

**Harada, Patricia**

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**Subject:** FW: August 15th CC Meeting - Agenda Item related to "Retiree Medical Insurance Contribution"

**From:** Robert Turnbull

**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2023 5:18 PM

**To:** \*ALL CITY COUNCIL <[allcouncil@elsegundo.org](mailto:allcouncil@elsegundo.org)>

**Cc:** Voss, Barbara <[bvoss@elsegundo.org](mailto:bvoss@elsegundo.org)>; George, Darrell <[dgeorge@elsegundo.org](mailto:dgeorge@elsegundo.org)>; Hensley, Mark

**Subject:** August 15th CC Meeting - Agenda Item related to "Retiree Medical Insurance Contribution"

Hi Honorable Mayor Drew Boyles, Mayor Pro Tem Chris Pimentel and Councilmembers Pirsztuk, Giroux and Baldino,

Happy Friday. I am writing you and have Cc'd the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and longtime City Attorney Mark Hensley to bring to your attention and raise significant citizen concern and outrage about an alleged/proposed agenda item being drafted by the Office of HR Director Rebecca Redyk coming your way to be heard at the August 15th Council Meeting to modify current language of Section 1A2.108 of the El Segundo Administrative Code, entitled, "Insurance Benefits - Retiree Medical - City Contribution."

Current language reads "Employees (*including City Council Members*) appointed to positions after July 1, 2007 who concurrently service retire from Cal PERS and the City of El Segundo after a minimum of five full-time years of service with the City of El Segundo are eligible to receive a City provided retiree medical insurance contribution.

This language exists because this generous but extremely costly benefit was designed to specifically reward City of El Segundo Employees and Council Members by caring for them long after they cared and served the Citizens and Business Community of El Segundo.

When this benefit was first approved by Council many years ago, they neglected to include the language "five full-time years of service with the City of El Segundo" and soon they realized, after a City of Manhattan Beach Secretary came to El Segundo for two weeks of employment and then service retired, receiving the lifetime retiree medical insurance contribution. Then it was the two-year employee, Public Works Director that received the same benefit due to his age and service retirement from CalPERS.

There are probably numerous other examples that the City can research for you, to provide historical perspective, which caused a prudent and fiscally correct City Council at the time to draft a resolution and approve it to modify the language to at least make the lateral employee coming to El Segundo from some other City to work in our City full-time for a **minimum of five years** or like Council Members, **two terms** to meet the five year requirement, before receiving this costly but deserving benefit for those that have honorably served our community.

Mayor and City Council, please don't be fooled and influenced by long term CalPers Employees that have come here from other cities like Newport Beach, Duarte, Santa Monica, Downey or Pomona and allow them to fool you into thinking this is an appropriate move to improve recruitment when they all have a personal stake in the matter. Recruitment and RETENTION is what you need at the highest level and changing this lower than the existing 5 years would be the worst move this council could take.

This is far from a cost saving measure for the City of El Segundo and would just cripple even more the future of the often-struggling OPEB Fund.

You don't want these kind of improprieties in our local Herald, or on social media. This would not look good for the City Council of El Segundo, the City Manager, HR Director and any other short term department heads in the Management Confidential group looking to set themselves up on their way out without serving the City for at least 5 years.

This could also further impact and upset the already struggling taxpayers in this community.

I must admit, I have not seen the written staff report as of this email and I do look forward to seeing it if the City Manager tries to move forward with it. I can assure you though, the rumblings and information swirling around this community already about this alleged or proposed agenda item does not look good for Human Resources and City Staff. If it has reached me, a retiree that has been gone from the City for 6 years and other retirees and residents, that is not good for your business. I'm just trying to give you a heads up and one perspective of something that will go sideways if not properly examined and evaluated.

I welcome all phone calls and written responses from my elected officials to discuss this in greater detail and I welcome the City Leadership to fact check what I have provided in this quick e-mail today.

I would hope at the least you could respond to me and acknowledge receipt of this e-mail since I rarely get the benefit of that.

Looking forward to hearing from someone interested on this topic.

Respectfully,  
Bob Turnbull  
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