

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Victor Ballesteros

**Date Submitted:** 06/10/2023 10:10 AM

**Council File No:** 23-0418

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the L.A. City Council to adopt the discretionary 2.6% COLA for Los Angeles City Retirees. Many City of Los Angeles retirees are struggling to make ends meet with their current pensions, in spite of the COLA they receive. Any additional funds would be a help and a blessing and a step toward equity. These retirees gave years of service to the City of Los Angeles and deserve to be adequately compensated for it.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kent Carlson

**Date Submitted:** 06/11/2023 04:16 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0418

**Comments for Public Posting:** Council File Number: 23-0418 Please consider the increased COLA to what has already been allocated for this year to an additional 2.6%, totaling 5.6% There have been numerous increases in our cost of living since 1/2021. Most people are aware of the higher prices of goods such as gasoline, utilities and food however, there are other expenses that some don't realize have been on the steady rise since 1-2021. Specifically, out of pocket health care expenses not covered by BLUE CROSS ANTHEM PPO and forced upon us by their contacted providers and vendors. While this seems like a non-covered benefit a I am talking about or I must be confused on my deductible or co-payments, that is not the case. Our LACERS BLUE CROSS PPO has been thinned down by their contracted providers by why of concierges programs peddled by their physicians greed and refusal to have see you in a timely manner. Sometimes, the sue the excuse they are not taking any new patients. The only way to get that appointment is to pay a total of 4 increments every 3 months for a total of \$6000 for these physicians see you. This \$6000 a year has nothing to do with our benefits and is basically, another junk fee that will put you at the front of the line for an appointment with the doctor. Other encounters of squeezing more money out of retirees through the Blue Cross PPO Insurance Contracted Providers, is through the 3rd party reviewer that Blue Cross has hired to manage their pharmacy benefits, which is CarelonRX. It's a constant battle filing grievances & appeals with both just to recover the bizarre cost of 2 pills tablets of an antibiotic only to find out it was a fraudulently posed activity by the WALGREENS their preferred contracted provider. Blue Cross & CarelonRx put the squeeze on us for another \$10.68 outside of our coverage for 2 antibiotic tablets. It took me 5 months to finally recover the \$10.68 of my money and to find out it was WALGREENS using me as a way to pad their books. Imagine that, here are people going in and stealing from WALGREENS in broad day light and not going to jail and then WALGREENS steals from me to recover their losses. We are constantly bombarded with additional rakes attempts to take what I have worked hard for all my life. We are on constant alert watching every expenditure for fear that one wrong decision could trigger a chain of events leaving us in financial ruins. Even when some

expenses on the rise like; homeowners & car insurance, property taxes cannot be avoided. The consideration of an additional 2.6% COLA to the already decided 3% will help smooth out the constant hard squeeze of our current unstable ever rising economic environment which feels there is not relief in sight. You can help by providing the relief. We ask that you please support the emergency provision additional 2.6% COLA. Council File Number: 23-0418

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kent Carlson

**Date Submitted:** 06/11/2023 04:18 PM

**Council File No:** 23-0418

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please consider the increased COLA to what has already been allocated for this year to an additional 2.6%, totaling 5.6%. There have been numerous increases in our cost of living since 1/2021. Most people are aware of the higher prices of goods such as gasoline, utilities and food however, there are other expenses that some don't realize have been on the steady rise since 1-2021. Specifically, out of pocket health care expenses not covered by BLUE CROSS ANTHEM PPO and forced upon us by their contracted providers and vendors. While this seems like a non-covered benefit I am talking about or I must be confused on my deductible or co-payments, that is not the case. Our LACERS BLUE CROSS PPO has been thinned down by their contracted providers by why of concierges programs peddled by their physicians greed and refusal to have see you in a timely manner. Sometimes, the sue the excuse they are not taking any new patients. The only way to get that appointment is to pay a total of 4 increments every 3 months for a total of \$6000 for these physicians see you. This \$6000 a year has nothing to do with our benefits and is basically, another junk fee that will put you at the front of the line for an appointment with the doctor. Other encounters of squeezing more money out of retirees through the Blue Cross PPO Insurance Contracted Providers, is through the 3rd party reviewer that Blue Cross has hired to manage their pharmacy benefits, which is CarelonRX. It's a constant battle filing grievances & appeals with both just to recover the bizarre cost of 2 pills tablets of an antibiotic only to find out it was a fraudulently posed activity by the WALGREENS their preferred contracted provider. Blue Cross & CarelonRx put the squeeze on us for another \$10.68 outside of our coverage for 2 antibiotic tablets. It took me 5 months to finally recover the \$10.68 of my money and to find out it was WALGREENS using me as a way to pad their books. Imagine that, here are people going in and stealing from WALGREENS in broad day light and not going to jail and then WALGREENS steals from me to recover their losses. We are constantly bombarded with additional rakes attempts to take what I have worked hard for all my life. We are on constant alert watching every expenditure for fear that one wrong decision could trigger a chain of events leaving us in financial ruins. Even when some expenses on the rise like;

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