



## 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: Proclamation Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Berkeley Free Clinic

#### RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a proclamation celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Berkeley Free Clinic.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Berkeley Free Clinic opened in May 1969 in response to riots that took place in People's Park. The Clinic has served thousands of people with various needs since it first opened its doors 45 years ago. The philosophy of the Clinic has always been "health care is a human right and should not be linked with profit." In its history, the Clinic has never charged for any services, medications, materials, or supplies, and as such is one of the few remaining free clinics in the United States.

Even through times of financial hardship, the Free Clinic worked diligently to remain open as a duty to the community. They have become an essential part of the community, devoting thousands of hours and countless supplies of aid to a variety of people with nowhere else to turn. The Clinic is inclusive of all minority social groups, such as the LGBTQIA community, and creates a safe place for those who require more discretion.

The Clinic has consistently shown commitment to collective organization, allowing volunteers to contribute to formal decisions. It works to demystify medicine and to rid boundaries between health care providers and patients. The Berkeley Free Clinic's legacy continues on through the education of hundreds of members in the basics of medicine, counseling, and community.

Some of this information has been cited from the Berkeley Free Clinic's website:  
<http://www.berkeleyfreeclinic.org/pages/about-us>

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with the City's environmental sustainability goals with no negative effects.

FISCAL IMPACTS:  
NONE.

CONTACT PERSON:  
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Attachment:

1. Proclamation Commemorating the Berkeley Free Clinic's 45<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary

## **CELEBRATING THE BERKELEY FREE CLINIC'S 45<sup>th</sup> YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

**WHEREAS,** The Berkeley Free Clinic has served countless thousands of people with various needs since it first opened its doors 45 years ago in light of the 1969 riots in People's Park; and

**WHEREAS,** The philosophy of the Clinic has always been, "health care is a human right and should not be linked with profit." In its history, the Clinic has never charged for any services, medications, materials, or supplies, and is one of the few remaining free clinics in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** The Legacy of the Berkeley Free Clinic continues on throughout the education of hundreds of members in the basics of medicine, counseling, and community; and

**WHEREAS,** The Berkeley Free Clinic has consistently shown commitment to collective organization by allowing the members to have a voice in everyday matters, and after two months of volunteering can contribute to formal decisions; and

**WHEREAS,** Even through times of financial hardship, the Free Clinic worked diligently to remain open as a duty to the community; and

**WHEREAS,** They have programs inclusive of minority social groups, such as the LGBTQIA community, creating a safe place to turn to when people need discreet help; and

**WHEREAS,** The Berkeley Free Clinic has been working for years to demystify medicine and to get rid of the boundaries between health care providers and patients; and

**WHEREAS,** They have become an essential part of the community that has devoted thousands of hours and countless supplies of aid to people of all walks of life with nowhere else to turn to.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED,** That this May will be celebrated as the 45th anniversary of the Berkeley Free Clinic.

