**Subject:** Written public communications for November 17, 2015, 7:00 P.M. Regular City Council meeting

**From:** Mike Robbins (MikeRobbins2@yahoo.com)

**To:** AllCouncilAndClerks@ElSegundo.org; MShilling@ElSegundo.org;

**Cc:** MikeRobbins2@yahoo.com;

**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2015

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### VIA EMAIL

**November 17, 2015**

**Re:** Written Public Hearing Written Public Communication for the El Segundo Regular City Council Meeting on November 17, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

**To:** El Segundo City Council, City Clerk, Deputy City Clerk, City Manager, City Attorney.

**From:** Michael D. Robbins, former El Segundo City Councilman and 30-year El Segundo resident.

Here is my written public communications regarding Consent Agenda item #10 for the November 17, 2015, 7:00 P.M. El Segundo Regular City Council meeting.

Please distribute it to the entire City Council and the City Clerk, City Manager, and City Attorney, and post it on the official City web site at ElSegundo.org on the City Council Agendas web page, [http://www.ElSegundo.org/depts/elected/agendas.asp](http://www.ElSegundo.org/depts/elected/agendas.asp), as is customary.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Robbins
MikeRobbins2@yahoo.com

PublicSafetyProject.org

YouTube.com/user/PublicSafetyProject
This written public hearing public communication for the November 17, 2015 7:00 P.M. El Segundo Regular City Council meeting addresses Consent Agenda item #10 and the City’s Civil Service system.

The City must abolish or seriously reform its Civil Service system and police, firefighters and other labor union contracts. It makes no sense for city employee compensation and job security to be based on longevity and seniority rather than on job performance. Also, the City must eliminated the automatic annual salary step raises, periodic longevity raises, and other special compensation raises that are in addition to the general annual union contract raises. Salaries should be based on job skills and performance, fair competitive market supply and demand, and what the City can afford without raising taxes.

Cut the Raises

The El Segundo Total Compensation Survey on the City website shows the police and firefighters are substantially over-compensated when compared to ten other South Bay and nearby survey cities.

The police and firefighter unions changed their campaign slogan to “We don’t want raises. We just want to stop the cuts.” But they already got their raises – many huge raises during the Great Recession – that are budget-busters. And they are talking about only one out of many annual and periodic raises hidden in their union contracts, including raises on top of raises.

There are no new police or firefighter staffing cuts as they want us to believe. The City Council is funding three additional police positions. And if the firefighters got their way, we would have fewer firefighters per shift. They put Measure P on the 4/10/2012 ballot to maximize their compensation, but reduce staffing to only 12 firefighters and no paramedic transport ambulances per shift.

The firefighters lied to the voters, saying that signing their initiative petition would preserve our local fire department, when it would have disbanded it, forced El Segundo to contract with Los Angeles County for an inferior level of service, and transferred the firefighters to the County. The fire union lobbied the City Council (2/15/11 meeting) to enact Measure P directly into law without letting us vote on it. When we finally got to vote, 90.1% voted “NO”, even though the firefighters probably spent over $100,000 on their campaign.

We cannot trust them.

Union Offers and Counter-Offers
The El Segundo police and firefighter “associations” (unions) spent more than $10,000 in their dishonest labor contract campaign since 5/28/15, including 11 half-page El Segundo Herald ads, two city-wide mailers, and mobile billboards driven around town, attacking Mayor Suzanne Fuentes and our City Council for doing their job to protect our city from bankruptcy.

The unions claimed (7/30/15 ad) “We don’t want raises. We just want to stop the cuts.” False. The Police Union Contract Offers and Counter-Offers finally posted on the City website shows they want 9% in general pay raises (3% per year for 3 years), including retroactive raises, in addition to automatic 5% annual step raises, periodic longevity raises, and various special compensation raises hidden in their union contract. They want the City to pay most of the CalPERS Pension Employee Contribution, in addition to the full Employer Contribution. They want taxpayers to fund nearly all of their 3 to 6 million dollar pensions and their healthcare. And they want to work only 3 days per week.

There’s no budget surplus as the unions claimed. The City must replenish the Reserve Fund, repay money borrowed from the Equipment Replacement Fund, and fund the backlog of tens of millions of dollars in deferred infrastructure maintenance.

Police and firefighter total compensation has been about $150,000 to $385,000 each per year, due to union campaigning to elect City Councilmembers. The unions are not being mistreated. It is they who are mistreating us with their Culture of Entitlement, Ingratitude, and Corruption.

Overpriced and Imperfect

The El Segundo police and fire unions have retired fire department employees extolling their perfection to defend huge pay raises. They’re overpriced, and usually do a good job, but not always. Here are some examples.

One police officer took an unauthorized and unreported hour break reading a newspaper in a patrol car at the beach during patrol duty. Another left a patrol car unattended with the engine running and windows down, in front of City Hall on Holly Ave., across from Stuft Pizza where kids hang out. That attractive nuisance could have cost lives and millions of tax dollars had a kid taken it for a joyride and crashed.

El Segundo police sergeant Rex Fowler caused an accident that killed Hawthorne police motorcycle officer Andrew Garton, during escort duty in Torrance for a royal funeral procession for Manhattan Beach police officer Mark Vazquez, who died of cancer. Garton’s widow sued El Segundo for $25 million for wrongful death, and Hawthorne filed a $718,655 claim for damages against El Segundo.
Firefighter Michael Archambault was arrested, convicted, and sentenced for shoplifting five products totaling $354.95 from Costco. He was allowed to retire early with a $110,251/year pension.

An El Segundo resident, a firefighter for another agency, suffered permanent disability because, he said, the paramedics claimed he was okay and refused to transport him to the hospital while he was having a stroke, allowing them to get back to the fire station to watch a big sports game on TV.

**Paramedic Ambulance Hospital Transport Fees**

Residents are now billed $1,853.75 for a paramedic ambulance ride to the hospital although taxes already pay dearly for fire and paramedic services. It makes no sense to charge El Segundo residents $1,853.75 for a paramedic ambulance hospital transport fees when our taxes already pay for fire and paramedic services, and when the City and its taxpayers are still paying police and firefighters total annual compensation from $150,000 to more than $385,000 each per year as a result of the police and fire unions supporting the campaigns of City Council members who then negotiate their pay and pension increases in secret meetings behind closed doors.

There is an inherent and unavoidable conflict of interest when government employee unions support political campaigns to hire their own bosses whose votes determine their pay and pension increases and our tax increases.

That concludes my written public communication for the November 17, 2015 7:00 PM El Segundo City Council meeting.