

Taking Your Service Pension Soon?

Because the road from work to retirement isn't always the smoothest, we're hoping the following information will help to level out any chuckholes or speed humps.

Service Pension Timeline Checklist

Beginning of the year you retire – depending on your retirement date – you might want to adjust the amount of money going into Deferred Compensation if you want to receive the maximum in the year you retire. Deferred Comp deposits can only come from payroll deduction. Deferred Comp contact info is listed below.

60-90 days – Call the LAFPP DROP/Service Pensions section at (213) 279-3100 to schedule your appointment no less than 45 working days prior to your desired DROP exit date. A “DROP Distribution Election Request” form will be mailed to you to elect how you would like to receive your DROP account balance (also available at lafpp.com).

60 days – Contact Personnel Services Section to make an appointment. They will prepare a “Letter of Intent” for you to sign. They will keep a copy and you will bring your copy to the Pension Department for their records. You can also have a new retirement identification photo taken. Members are encouraged to wear their shirt and badge for this photo. This whole process should only take about 15 minutes. They open from 0730 to 1500. Contact Sandy Lai at (213) 978-3765 or Sandy.Lai@lacity.org to make your appointment.

60 days – Contact Department of Pensions for an appointment. Scheduling it on the same day after your visit to Personnel will make the process much more efficient, as you will need the Letter of Intent when you meet with Pensions. If you have decided what you will do with your DROP money you can fill out the form they give you and sign it right there, avoiding having to have the document notarized.

30-60 days – Contact Credit Union (or your financial institution) for Automatic Deposit of your pension check. For more information, call (800) 231-1626 or go to <https://firefightersfirstcu.org>

30-60 days – Contact the Los Angeles Firemen's Relief Association. They will send a payroll deduction card for Relief Association monthly dues deduction, a card for the LAFRA Medical Plan (or Kaiser) deduction and the Relief Association Retirement Checklist form. Contact Member Services at memberservices@lafra.org or call (323) 259-5200 Ext. 222 or 223.

30-60 days – Contact UFLAC for pension mailing. They should provide payroll deduction cards for dental and life insurance. Call (800) 252-8352 for more information, or go to www.uflac.org

30-60 days – Determine how you will receive your DROP account balance. If you are going to rollover all or a portion of the monies into a qualified account, set this up with your financial

institution of choice. If you choose to roll it into Deferred Comp, contact them and they will provide a partially filled out form for rollover of DROP money into Deferred Compensation and various disbursement documents for your Deferred Compensation monies. Deferred Comp is located within the Employee Benefits Department at City Hall: 200 N. Spring St. Room 867, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Walk-ins only, no appointments. They open from 0800 to 1600. For more information, call (213) 978-1601 or visit la457.voya.com

20 days – Call Department of Pensions to make sure they have received any documents you sent them and to ensure everything is progressing smoothly. You can request an exit medical through the Personnel Services Section. If you have an existing medical problem that could require lifetime care, there is nothing you need to do at this time. If your Work Comp doctor placed you on Permanent and/or Stationary status, he/she should have addressed the issue of future medical care in his/her report to your Work Comp carrier. If not, you might want to contact the Medical Liaison Unit and discuss your status.

If you don't have the Relief Association Fire Medical Plan (or LAFRA Kaiser) or UFLAC dental insurance, you will have to contact your respective carrier to provide a new payroll deduction card.

Please note these guidelines are subject to change and it is up to you to find out the current steps and requirements directly from each of the organizations and departments listed.

LAFPP Website References

DROP Handbook – www.lafpp.com/content/drop-handbook

DROP Program Provisions - www.lafpp.com/node/1904

DROP Entry Forms – www.lafpp.com/node/1707

DROP Exit Forms – www.lafpp.com/node/1707

Here's to your happy and healthy retirement!