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C. Lewis 3/13/2023
Taxpayers Assoc.

Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County

To the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County

Reference: Agenda item 23-0417 Resolution 038-2023

The Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County believes in transparency of our government's decision-making processes. I am addressing the Board in regard to agenda item 24 this date of February 21, 2023.

This item has not met our transparency level for the general public, neither by timing or the ability for the general public to view agenda item 24 without digging deeper into what this item truly means to the taxpayers.

The Taxpayers Association has diligently reviewed the County's Charter over the last few months and we see attempted connection of 504 to other salaries and benefit package in Resolution 038-2023.

Charter 504 directly states the employee "comparable class of position" shall mean a group of positions substantially similar with respect to qualities or duties or responsibilities stated in the Charter. Resolution 038-2023 does not meet that definition.

Our question to you is, why are you continuing to tie other employee and elected classifications to Charter 504 and law enforcement.

By inserting the Sheriff/Coroner/Public Administrator, you are tying your hands to negotiate salaries for these other positions. You are beginning to set a policy, as you did on January 3, 2023, by giving County Counsel 1% above the Sheriffs salary. I hope you have also considered the 2% pay increase into perpetuity for all county employees for inflation in August of 2022.

On January 30, 2023 the CAO Don Ashton spoke before the Taxpayers Association and the general public on zoom. In that presentation the CAO admitted, on questioning, that you the BOS are building a "HOUSE OF CARDS", by tying other employee classifications and electeds to 504 in the county Charter.

The State Supreme Court has ruled, that if any city or county goes bankrupt, they will not be exempt from their CalPERS obligations. This means the Taxpayer must pay regardless of your decision to approve this agenda item 23-0417, but this approval will only put a higher burden on the taxpayer.

As more and more money is committed to CalPERS in higher salaries there will be less and less services to our communities. You will be forced to raise fees, fines, penalties, reassessments and permit fees to fill the cash void, this could also mean laying off county employees.

The Taxpayer's Association is asking you to stop using Charter item 504 to boost salaries and pensions and losing control of your negotiating ability, you are clouding the intent of 504. This is an abuse of power against the residents of El Dorado County.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol Louis, President