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CONSENT CALENDAR
September 17, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Councilmember Max Anderson
Councilmember Darryl Moore
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support Proclamation for National Coming Out Day October 11, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:
Support a proclamation for National Coming Out Day on October 11, 2013.

BACKGROUND:
National Coming Out day is a day to accept ourselves as who we are, live a healthy life of honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered, and share our stories with those who love and support us.

It is commonly believed that the "invisibility" of this minority group allows for the perpetuation of discrimination and hatred against women and men on the basis of their sexual orientation.

Berkeley has a long history of supporting equal rights for the lesbian/gay/bisexual community. This day provides an impetus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered individuals to "come out" in some form with the intention of allowing others a chance to question their own prejudices and stereotypes about this group of people.

National Coming Out Day has become a symbol of celebration and remembrance of those individuals who challenged us, inspired us, fought for equal civil and human rights, redefined families, educated the general public by combating stereotypes and myths, and supported us with open arms in our schools, homes, work, places of worship, and community in our life decisions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
None.

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NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

WHEREAS, residents of the Bay Area have enjoyed the rewards of diversity that belonging to one of the most eclectic and consequently politically vibrant communities in the nation inevitably promises; and

WHEREAS, On September 20th, 2011 the U.S. government officially ended "Don't ask, don't tell," and the Obama administration has agreed to stop defending the Defense of Marriage Act.

WHEREAS, a vital aspect of maintaining an environment in which our collective creative and political energy can continue to thrive is to provide an arena in which every member of our community has the opportunity to not only contribute to Berkeley's ever increasing diversity but be included as well; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley has historically enjoyed the unique position of hearing and responding to a nation's impassioned call for change resulting in the Civil Rights Movement and the ensuing pledge to continue to support all areas of civil rights in terms of promoting not only tolerance but acceptance of each and every individual as a unique and vital member of the human race; and

WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day grew out of the desire to honor the invaluable contributions of those individuals both involved and remembered in the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights which helped to establish Lesbian and Gay rights as an issue important not merely to those involved in the queer community but to us all; and

WHEREAS, Coming Out Day is the public celebration of queer, identity, encouraging an entire community to stand up for not only whom they happen to love, but, far more importantly, for the underlying universal ideals of honesty, tolerance and acceptance through visibility and a commitment to encouraging others to have the courage to "come out" in the hopes of eroding the cycle of discrimination against all members of minority groups that originated from a spirit of animosity and intolerance;

WHEREAS, despite encouraging progress that has been made in terms of dispelling both the insidious stereotypes that surround Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual individuals as well as numerous other forms of discrimination, there remains a significant amount of homophobic inspired discrimination and violence that together creates a dire need for the citizens of Berkeley to come together in support of every individual, regardless of orientation, who has experienced the outcome of this kind of negative atmosphere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that "the City Council of the City of Berkeley" hereby proclaims October 11, 2013 as National Coming Out Day in the City of Berkeley and we urge all citizens of our City to support those individuals courageous enough to have already come out and to continually foster an environment in which others may find the strength to do the same in the recognition and celebration of our differences.

Mayor Tom Bates	Councilmember Max Anderson	Councilmember Jesse Arreguin
Councilmember Laurie Capitelli	Councilmember Linda Maio	Councilmember Darryl Moore
Councilmember Susan Wengraf	Councilmember Kriss Worthington	Councilmember Gordon Wozniak