

Communication from Public

Name: Stuart Waldman
Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 10:00 AM
Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, On behalf of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA), I write to express serious concern about proposed Charter amendments that would alter the governance and operations of the Port of Los Angeles. In 2024, the San Pedro Bay Port Complex generated nearly 120 billion dollars in annual tax revenue, funding critical public services at the federal, state, and local levels. Any changes that introduce instability or uncertainty into Port governance risk undermining this vital revenue stream and shifting greater pressure onto taxpayers. The Port's importance to California's economy cannot be overstated. In 2024, the San Pedro Bay Port Complex produced roughly 893 billion dollars in economic activity—nearly 22 percent of the entire state economy—which directly translates into tax revenues that support infrastructure, public safety, education, and other essential services. Governance changes that weaken the Port's competitiveness will not only cost jobs; they will erode the fiscal base that cities and the state rely on to deliver core services. We are already seeing warning signs. Without continued modernization and a stable operating environment, losses will accelerate: California's share of Asian imports has fallen from about 55 percent to 37 percent since the early 2000s, resulting in fewer jobs and billions in lost economic activity and tax revenues. Charter provisions that constrain the Port's flexibility or embed detailed operational mandates would make it even harder to compete with ports on the East and Gulf Coasts that are aggressively investing and do not lock such policies into their governing charters. Millions of jobs depend on the health of California's ports. The port economy supports nearly 100,000 direct waterfront jobs and about 3.6 million jobs statewide across trucking, warehousing, rail, logistics, and small businesses. Those jobs generate income, sales, and business tax revenues that fund essential public services, meaning any disruption to port activity can reduce revenues and force taxpayers to make up the difference. VICA is particularly concerned that Charter changes could create uncertainty around leases, capital planning, and environmental investments, driving cargo—and the jobs and revenues it supports—elsewhere. Modernization at the Port is not a threat to workers; it is a driver of economic

opportunity. Modern terminals move cargo at nearly twice the rate of traditional facilities while generating more paid hours for California's more than 10,500 ILWU and part-time workers. That increased productivity supports more jobs and higher wages, which in turn generate additional public revenues that help fund the services taxpayers rely on. The City should be reinforcing this trajectory by preserving a stable, flexible governance structure—not inserting rigid mandates into the Charter that could slow or deter investment. For these reasons, VICA respectfully urges the City Council to reject proposed Charter amendments that would weaken the Port of Los Angeles' competitiveness and threaten the tax revenues and jobs that our communities depend on.



May 28, 2026

Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
Los Angeles City Council
Room 340, City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, Ca 90012

RE: Council File 26-0489 — Proposed Charter Amendments Impacting the Port of Los Angeles

Dear Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

On behalf of the Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA), I write to express serious concern about proposed Charter amendments that would alter the governance and operations of the Port of Los Angeles. In 2024, the San Pedro Bay Port Complex generated nearly 120 billion dollars in annual tax revenue, funding critical public services at the federal, state, and local levels. Any changes that introduce instability or uncertainty into Port governance risk undermining this vital revenue stream and shifting greater pressure onto taxpayers.

The Port's importance to California's economy cannot be overstated. In 2024, the San Pedro Bay Port Complex produced roughly 893 billion dollars in economic activity—nearly 22 percent of the entire state economy—which directly translates into tax revenues that support infrastructure, public safety, education, and other essential services. Governance changes that weaken the Port's competitiveness will not only cost jobs; they will erode the fiscal base that cities and the state rely on to deliver core services.

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For these reasons, VICA respectfully urges the City Council to reject proposed Charter amendments that would weaken the Port of Los Angeles' competitiveness and threaten the tax revenues and jobs that our communities depend on.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Waldman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart Waldman
VICA President

Communication from Public

Name: Chris Taylor

Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 11:42 AM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I write to encourage the Commission to reject the recommendations from the Charter Working Group. Weakening Civil Service protections lessens job security, commitment to projects, and merit-based hiring. The city needs committed, engaged staffing; Civil Service is crucial to this.

Communication from Public

Name: Leticia Gonzalez
Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 12:49 PM
Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing as Leticia Gonzalez, President of Local 3672 of AFSCME, to register our fierce opposition to the recommendations submitted by the LA City Charter Reform Commission (CRC) under Council File 26-0489. These proposals pose a direct threat to the bedrock of our municipal workforce—Civil Service protections—and are clearly an attempt to weaken our union rights. We urge you to reject these recommendations as they threaten the integrity and fairness of the city's hiring and retention processes, impacting every classification of city employee. Our concerns focus on the following key areas:

Increased Exempt Positions: The proposal to increase the number of positions exempt from Civil Service protections is unacceptable. This practice opens the door to favoritism and can ultimately decrease the quality of public service. Exempt positions would apply to anything deemed necessary, potentially including roles like Project Assistants/Coordinators, or any other role.

Changes to the Examination Process: The recommended change to a "merit" based evaluation of education, experience, and/or character will make it increasingly difficult to fill vacant positions. This subjective and opaque process threatens the objective standards currently in place.

Changes to Internal Promotion: We strongly oppose the proposal to change the internal promotion process, which would require existing employees to compete with external candidates for all vacant positions. This fundamentally undermines the career mobility of dedicated City employees.

Transfer of Authority: The recommendation to transfer authority from the Civil Service Commission to the general manager of the Personnel Department is a direct attack on our collective bargaining rights. This transfer neglects our rights to meet and confer over changes that directly impact our job classifications, pay, and the treatment of our colleagues. The recommendations outlined in Council File 26-0489 dismantle the protections our members rely on and diminish the voice of our union. We strongly urge the REIR Committee to vote against the Charter Reform Commission's recommendations and preserve the Civil Service system that serves as the foundation for a professional and accountable municipal government. Respectfully, Leticia Gonzalez President, Local 3672

Communication from Public

Name: Veronica Pastore

Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 03:00 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, As you evaluate the Charter Commission's recommendations, I stand with LA Forward in support of a package of common sense charter provisions to improve police accountability for Angelenos, including: - Allowing the Chief of Police to remove officers with repeated histories of harm - Ensuring LAPD honors ordinances passed through normal City Council processes; and - Ensuring LAPD protects the first amendment rights of free press and protest in its work These reforms don't give the Chief of Police or Council any special powers; they simply give the Chief and Council tools that other Departments have access to. Additionally, these reforms do nothing to change the high bar of removal of an employee, or the high bar of passing an ordinance with a council majority. These reforms simply reinforce powers typically held by City Council or department heads. I urge you to support all three of these reforms. Thank you, Veronica Pastore Venice

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Tures

Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 01:13 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: As a community member, I would like to voice my objection to LAWA's proposed change to the civil service rules for city employees. The Los Angeles civil service has long upheld high standards of employee quality and values, providing the best possible service to Angelenos and reporting to the Civil Service Commission. These proposed amendments to weaken the civil service standards that govern city hiring are just another attempt to cut costs at the expense of maintaining the top quality, strictly overseen departments that are crucial to our city. This creeping corporatization will make our city departments less independent, increase favoritism and conflicts of interest, and generally devalue what it means to work for the City of Los Angeles. Do the right thing and maintain civil service standards and the quality of our city.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/28/2026 05:48 PM

Council File No: 26-0489

Comments for Public Posting: I also want to bring to your attention concerns I have heard from several employees regarding the current workplace environment. Since the Personnel Department created the new LAPD Hiring Division, employee morale has noticeably declined. This was not the case in the past, but recently the environment has become overly strict and, for many, increasingly difficult to work in. Some employees have already left the department, and others are considering doing so. Several colleagues have expressed feeling as though they are constantly being monitored. I have also observed what appears to be favoritism, where certain employees have a close relationship with the supervisor while others feel excluded. Additionally, some employees have shared that they feel micromanaged, which contributes to the overall dissatisfaction. It is clear that something is not working within the Public Safety Division. Morale has significantly decreased, and employee retention has become a growing concern.