



COALITION OF PROBATION UNIONS

*Representing: L.A. County Probation Department's Correction
and Field Deputies, Supervisors, and Directors*

Local 685 – AFSCME

Hans Liang, President

Local 1967 – AFSCME

Deborah Lares, President

BU 702 – SEIU 721 Joint Council

Jim Schoengarth, President

July 27, 2020

Hon. Kathryn Barger, Chair
County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street, 8th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Board Resolution, July 28, 2020
Proposed Charter Amendment re: County Budgeting

Dear Supervisor Barger:

The Coalition of Probation Unions, which includes AFSCME Locals 685 and 1967, and SEIU 721 Joint Council – Bargaining Unit 702, writes in opposition to the Board Resolution placing a proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2020 ballot concerning County budgeting based upon the legal positions outlined below. Further, we write in opposition because this Board should never abdicate its most critical and basic role of developing the County's budget.

While the aforementioned Unions have, over the years, disagreed with this Board on budget matters, we have recognized that the Board is the place where budget decisions are made and where the public and critical stakeholders like the Probation Unions come to advocate our positions. The proposed Resolution would abdicate this most critical and basic role for this Board.

AFSCME Locals 685 and 1967 and SEIU Local 721 – BU 702, also note that the County of Los Angeles' Employee Relations Ordinance, Section 5.04.250 (E) (1), requires the County provide impacted labor organizations advance notice of a proposal such as this one to amend the County Charter. This 90-day notice period contemplates the ability of impacted organizations to engage in accelerated negotiations, mediation, and fact-finding processes that would occur during the period. These processes are mandatory when requested by any party. By this letter, the aforementioned Unions assert our rights under Section 5.04.250 (E) of the County Code.

We collectively also assert that the provisions of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, Government Code Section 3504, which place requirements on the Board before it can proceed to place a Charter amendment affecting employee relations on the ballot. By this letter, the aforementioned Unions assert our rights under Government Code Section 3504.

We further assert that the County’s budget authority under the County Budget Act, Government Code Section 29000, et seq., is implicated by the proposed Resolution. As well, the proposed Resolution would be an unlawful restriction on the discretion of future Boards in their budget powers. As such, the proposed Resolution is unlawful.

Based upon our Members’ occupational purpose, the Coalition of Probation Unions strongly endorses rehabilitation efforts as well as funding. Our work brings our Members directly inside the vital work of restorative justice, and we work collaboratively with the myriad of community organizations that provide such a valuable resource to our community. While we endorse this collaborative work, we strongly believe that your Board must maintain its primary role in developing the County’s budget. As such, we must oppose the proposed Resolution.

Sincerely,



Hans Liang, President
Local 685 – AFSCME



Deborah Lares, President
Local 1967 – AFSCME



Jim Schoengarth, President
BU 702 – SEIU 721 Joint Council

cc: Board of Supervisors
Sachi A. Hamai, CEO
Ray Leyva, Interim Chief Probation Officer