

Office of the Mayor Mayor Tom Bates

# CONSENT CALENDAR April 30, 2013

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Tom Bates

Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Status Report of the Vacancy Registration Fee

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Request the City Manager to report on the status of the Vacancy Registration Fee which was approved by the Berkeley City Council on September 20, 2011.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unknown.

## **BACKGROUND**

On December 7, 2010, the Berkeley City Council adopted the "Encouraging Economic Development and Increasing City Revenue from Business Activity" authored by Councilmembers Capitelli, Wengraf and Moore.

Section 2F of the proposal requests the City Manager to "Investigate providing incentives to property owners to encourage leasing and establish disincentives to motivate property owners not to leave their properties vacant". To see the Council item please see the following web page:

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level 3 - City Council/2010/12Dec/2010-12-07 Item 23 Encouraging Economic Development and Increasing City Revenue.pdf

Consequently, on September 20, 2011 Councilmember Arreguin referred a "suggested framework" to address vacant storefronts. The referral passed unanimously asking City staff to first address vacant blighted properties. To see Councilmember Arreguin's referral to the City Manager for a Vacancy Registration Fee, please see the following web page:

http://www.ci.berkeley.ca.us/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level 3 - City Council/2011/09Sep/2011-09-20 Item 55 Referral to City Manager Vacancy Registration Fee.pdf

Mayor Bates is requesting a status report on the Vacancy Registration Fee that was passed by the Berkeley City Council on September 20, 2011. Additionally, Mayor Bates requests the City Manager to specifically focus on an escalating progressive vacancy fee structure and consider an exemption or appeal process to address economic hardship faced by the property owner.

### CONTACT PERSON

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