuit on behalf of 2,000 long-term employees who were denied benefits because they had been labeled "temporary."

Some had worked for the city for as long as eight or 10 years, but were given extra pay instead of health insurance and other benefits.

Now, temporary assignments can't last more than one year, according to the settlement approved Monday by King County Superior Court Judge Douglas McBroom.

"The city has decided they're not going to do that anymore, and they've taken a lot of steps to make sure that was not going to happen as part of the settlement," said one of the plaintiffs, Scott Roberts, a member of the park grounds crew who has been with the city about eight years. "I'm very satisfied with the settlement."

The city has agreed to give full benefits to anyone who works at least half time, or about 18 hours per week, for more than a year.