



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

September 17, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Subject: City Manager Referral: Berkeley Animal Shelter Lost Pet Photographs

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the City Manager that lost pets brought to the Berkeley Animal Shelter have their photos taken as soon as possible so that they can be displayed online for the public to see.

BACKGROUND:

Cities such as San Francisco and San Jose make sure that images of animals accompany the description the day they are found. Doing so allows concerned owners of a lost pet better access to information about their pets and to help locate them more quickly. Taking a photo of an animal brought to the shelter is quick, easy, and will help in reuniting owners with lost pets.

PetHarbor.com is a website that acts as a search engine for lost, found and adoptable pets. The website works by coordinating with animal shelters to provide information on animals that have been brought to the shelter. This is the website used by many US cities, including Berkeley, San Francisco and San Jose.

In a review of the PetHarbor.com site on August 20, thirteen out of twenty cats from the Berkeley Animal Shelter do not have pictures, including all cats between the dates of July 12 and August 20. While a written description of the animal is provided and can be beneficial, the most accurate way to identify a pet is through an image.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

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