



Los Angeles County
**Professional
Peace Officers
Association**

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July 28, 2020

The Honorable Kathryn Barger
Chair, Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 869
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisor Barger:

The Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association represents over 9,000 current and retired County employees. As members who live and work in the area, we are grateful for your recognition of under-funded community programs and appreciate all efforts to improve Los Angeles County.

However, after conversations with those of you who were kind enough to return my phone calls, PPOA continues to be profoundly concerned about this issue, and very much opposed to this last minute approach to a charter amendment, which could have a devastating effect on county residents. Ballot box budgeting is nothing more than a complete abdication of your elected responsibility as fiduciaries. We agree with the LA Times, it's "a bad idea and poor substitute for careful study, deliberation and decision making." Changes like this require serious dialogue as well as in-depth analysis of its effects, legal review, and examination of unanticipated outcomes. We strongly urge the Honorable Supervisors of the Board to scrutinize the in-depth legal opinion provided to each of your offices by ALADS yesterday, which hopefully reiterates a few of our concerns.

Legality aside, WHY are we entertaining sweeping changes to our county system, when we are facing a financial crisis from this pandemic, which is anticipated to be worse than the 2008 recession? During these unprecedented times, County leadership needs to be focused on the health and safety of its constituents, not political agendas. The timing of this endeavor appears to be poorly advised, ill timed, and an attempt to be relevant during a time of political activism and strife.

Additionally, WHY should unionized county workers, who through this pandemic have been considered ESSENTIAL as disaster service workers by definition, NOW face potential layoffs? Even though PPOA represents sworn peace officers in three County agencies, we continue to emphasize that



we are a labor organization, with numerous classifications including non-sworn county employees such as Public Safety Dispatchers, Security Officers, and Custody Assistants, some of whom will face irreparable harm as a result of any defunding. PPOA cannot support this action of the Board, and to protect our members, and the jobs of other union members of Los Angeles County, we join our brothers and sisters as partners in labor coalitions as well as many civic organizations, in opposition of not only this motion, but if need be in defeating this dangerous ballot measure in November.

As the President of PPOA we urge you to please initiate and/or continue discussions with us and other county labor organizations before initiating such drastic modifications to the County Charter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Collaboratively,



Tab J. Rhodes
President

cc: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District
Supervisor Janice Hahn, Fourth District
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District
Sachi Hamai, Chief Executive Officer