

Communication from Public

Name: Tammy Watson
Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 12:01 PM
Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I ask this Council to approve the LACERS staff recommendation for discretionary Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). Year after year, employees, retirees, and members of City Council rely upon the expertise of LACERS employees and its consultants. This year should be no different. Upon the thorough review of the impact of the record-breaking increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on retirement benefits, LACERS is recommending a discretionary COLA increase of 2.6%. We are all experiencing the negative impact of inflation on our daily lives. Our bare necessities, food, housing, utilities, and medical expenses have all increased exponentially. Our Federal counterparts have recognized the need for increased household income by approving an 8.7% unprecedented COLA for Social Security, SSI, and VA Disability pay. In accordance with LAAC Section 4.1023, you (City Council) have the authority to grant additional COLA. I respectfully implore you to exercise your authority by approving the discretionary COLA.

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy Rodriquez

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 09:40 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please consider the additional 2.5% increase for COLA, I am retired now for a little over two years. The increase in groceries are very overwhelming along with everything else, electricity, gasoline etc. Please don't take this lightly, I am on a fixed income, I can not go and promote or look for work. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Lucy ReinhardtUlatowski

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 09:40 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: This is to request the additional 2.6% COLA increase in order to meet the current economic increase in prices, taxes, mortgage interest and insurance, property tax, utilities and overall daily living expenses. Prices on everything keep going up, while retirement checks remain the same. Please help the loyal retired employees of the City of Los Angeles deal with life in 2023 and beyond. Respectfully submitted.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 09:54 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the cost-of-living adjustment. Retirees really need it especially with inflation being so high. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name: Gary Canales

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 10:03 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I believe we are deserving of this extra raise based on the fact that most of us retiree's never were never given longevity pay. Especially since it was awarded to employees now working. We fought unsuccessfully for years to try and receive this bonus.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 10:05 AM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I hope the council and Mayor agree to the 2.6% discretionary COLA. I work for Recreation and Parks 35 years and have been retired for 13 years. The COLA would help everybody. We live in one of the most expensive cities in the country.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 05:03 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the discretionary cola!!! it is important that we receive as much as possible because we are so far behind to begin with. Inflation has risen astronomically!!!! It is unbelievable however, one food entrée is equivalent to \$20 now. To pay for dinner for a family of five it's a minimum of \$150 which includes only a basic entrée for each and tax and tip! for 36 years I have worked for the city. Therefore, I am not a great cook as I spent many more hours working than cooking. So now that I am retired, I still do not cook well and eat out a lot. Not only has food prices increased dramatically, but everything costs more! As a retiree I would like to travel, but even for a ten-day package it's \$four–5000 dollars each! at that price how many trips do you think the average retiree can afford to go travel??? even just doing regular running around town running errands, a gas tank is \$80–90 dollars a week! Please please please approve the discretionary cola!!!! We really really really need every little bit! Thank you for your consideration in this matter (and hopefully your approval!)

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 05:19 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please help us to maintain our living. Please vote that the additional percentage be approved for us retirees.

Communication from Public

Name: DEBRA A. VERIN
Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 05:26 PM
Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Greetings Honorable Council/Mayor, I am requesting the approval of Council File No. 23-0418. Its imperative that this modest increase be approved since many newly Retirees step up to help save jobs during Covid. However, what Retirees didn't know that inflation would increase/taxes on the incentive was not worth it thereby seeing at least 30% less. I have dedicated my life to the City by serving 36 years (Personnel, City Clerk (Tax & Permit), Rec & Parks & Bureau of Street Services) where I gain valuable knowledge on how the city operates, I also reside in Council District 2. The late Honorable Councilperson Tom LaBonge said City employees makes great neighbors and he had an appreciation for the employees who kept the city running. Its important that Retirees are not forgotten/appreciated. In addition, please consider Retirees who retired years ago that are affected by the economy too. Many will not qualify for assistant because they may make a few hundreds dollars more. Many Retirees are giving back in some way or another but the cost of living have increased. I humbly request, a Yes vote. Thank you

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted:

05/11/2023 06:08 PM

Council File No:

23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: We are in dire need for this increase, gas, food, housing and other essential are outrageously expensive. Interest on credit card has gone up to 29%. Please help us with this increase. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Jerry Delgado

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 01:37 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I, am requesting the 2.6% increase raise. This raise will help every retiree in keeping up with inflation.

Communication from Public

Name: Yvette Vasquez
Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 03:04 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: The cost of living in Los Angeles has gone up exponentially. Food, electricity, water, clothing, etc for retirees has become a monthly game of “Do I really need to use this. Do I really need to buy this.” We are not asking for a lot, we just want to stand a fighting chance balancing our budgets.

Communication from Public

Name: Wayne D Watson

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 03:30 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Please approve the discretionary COLA increase for retirees as recommended by LACERS. I, like many, have been adversely affected by this incredible period of inflation. Adoption of this COLA will help me and so many others. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lisa Wellik

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 03:52 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: I am requesting that the City Council approve the discretionary 2.6% COLA currently under consideration. The level of inflation in the nation and our region has outpaced the COLA rate that can be approved by the LACERS board. For many LACERS retirees and beneficiaries, the City pension is the only source of retirement income and over one third of this population receives less than \$36,000 per year. The option for the City Council to approve discretionary COLA increases is suited for the current economic climate, so I respectfully request approval of this 2.6% discretionary COLA increase.

Communication from Public

Name: Rica Viola

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 04:21 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: It is respectfully requested that the Board grant the additional discretionary increase of 2.6% to mitigate, to a certain extent, the unprecedented increase in the CPI. As I understand it, the LACERS fund has a COLA bank and I believe that it was established to specifically address the situation we experiencing today. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Loucin Artinian
Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 08:25 PM
Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Honorable Council Members, I would like to encourage you to vote in favor of adopting the 2.6% discretionary COLA for City retirees. Living in the City of L.A. (CD 12), the high inflation in the last couple of years has hit us hard. This additional increase will help give retirees some relief from the high cost of living. Thank you for your consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Charlene Johnson

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 10:33 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: As a LACERS retiree it is absolutely imperative that the Council and The Mayor approve the 2.6% discretionary COLA increase request. Inflation has eaten up every penny of my previous pension increases. Utilities, groceries, gas, medical expenses not to mention housing and interest rates have skyrocketed. I have had to use credit cards with soaring interest rates to handle emergencies. No retired employee should have to live worried that one emergency is going to wipe out savings and they can't keep up on daily bills. Approving this 2.6% COLA is critical to the financial health of ALL LACERS RETIREES. Thank you!

Communication from Public

Name: Dana Tipton

Date Submitted: 05/11/2023 11:21 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: The approval of Council File No. 23-0418 is imperative. This modest increase must be approved since many newly Retirees stepped up to help save jobs during Covid (which included myself). However, what Retirees didn't know was that inflation would increase/taxes on the incentive was not worth it thereby seeing at least 30% less. I have dedicated my life to the City by serving 40 years (Clerk Typist, Senior Clerk Typist, System Aide, Senior Administrative Clerk) with LAPD and LAX Airport Police where I gained valuable knowledge on how the city operates. In addition please consider Retirees who retired years ago that are affected by the economy too. Many will not qualify for assistance because they may make a few hundreds dollars more. Many Retirees are giving back in some way or another but the cost of living has increased. I humbly request that you deeply consider this much needed increase, especially in this day and time.
Respectfully submitted, Dana Tipton