

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND POLICE PENSIONS

701 EAST 3RD STREET
SUITE 200
LOS ANGELES, CA 90013-1843

(213) 279-3000
(844) 88-LAFPP (52377)
FAX (213) 628-7716
TDD (213) 628-7713

PENSIONS@LAFPP.COM

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GENERAL MANAGER

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February 19, 2021

Ms. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
313 N. Figueroa St., Room 806
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dr. Ferrer:

Over the past 12 months, the COVID-19 pandemic has upended the lives of our residents, businesses and employees. The COVID-19 virus has affected the way local government provides services to the public including critical healthcare and public safety services. Along with healthcare workers, our law enforcement officers are critical for the continued safety of our communities. Police officers and other law enforcement professionals are integral within our societal framework and must be protected. As such, the Board of Los Angeles Fire and Police Pensions (Board) strongly urge you as Director of Los Angeles County's Public Health Department to immediately prioritize police officers and other law enforcement professionals by authorizing the immediate availability of vaccinations for these professionals. The Board wholeheartedly support vaccinations for firefighters and healthcare professionals, but law enforcement professionals are also on the frontline serving, and protecting our communities.

Within the Los Angeles Police Department, over 2,500 police officers and police department employees have contracted the COVID-19 virus, and several officers have lost their lives due to this devastating virus. The Board understands and acknowledges the need to vaccinate as many people as possible. But no group is more important than police officers that protect Los Angeles City residents and communities. Again, we ask that you rectify this oversight and immediately offer vaccinations for police officers and law enforcement professionals.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support for all public safety and law enforcement professionals within Los Angeles County.

Respectfully,

Brian Pendleton, Board President

c: Board of Fire and Police Pensions

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