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Police Pensions/DROP program

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To: Clerk.BudgetandFinanceCommittee@lacity.org

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As your committee reviews the pension provisions for the LAPD, it should raise for reconsideration the DROP program. Although the mayor negotiated a modification of the DROP program, following the extensive Los Angeles Times coverage of the program and its costs, which modification the City Council approved, this matter should be reconsidered and the DROP program should be deleted in the near future. The recently approved modification failed to address the basic value of the program. As the Los Angeles Times explained, contrary to what was envisioned at the outset of this program approximately two decades ago (a cost neutral program), DROP has cost the city and its taxpayers \$1 billion dollars or more from which the city and its residents have received little if any benefit. Sworn officers already have a handsome benefits and pension package, well deserved by those who have high risk jobs. But as made explicit by the Times' coverage, the DROP program has proven to be little more than an enrichment program for many officers, including the current chief of police, who already have good pensions and options for additional employment if they take retirement after 20 years of service. The tens of millions of dollars spent each year on the DROP program are clearly dollars that the city could use far more productively, including possibly hiring additional officers. In reviewing LAPD pensions as part of the budget process, your committee should, despite recent city council action, raise the need to delete the DROP program.

Thank you for your consideration of the issue.

Best regards,

Jane Goichman



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