

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REPORT relative to expediting the worker's compensation benefit process for all City employees.

Recommendation for Council action, pursuant to Motion (Koretz - Englander - Fuentes):

INSTRUCT the Personnel Department, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to report to the Personnel and Animal Welfare and Public Safety Committees within 30 days in regard to the Departments' efforts to ensure that there are no undue delays in providing all City employees, including LAPD and LAFD sworn employees, who enter the Workers' Compensation Program with the financial and medical treatment they need and deserve to expedite their return to work.

Fiscal Impact Statement: Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

Summary:

On November 2, 2016, your Committee considered a Motion (Koretz - Englander - Fuentes) relative to expediting the worker's compensation benefit process for all City employees. According to the Motion, the State's Workers' Compensation Insurance program provides a safety net for employees who, in the course of their employment, suffer work-related injuries. Individuals are provided financial and medical support by the Workers' Compensation program, and every effort is made to help those employees who are cleared to return to work to do so in an expeditious manner.

Recently, however, media reports have highlighted some potential problems with the Workers' Compensation program as it relates to LAPD employees. Claims have been made that the State Workers' Compensation program has delayed or, in some cases, denied medical care to LAPD officers who have been injured on the job and are seeking treatment. Similar claims have been made in the past with regard to LAFD firefighters who are injured on the job. In cases where such delays prevent the officer's or firefighter's return to work, there is an impact to public safety for City residents.

The City of Los Angeles is committed to public safety and to the ensuring that all City employees, including our sworn personnel, receive quality care and expeditious medical treatment through the Workers' Compensation program in those unfortunate instances when they are injured on duty. To ensure that the City is doing everything within its power to fulfill this commitment, the Personnel Department, the LAPD and the LAFD should report to the City Council in response to these claims relative to the department, and outline what steps the City has taken, or will be taking, to expedite the Workers' Compensation benefit processes for all City employees. Our employees deserve all of the support and medical treatment they need, and are entitled to, in order to return to work from the Workers' Compensation program.

After consideration and having provided an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to recommend approval of the Motion as detailed in the above recommendation. This

matter is now submitted to Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PERSONNEL AND ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pal Kretz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
KORETZ:	YES
RYU:	YES
HARRIS-DAWSON:	YES

ARL  
11/2/16

**-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-**