


MOTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Los Angeles Port Police Division has encountered difficulty recruiting senior leadership from other law enforcement agencies due to existing pension system restrictions by classification and pay grade. Currently, the Los Angeles City Charter allows “a Port Warden (Chief)” who is newly appointed from outside City service as the Chief of the Port Police (Chief) to opt out of automatic enrollment in the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension (LAFPP) plan and instead enroll in the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System (LACERS). The Chief is classified as a Port Warden II; an assistant chief of the Port Police is classified in the lower pay grade as a Port Warden I, who is automatically enrolled in and has no ability to opt out of LAFPP.

The LAFPP requires 20 years of service to qualify for a pension. Port Warden I is a senior leadership position. Prospective candidates, who are often hired from outside agencies after serving full careers, cannot plausibly achieve the 20 years of service necessary to qualify for a pension. A Charter amendment to allow a new Port Warden I to elect to participate in LACERS rather than LAFPP would improve the Port Police Division’s ability to attract qualified transfer candidates. Additionally, this could yield savings in recruitment costs and benefits payments.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the Office of the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Chief Legislative Analyst, to prepare and present the documents necessary to place before the voters on the November 2026 Ballot a measure that would amend Section 1700 of the City Charter to allow any Port Warden, regardless of pay grade, hired from outside City service to elect to participate in either the Los Angeles Fire and Police Pension plan or the Los Angeles City Employees’ Retirement System.

PRESENTED BY: 
TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL


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