



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
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CONSENT CALENDAR April 1, 2014

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

Subject: City Manager Referral: Installation of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in city buildings.

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager consideration of installation of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in the city's most utilized buildings to save lives.

BACKGROUND

As a leading cause of death in North America, sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) takes 450,000 lives in the United States alone every year. While most such deaths happen in the home, roughly 20 percent occur in public places, and 95 percent of victims die even before reaching the hospital. The national average response time is 10 to 12 minutes, but within four to six minutes, brain death can occur. With every minute that passes, survival decreases by 10%, meaning every second counts. Automatic external defibrillators (AED) can respond within seconds.

Defibrillators used to be difficult to use and were only meant for medical professionals with extensive training, but those days are past. Some AEDs are a multi-lingual device designed for easy, portable use to treat SCA. It sends an electrical pulse through the heart shocking it out of a fatal rhythm and allowing a normal, healthy rhythm to resume. Studies posted in New England Journal of Medicine state a that SCA victim's survival rate increases from 49% to 74% with the AED, and for communities proactively implementing an AED program, the survival rates have increased by 20 percent.

For \$33,000, the City of Berkeley can purchase about 30 AEDs, which also includes in-service training, and one year of maintenance. This includes a \$100 a year per unit to provide continuous 24/7 on-call personnel for maintenance. For every 5 AEDs, there needs to be at least one person CPR- and AED-certified. Good Samaritan laws and the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act provide AED users and acquirers with protection from liability. At least one vendor (The Philips Company) will also add the City of Berkeley as an additional insured to their insurance policy.

FISCAL IMPACT

Up to \$33,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Implementation of AEDs is designed to reduce health risks to Berkeley City staff, residents, and visitors. Environmental impacts would include maintenance for replacement pads that will occur every two years and replacement for battery every four years for each device.

CONTACT PERSON

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