

Communication from Public

Name: David Taylor

Date Submitted: 05/03/2023 01:22 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: The 2.6% discretionary COLA that the LACERS Board recently recommended to the Council and Mayor is very important to me and I would appreciate it's approval. The approval of the discretionary COLA would assist in limiting the problem of rising prices going up faster than our pension. Thank you, David William Taylor

Communication from Public

Name: Adriane Jepsen

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 09:19 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: We are all experiencing increases in gas, food, utilities, and almost all other necessities, which has hit retirees extremely hard. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. We, therefore, respectfully request that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code to ease the financial worries of many City of Los Angeles retirees. We will appreciate your kind consideration. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Asuncion
Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 09:20 AM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the discretionary COLA for the retired members. The recent rise in inflation has created a challenge to live as a retiree. I do not want to depend on my children to help me make ends meet. Your approval on the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA will be greatly impact my life and the lives of retirees. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Guadalupe N Rodarte

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 09:22 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Mayor Bass and both Council committees in consideration of the 2.6% discretionary COLA, I am requesting your approval, it is vital. It is a financial struggle, daily, to be a consumer and retiree in this economy. Thank you for your consideration. The approval of the 2.6% discretionary COLA, is vitally necessary. It's passage will assist greatly in making retirement less of a financial struggle.

Communication from Public

Name: L. Smock

Date Submitted: 05/03/2023 10:07 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Greetings, I am asking the City Council to support the additional COLA for the LACERS members. I know this would help me because the cost of living has gone up significantly. Being retired and making the day to day choices with money is now more difficult. This additional COLA would help the retired city employees who served the city make it through some difficult financial times. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Tracy P

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 12:36 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Hello, my husband and I served the City of Los Angeles for a combined 62 years. We have moved out of state and now have to pay more out of pocket for Medical and Dental insurance. We are requesting that the City Council approve the discretionary 2.6 COLA increase to City retirees as recommended by LACERS. We are all aware that inflation has risen tremendously over the last year and the standard 3% COLA granted by LACERS does not keep up with the increased expenses we have all experienced. While the additional 2.6% does not match the rate of inflation it will significantly contribute to retirees being able to continue to live at a decent level. Please approve this request....thanks in advance for the consideration

Communication from Public

Name: YOLANDA JAIMEZ

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 05:25 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am requesting that the proposed 2.6% discretionary COLA be approved for the upcoming fiscal year. As a retired L.A. City employee, it is imperative that it be approved due to rising prices going up faster than our pensions and to alleviate retired employees experiencing any financial hardships. It's is personally difficult for me to continue contending with rent increases (10% in September 2022 and 8.5% in 2021) coupled with food and other living costs. I was employed for over 39 years before I retired and I want to enjoy my retirement without worrying about whether my pension will absorb these costs. An annual COLA of only 3% does not address retirees concerns about rising costs. Please look at the "whole" picture and approve this discretionary quota.

Communication from Public

Name: Yolanda Huang

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:08 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve LACERS Board's request to approve the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for LACERS retirees. My husband and I have devoted 32 years and 30 years of dedicated service to the City respectively. We have provided exemplary service to our departments and to the public that we serve. Recent economic changes have brought significant impact on our ability to meet our obligations. Merely getting 3% COLA increases yearly isn't not enough for most of the retirees like us who are still paying for our mortgage and other expenses. As prices for goods go up in disproportionate manner as our COLA, more of us retirees will have greater difficulty. I hope that you will consider our financial situation when you consider your vote for this item in your agenda. Sincerely, Yolanda Huang

Communication from Public

Name: Howard Huang

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:16 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the Board of LACERS request to approve the additional 2.6% discretionary COLA for LACERS retirees. My wife and I have devoted 30 years and 32 years of dedicated service to the City respectively. We have provided great service to our departments and to the public that we serve. Recent economic changes have brought significant impact on our ability to meet our obligations. Merely getting 3% COLA increases yearly isn't not enough for most of the retirees like us who are still paying for our mortgage and other expenses. As prices for goods go up in higher percentages than our COLA, more of us retirees will have greater difficulty. We are left with more uncertainty about our future which we thought was adequate after our retirement. I hope that you will consider our financial situation when you consider your vote for this item in your agenda. Sincerely, Howard Huang

Communication from Public

Name: Kathy M Van Ness

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:24 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in support of the LACERS recommendation for a 2.6% discretionary COLA in addition to the 3% COLA increase. Over 60% of LACERS retirees get pension payments of under \$60,000 per year, and many of LACERS retirees do not have separate Social Security pensions. So, like many others, retirees are hard hit by inflation. The discretionary COLA will help retirees cope with inflation. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: R Grant

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:26 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Due to inflation: the rising cost of everything from groceries and interest rates, and medical costs, it's hard to keep up financially. Please approve the discretionary COLA as it would provide some relief during these difficult financial times.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:28 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Inflation has impacted my life tremendously. Over the last couple of years my retirement allowance has not kept pace with high inflation and as I enter another year I am afraid and am full of anxiety. I am afraid for me and my entire family. Covid took a toll on my family as it did to many others. My adult children were affected and led them to move back home for assistance. Costs for food, gas, housing and medical costs has reached an all time high so it is unlikely our maximum 3 percent COLA's will help catch us up to inflation any time soon. The discretionary COLA of 2.6 percent, in addition to the 3 percent COLA would help make up for a deficit our family has experienced these last several years. I served proudly as a civil servant for 38 years but now that I and my family are struggling due to inflation and the continued rising costs of just daily living, I am respectfully reaching out to the City Council and Mayor to approve the 2.6 percent Discretionary COLA.

Communication from Public

Name: Terry Sauer

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:30 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: It is requested that the Council approve and authorize the additional 2.6% one-time COLA for Tier 1 retirees. Recent spikes in inflation have impacted the economic well being of many retirees. Thirty-six percent of retirees receive an annual pension of less than \$36,000. The discretionary COLA will assist retired City employees in maintaining a viable quality of life.

Communication from Public

Name: Anne Vollmer

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:45 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote yes on Discretionary Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired city employees. , I retired in 2010 from LA Recreation & parks . The cost of living has skyrocketed the past several years, and my family is feeling the results. The additional cola would help us afford the necessities. Please vote and respect the years of service that so many of us have given the City. Anne Vollmer

Communication from Public

Name: Kim Hunter

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:46 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am respectfully imploring you to approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code. The retirees of Los Angeles deserve to be able to survive living a decent quality of life in the City of Los Angeles where many served faithfully for many years. It is no secret that the Cost of Living in Los Angeles is extremely high and cause many to contemplate and/or actually leave the area to maintain a respectable quality of life. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Jackie Alexander

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:47 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Good morning I pray that you will be open to our request of you approving the discretionary COLA that the retirees are in need of. Not sure if this has been asked before but this is truly the time for it. Life since the pandemic has been difficult and most difficult for others who suffered loss. My reasoning is asking is the rising prices going up faster than our pension. The cost of maintaining housing, the gas for travel and the cost of food is unbelievable. It's been several years now and we don't know what the future will bring. We pray that things will get better and not worse. California has become very expensive than ever and hard choices are having to be made. An additional 2.6% increase, I believe will make a huge difference. Thanks for hearing from me. Regards with blessings,

Communication from Public

Name: Steven Vollmer

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 08:55 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I'm asking that the counsel and the Mayor vote to approve the Discretionary Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA). I've been retired from L.A. City Recreation & Parks for 13 years and my pension is not keeping up with the cost of living and especially that last few years of skyrocketing inflation. I hope you do the right thing for all of us who have served the City of Los Angeles for so much of our lives. Thank you for your consideration. Steve Vollmer

Communication from Public

Name: Robert Tanowitz

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 09:31 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: With runaway inflation, LACERS members have been negatively impacted. It would make a great difference in the daily lives of retirees if the City Council passed the additional percentage increase. Many members gave many years of service to the city and communities while sacrificing wages for service. Thank you for the consideration of this matter.

Communication from Public

Name: Linda A

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 07:43 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: "According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. This increase along with the increase in fuel, food, utilities, and almost all other required needs put many retirees in a precarious financial position. With 36% of retirees and beneficiaries receiving a pension less than \$36,000 per year, it is imperative that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code. It is within your power to provide this relief and ease the financial worries of many well desiring City of Los Angeles retirees. Please do so without delay. Thank you."

Communication from Public

Name: Paula Moore

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 08:59 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking the Mayor and Council to approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA. While this will not match the recent rise in inflation, it will ease some of the costs incurred. Thank you Paula Moore

Communication from Public

Name: Sylvia

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 04:44 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: The descretionary raise of 2.6% along with COLA effective July 1, 2023 is needed in so many ways. With all the necessities in life going up in dollars and cents, it is getting harder to survive. My husband is disabled and I am his caregiver, so there is no possible way to leave my home daily to work. At this time, I am in no position to purchase a computer to work from home. The need for some extra cash is imperative for me. I know there are a lot more stories out there. Please consider passing this raise.

Communication from Public

Name: Vanessa

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 07:39 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to urge for the motion of the discretionary COLA be implemented for this year our pensions are shrinking due to the economy and the continued rise in interest rates. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Mark Calcaterra
Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 07:43 PM
Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Los Angeles City Council. "According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. This increase along with the increase in fuel, food, utilities, and almost all other required needs put many retirees in a precarious financial position. With 36% of retirees and beneficiaries receiving a pension less than \$36,000 per year, it is imperative that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code. It is within your power to provide this relief and ease the financial worries of many well desiring City of Los Angeles retirees. Please do so without delay. Thank you." Mark Calcaterra

Communication from Public

Name: Pricilla Katt

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 12:58 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am a retiree residing in Wallace Michigan. Please approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA because it will definitely help. I'm in a financial hardship because the rising prices in everything (utilities, electric, gas, food and basic necessities) is GOING UP FASTER than my pension. Please take this in consideration to approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA. Thanks.

Communication from Public

Name: Steven Montagna

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 01:04 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable Members of the: Finance and Innovation Committee Personnel, Audits, and Hiring Committee City Council I am writing in reference to Council File 23-0418 regarding a recommendation from the Board of Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System to consider granting a 2.6% discretionary COLA increase for retired LACERS members and their beneficiaries. As a LACERS retiree, I would like to voice my strong support for this recommendation. Retired participants are particularly vulnerable to dramatic and unexpected inflationary changes such as those taking place over this past year. Retirees have far fewer options for adjusting their finances when hit with sharp increases in inflation, as they are generally not able to generate additional income when faced with unavoidable higher outlays for healthcare, assistive care and basic living expenses for food and utilities. I'm particularly concerned with retirees who may have medical needs or long-term care expenses in excess of the permitted adjustment. Inflation in the LA region has far exceeded the normal maximum permitted cost of living adjustment. An additional adjustment of 2.6% would be of immense benefit in bridging the gap. Beyond its monetary impact, such an action by the City Council would further demonstrate the organizational values which make the City of LA and its family of active and retired public servants so distinctive. Thank you very much for your consideration. Respectfully, Steven Montagna

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/03/2023 08:04 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the discretionary COLA. The rising prices going up faster than our pension. When I first retired I 2020 I was living comfortably. Now, I'm barely making it. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 11:40 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am requesting that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% allowed by the Admin Code. Its imperative with the increase in fuel, food, and utilities. Thank you."

Communication from Public

Name: Ralph Valencia

Date Submitted: 05/07/2023 01:42 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. This increase along with the increase in fuel, food, utilities, and almost all other required needs put many retirees in a precarious financial position. With 36% of retirees and beneficiaries receiving a pension less than \$36,000 per year, it is imperative that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code. It is within your power to provide this relief and ease the financial worries of many well desiring City of Los Angeles retirees. Please do so without delay. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Jeffrey S

Date Submitted: 05/07/2023 02:13 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: 2.6 discretionary cola needed to keep up with rising prices

Communication from Public

Name: Ben Setiarto

Date Submitted: 05/07/2023 04:50 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: The ongoing inflation and higher cost of living; goods and services placed a greater strain on the retirees. The discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% would be a great relief and ease the financial burden due to the increased cost of living which would not be easing anytime soon. Please do approve the discretionary COLA increase. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Elizabeth kazay

Date Submitted: 05/06/2023 08:23 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: It is imperative that the City Council and the Mayor vote yes on the 2.6 cola increase. The reason for this increase is the price of housing the price of food the price of gas and the price of electricity just to run a household. Also the cost that one have to pay the CMS insurance if you want to have medical insurance, so with that being said, it's a total increase of what the cost of living is costing each and every one of us retiree.

Communication from Public

Name: Sharon Carter

Date Submitted: 05/06/2023 08:48 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: As a 15-year retired City employee, it is imperative that your Committee approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA due to rising prices going up faster than our pension. Because of high inflation and other factors, it is becoming more difficult to maintain a quality of life to keep up with staggering increases in automobile and home owners' insurance, groceries, gasoline and just the actual items needed on a day-to-day basis. As a proud LACERS member, I am respectfully asking that your Committee make this COLA increase a reality to allow it's members to continue enjoying the quality of life that we have become accustomed to living in our retired years.

Communication from Public

Name: Lawrence O'Neill

Date Submitted: 05/08/2023 07:33 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to urge your support of the request by the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System (LACERS) Board for a 2.6% discretionary Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for eligible LACERS participants. Inflation has impacted many retirees, me included, in ways that would have been unthought of only a few years ago. The combined effects of increased costs due to the recent Pandemic brought on by supply chain issues and energy prices have far outstripped the annual increases as calculated by the LACERS actuary. Our retirement allowances have not kept pace. Inflation is predicted to remain above pre-Pandemic levels for the foreseeable future. The purchasing power of our retirement pension dollars will continue to decrease over the coming years. The annual maximum 3.0% COLAs alone will not help us catch up to inflation. LACERS members with an annual benefit of less than \$100,000 would be helped most by the discretionary COLA. Perhaps this threshold should be considered when granting the discretionary COLA, as a way to mitigate the financial burden on the City of Los Angeles. Please help LACERS retirees continue to live with dignity and with economic security.

Communication from Public

Name: Pamela Davenport

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 08:19 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve discretionary COLA, with prices increasing everywhere, increase is much needed

Communication from Public

Name: Dana Springer
Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 11:55 AM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: I am in favor of this endeavor.

Communication from Public

Name: Sandy bernal

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 01:56 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am asking the city council to approve the discretionary 2.6% COLA increase that is allowed. Due to the high inflation rate of almost everything and an estimated increase of over 7% in the consumer price index for those who live in the Los Angeles area. It is crucial that retirees get some relief. Thank you in advance for easing some of this financial burden by approving this increase for all the retirees who worked so hard for the City of LA.

Communication from Public

Name: Darrett Hooks

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 03:20 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Due to the high cost of living and inflation as a retiree I am requesting that the council and the Mayor approve the discretionary COLA of 2.6%. This will help us retirees so much with maintaining a high quality of life.

Communication from Public

Name: Francisco Barcenas
Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 03:07 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: Yes. I agree for the measure to pass

Communication from Public

Name: Wanda Williams

Date Submitted: 05/04/2023 02:10 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: The CPI increased by 7.4%. This increase along with food, fuel and necessary living expenses has put me as a retiree in a precarious financial position. It is imperative that you approve the 2.6% COLA increase as per LA administrative code. It is within your power to provide this relief and ease my fear financial worries. Please do so without delay. Thank You.

Communication from Public

Name: Gary

Date Submitted: 05/05/2023 04:01 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please support the additional increase. Inflation is hitting pensions very hard and living expenses have become difficult. Thanks

Communication from Public

Name: D. Rainford

Date Submitted: 05/09/2023 01:01 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I respectfully request that you approve the discretionary COLA increase requested by LACERS for 2023. Everyone has been affected by the unprecedented and persistent inflation, but as a retiree on a fixed income it has proven to be particularly challenging. There is no way to plan for the sharp increases of basic food staples, or for the extraordinary and unexpected increases for utilities. I urge you to help City retirees by approving the additional 2.6% COLA increase.

Communication from Public

Name: Shelly Del Rosario

Date Submitted: 05/09/2023 04:20 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am requesting that you approve the discretionary 2.6% cola. "According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Los Angeles area increased by 7.4% in 2022. This increase along with the increase in fuel, food, utilities, and almost all other required needs put many retirees in a precarious financial position. With 36% of retirees and beneficiaries receiving a pension less than \$36,000 per year, it is imperative that you approve the discretionary COLA increase of 2.6% as allowed by the Los Angeles Administrative Code. It is within your power to provide this relief and ease the financial worries of many well desiring City of Los Angeles retirees. Your action will be greatly appreciated. Thank you."

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/09/2023 06:34 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA. The high inflation is in groceries, gas, clothing, utilities and etc., is much higher, some groceries have went up over 30%. This additional 2.6% discretionary COLA is very important for most retirees.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/09/2023 08:26 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Responding to COLA increase for next fiscal year. The cost of living is putting a hardship on retirees. Please vote in favor as put forth by Lacers.