

Communication from Public

Name: Ralph Quintero
Date Submitted: 05/13/2023 01:37 PM
Council File No: 23-0418
Comments for Public Posting: My Wife And I Are Struggling To Put Gas In Our Car, And Put Groceries In Our Cubbards. Please Approve The 2.6 Discretionary COLA We Humbly Ask For..Thank You In Advance!!

Communication from Public

Name: Ronald Monroe
Date Submitted: 05/13/2023 09:08 PM
Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Greetings I am an retired Airport Safety Officer. I retired in 2014 under the standard LACERS pension plan. While I am very grateful for the past COLA increases in my pension, I feel I am starting to fall behind economically. I live in a 55plus senior community in Beaumont, Calif. Last year the HOA dues increased by 18 percent. This years increase is 9.6 percent. My homeowners insurance for 2023-24 increased by over \$1400. I live with my wife. We are both divorcees who gave up our previous homes to our ex spouses. Because of this action on our part, we had very little money to put down on our present home. The result is a \$2200 monthly mortgage payment along with an \$262 monthly HOA payment. We will never own our home. We are both sixty-four years old. Utilities continue to rise in cost. Our electricity bill has doubled from last year. We cannot afford to go full solar because of the cost. Natural gas costs have tripled, despite doing everything we can to cut back on our use of natural gas. Our living room looks like a senior slumber party with several blankets on our chairs. I think you get the picture. The cost of water has increased too. We only water twice a week, and only one time during the day. Five minute showers are the new norm, ten minute showers are the new luxury. You would think that as we age we would eat less. Not true. We still need to buy the basic necessities, such as bread , milk and eggs etc.... We try to buy as much food on sale as possible, even going to several stores to find the best deals on the food items we use regularly. It's a struggle, but we manage for now. There are fewer deals out there especially on chicken, seafood and beef. We save a little on vegetables that we grow, but we are in competition with the bugs in our garden that also like what we attempt to grow. Such is gardening, but its still more money we have to spend at our local grocery stores for fresh vegetables and fruit. The cost of gasoline remains high, about \$5 a gallon at our local gas station in Beaumont, Calif. Again, we would love to buy an electric car, but it's prohibitively expensive even with the dealer and governmental incentives out there. So we are stuck with our aging 2008 Honda and 2002 Toyota gassers. At least we own these. All this being said, I humbly ask the City Council to please pass the 2.6 discretionary COLA for 2023. I know it will not solve all my economic concerns, but the additional 2.6 percent increase will

certainly help my wife and I as well as other LACERS members. There are LACERS members who are not as fortunate as me. I ask that you approve the 2.6 percent increase for them. This will lift them up a little and give them hope that their city cares for them and wants to do the right by helping them in this period of high inflation and economic uncertainty. Thank you for reading and considering my letter in support of the 2.6 percent discretionary COLA for 2023. Ronald E Monroe Retired Airport Safety Officer (Ontario Int Airport) 2014 911 Gleneagles Rd Beaumont, Calif 92223 (909) 732-6139

Communication from Public

Name: Baljit Singh Soni

Date Submitted: 05/13/2023 04:17 PM

Council File No: 23-0418

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council and Mayor. Please approve discretionary cola for retirees. As you know due to increased inflation last year and this year we retirees are now getting less for the same. As you know social security payments (which most city retirees don't receive) had increased 8.7% this year.