

RESIDENT PETITION REQUESTING AN AUDIT OF THE CITY OF WEST COVINA

To: Elaine M. Howle, CPA, California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200, Sacramento, California 95814

November 2019

We, the undersigned residents of the City of West Covina, petition the California State Auditor to conduct an audit of our city and recommend corrective actions due to recent decisions our city council has made which will increase our city's fiscal instability and likelihood of bankruptcy.

Issue 1: The City of West Covina is ranked 17th worst out of 471 cities on the California State Auditor's recent list of "Top Cities Facing Fiscal Challenges". Despite West Covina's disastrous financial health ranking, our City Council recently approved a 12% pay increase for both the West Covina Police Officers' Association (POA) and the West Covina Firefighters Association (FFA). They approved these raises without asking for concessions on the part of the unions or recognizing the impact such a large pay increase will have on future years' budgets or future pension costs. West Covina was already ranked the worst of all 471 cities on the State Auditor's list for "Future Pensions Cost Risk."

Issue 2: A resident paid by the West Covina Police Officers' Association (POA) as a consultant sponsored a sales tax increase initiative for the March 2020 ballot. If this initiative is successful, the Finance and Audit Committee also will be eliminated. The "Audit Committee" was established by a previous city council in direct response to the State Controller's recommendation in the 2015 Audit of the City of West Covina. The "Audit Committee" has asked hard questions about ongoing excessive public safety overtime. The POA's initiative establishes a new "Oversight Committee" requiring public safety union membership and requires union approval of any changes to the committee by the city council.

Issue 3: The newly-approved Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) between the City and the POA and FFA requires that if the city obtains new general fund revenue of \$4 and \$3 million, respectively, the public safety personnel will receive an additional salary increase to permanently maintain salaries at the third highest among ten designated surveyed cities. Such requirements are fiscally irresponsible because they not only fail to recognize the city may not have the resources in the future, but also limits the city's ability to address other future needs, especially pension costs.

PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE DATE	EMAIL / PHONE