



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.cityoflaverne.org

The Honorable Senator Rubio
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 443 (Rubio): Retirement: joint powers authority: Cities of La Verne and Covina.

City of La Verne – Notice of Sponsorship/Support

Dear Senator Rubio,

I am writing on behalf of the City of La Verne to express strong support for SB 443, a critical piece of legislation that would authorize the cities of La Verne and Covina, and any subsequent public agencies joining their Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for a regional police communications dispatch center, to transfer their senior public safety officials while maintaining their Classic CalPERS status.

As you know, the cities of La Verne and Covina are collaborating to establish a JPA aimed at improving public safety services by creating a regional dispatch center. This initiative offers significant benefits, including enhanced efficiency, resource sharing, and cost savings, all while improving the overall service delivery to the community.

However, under the current interpretation of CalPERS guidelines, employees transferring to the JPA more than 180 days after its formation may be denied the ability to retain their Classic CalPERS status and would instead be subject to the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA). This presents a major barrier to the successful regionalization of the dispatch center, particularly for senior communication officers who would be crucial to the JPA's success. The potential loss of Classic status is a significant disincentive for these experienced employees, who are integral to the JPA's operations. This also risks creating strong opposition from labor unions and public agencies, potentially jeopardizing efforts to expand the JPA and undermine the long-term success of the initiative.

SB 443 addresses this issue by clarifying that any new public agency joining the existing JPA qualifies as an "exercise of a common power," allowing the transfer of employees within 180 days and preserving their Classic CalPERS status. This will foster broader participation in the JPA and promote the retention of senior public safety officers, ensuring the initiative can move forward successfully and deliver long-term benefits to our communities.

For these reasons, we fully support SB 443 and urge its swift passage. We believe this bill will significantly enhance public safety, improve services, and provide a model for other communities seeking to regionalize services for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

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