



PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –Tuesday, April 8, 2014

ENGLANDER SUBMITS MOTION REQUIRING CONVICTED FELONS TO FORFEIT CITY PENSIONS

LOS ANGELES—Today Councilmember Mitchell Englander introduced a motion, signed on to by six other members of the City Council, the maximum allowed under the Brown Act, asking the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance requiring the forfeiture of the pension of any number of the City’s three pension systems by a City employee convicted of a felony involving the use of their City employment position, including, as feasible, cases where the felony conviction occurs after the City employee has already retired. This motion follows the conviction of veteran City building inspector sentenced last month to prison in an FBI corruption case who continues to receive a yearly pension of more than \$72,000.

While the State of California has enacted a law requiring public employees convicted of a felony to give up retirement benefits earned during the period when their crimes were committed, that State forfeiture requirement does not apply to City pension systems. The State lacks the authority to regulate systems in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, San Diego and San Jose.

“This is common sense, if a City employee is convicted of a felony involving the use of their City position, the convicted employee should have to forfeit their pension,” said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. “This should be a fundamental understanding among all City employees so that it can act as a deterrent for any person thinking of using their City position to engage in felonious conduct.”

“We need to eliminate this loophole and explore the feasibility of retroactively eliminating the pension benefit, if not in this case then in all future cases where a felony conviction occurs after a City employee has already retires.”

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