Communication from Public

Name: Mario Diaz
Date Submitted: 06/14/2024 11:48 AM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: Time to help the dedicated retirees from city of L.A. My rent is higher,food,gas,medical expenses, I would really appreciate any financial increase.

Communication from Public

Name: Paul McNeely
Date Submitted: 06/23/2024 07:42 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: I encourage the City Council to authorize the 2.85% discretionary COLA for retirees. The standard 3.00% rate COLA that has been in effect over the past fiscal years has resulted in retirees falling backwards, at an alarming rate, in their ability to cope with significant across the board inflation. This is in stark contrast to current city employees who have gained salary increase enabling them to better cope with our national and local financial reality. Housing, gasoline, utilities, groceries and insurance have increased in cost at the fastest rate since the 1970's, yet city retirees have been expected to simply absorb these costs without any further assistance or adjustment on the part of the city. This is not only unfair given decades of contributions to city operations during times of recession, pandemic, furloughs, hiring freezes and "revisited" labor contracts, but also severely compromises the ability of retirees to contribute to the stability and growth of the local economy through their purchasing power. Simply put, city retirees "give back" to the local economy. The inability to cope with real inflation is both a health issue and a mental health issue -- it is far more that simply a financial issue. LACERS stresses "wellness," and the proposed discretionary adjustment to the COLA is a needed step towards helping retirees achieve that stated city goal.

Communication from Public

Name:	Diosdado Munoz
Date Submitted:	06/22/2024 09:52 PM
Council File No:	23-0418
Comments for Public Posting:	Worked for 25 years. Getting a little over 50% of what I used to make. Choosing continuity to spouse if I passed away, that is even less pension in the bank. Unable to pay a gardener to mow my lawn.

Communication from Public

Name:	Loucin Artinian
Date Submitted:	06/23/2024 11:46 AM
Council File No:	23-0418
Comments for Public Posting:	I'm asking for the approval of the discretionary COLA of 2.85%. This increase is desperately needed for City retirees financial well-being. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Gladys Cole
Date Submitted: 06/22/2024 01:13 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: I serve the Los Angeles public for thirty plus year from 1/1972 to 8/2002. Upon retiring and when the Mayor signed off for the previous year retirees to return to work, I returned in 2003. I have been a retired substitute since 2003 thus serving fifty-one years thus far. When I retired, my gross salary was $60.000. But the retirement was 64% of the gross resulting in $38,400 for my yearly gross salary before federal and state taxes per year. Probably, due to the COLA banking system for at least three years, I did not receive any of the COLA on my checks for those years and subsequent years the COLA fluctuated from 1 to 3 percent. It was probably 15 years of retirement before I received actually three percent. Consequently with rise of inflation, my retirement barely covers rent and necessities therefore, at seventy-six years old, I must work. I will want to encourage the Council to adopt the 2.85% discretionary COLA.

Communication from Public

Name: Yvette Burney
Date Submitted: 06/21/2024 12:50 AM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: I would encourage you to approve the discretionary COLA for retirees. Last year, LACERS recommended this and it was never approved. LACERS has recommended this again for this year. Retirees are losing ground against inflation. It is not lost on us that you approved hefty pay increases for active City employees and not the discretionary COLA for retirees who gave years of service to the City. Please make this right….we are hurting.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/20/2024 03:03 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I encourage you to approve the discretionary cost of living adjustment for retired employees. Many active employees have recently accepted negotiations to significant pay increases but retired employees suffer the same high prices and cost of living. I worked the LAPD 911 centers and performed a vital function which helped Los Angeles citizens and City management benefited from the good work we did. I hope my 34 years of service was appreciated and considered worthy of the additional COLA. We have all experienced the high cost of living in recent years but most especially those of us who are retired and now live on fixed incomes. Any yearly COLA we receive is fast absorbed by increases in food and rent. The most scrupulous of savers couldn't save a dime under these current cost of living circumstances. Many of my friends from this same City employment have had to resort to part-time work or moving to other lower cost states or even moving in with family members. I so hope and encourage the City Council to adopt the discretionary COLA for retired City employees. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name:	Earl Brown
Date Submitted:	06/24/2024 11:18 AM
Council File No:	23-0418
Comments for Public Posting:	Greetings Honorable City Council members. My name is Earl Brown, and I am a retiree from LADOT. After just under 34 years of serving as a dedicated civil servant, I retired in February 2021 as a Traffic Marking Signs Superintendent II. My wife and I had high hopes that our disciplined spending, savings and investments would carry us through our retirement years. Little did we know that Covid and the economy would take the downturn that it has taken. That coupled with some unforeseen family health issues has caused our plans to significantly change. Needless to say, in our situation, every little bit helps. This letter is to humbly request that the City Council adopt the 2.85% discretionary COLA that the Los Angeles City Employees' Retirement System (LACERS) Board has recommended. This is the second time in two years this recommendation has been made and no action taken. We know that many active City employees have recently accepted negotiations to significant pay increases but retirees are facing the same high prices they are, with a much lower income. Once retired, I had no intentions on going back to work unless I wanted to do it part time just to keep busy, not because I had too for survival. Please don't forget about us this time. I want to thank you in advance for considering my request. Sincerely Earl Brown

Communication from Public

Name: Lawrence
Date Submitted: 06/24/2024 03:12 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: I am writing to request your support of the recommendation by the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System (LACERS) Board for a 2.85% discretionary Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for eligible LACERS participants. Inflation has impacted retirees, me included, in ways that would have been unthought of only a few years ago. The increased costs of basic necessities, including energy, have far outstripped the annual increases as calculated by the LACERS actuary. Our retirement allowances have not kept pace. Inflation is predicted to remain at the current level 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 do not and will not match inflation. Please help LACERS retirees continue to live with dignity and with economic security by supporting the LACERS request.