



DAVID E. RYU
COUNCILMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

June 16, 2020

Hon. Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Special Investigators in the Controller's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Unit

Dear Members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

Thank you for your close attention to the FY20-21 proposed budget. It is without question one of the most difficult City budgets in years, but I have confidence in the Committee's ability to produce a revised budget that reflects the values of Angelenos and addresses the unique needs of our communities.

We write to you today to request the addition of regular position authority and 12-months funding for four Special Investigator positions to support the Office of the Controller's Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Unit. City law establishes the Fraud, Waste, and Abuse unit in the Controller's office to review complaints and investigate allegations of misuse of authority, theft, and contractor fraud, among other violations. In 2008, the Unit was staffed by four Special Investigators. Due to the recession, however, between the years of 2009 - 2011, three of those positions were cut. Since 2011 funding and position authority for just one Special Investigator has been maintained.

The City of Los Angeles has a long history of campaign finance reform and anti-corruption efforts. Yet, time and time again, we have seen our elected officials, candidates, and high-ranking city staff come under scrutiny for violation of campaign finance laws, city ethics laws, and federal corruption laws, with not nearly enough action being taken to address this problem. While laws have been enacted to help curtail corruption, the City lacks sufficient staff dedicated to rooting out this conduct.

Corruption is a violation of the public's trust, upon which all democratic government rests. Trust is our foundation, and at a time when the City of Los Angeles faces numerous crises, we need the honest engagement of every Angeleno to meet the challenges of our time. City Hall must take corruption seriously and to root out and rebuild that foundation.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we encourage the committee to provide authority and fund the above-mentioned positions in the Controller's Fraud, Waste and Abuse Unit, and please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. E. Ryu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "Ryu".

David E. Ryu
Councilmember, District Four