



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

April 2, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support the American Association of University Women's Sexual Assault Awareness Month and City Manager referral for Bay Area Women Against Rape Workshops

RECOMMENDATION

Support the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Denim Day event on April 24th. Also, refer to the City Manager to see if it would be possible to hold "Bay Area Women Against Rape" workshops in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

According to the 2012 Berkeley Crime Report, reported rapes in the City of Berkeley nearly doubled from 20 in 2011 to 39 in 2012. These numbers do not include unverified or suspected/non-reported rapes. Many of these occurred in the vicinity of the UC Berkeley Campus. Overwhelmingly, the rapists were someone the victims knew. The report recommends that the City should respond to the drastic increase in reported rapes by implementing additional sexual assault awareness and prevention training programs.

The AAUW is supporting the Denim Day event, which takes place on April 24th, to show solidarity to one particular woman whose rapist was acquitted after the judge ruled that because her jeans were so tight that she must have helped the man remove them therefore the sexual intercourse was consensual. The group is asking for individuals to show their support by wearing jeans on April 24th and donating money to help victims of sexual assault deal with the horrific aftereffects. Denim Day has been an annual event since 1999 and is spreading across the nation.

The Bay Area Women Against Rape in previous years has conducted workshops in Berkeley that were widely recognized as being powerful and effective at educating Berkeley residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

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