



Kriss Worthington
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CONSENT CALENDAR
 April 29, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Subject: City Manager Referral: Write to CrimeMapping.com Requesting They Help Create a Permanent and Up-To-Date Joint Map of Both BPD and UCPD Crime Data

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Manager send CrimeMapping.com a letter requesting they work with BPD and UCPD to make it easier for users to include both departments' crime data into one map, and to explore the feasibility of making joint data maps available permanently.

BACKGROUND

Many constituents have voiced the need for an easy and clear way to view both Berkeley Police Department and UC Police Department crime reports on the same map. CrimeMapping.com provides residents with this data, but as of now the data from the UCPD is not up-to-date. We are informed that there is a technical issue inhibiting the UCPD to report updated crime data, making it impossible to create a map on the site that also includes the BPD's current data. It is important to have current information from both departments as crimes that occur in the city are sometimes reported to UCPD and sometimes to BPD.

Members of the public have stated that the process of including both sets of data in one map using this website is unclear and confusing. Many residents desire easy access to both departments' information using one joint map.

Currently, one can only view data within about six months. The public has expressed interest in access to longer term maps for comparative purposes.

We propose that the City send CrimeMapping.com a letter requesting that they help create a permanent up-to-date map and make it easier to view both BPD and UCPD data on one map.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with the City's environmental sustainability goals.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter to CrimeMapping.com

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Berkeley greatly appreciates CrimeMapping.com's crime reporting and mapping database. CrimeMapping.com provides a valuable service to residents across the nation, as it is important that people have access to current crime data in order to maintain public safety and state-of-mind.

We are informed that there is a technical issue inhibiting the UCPD to report updated crime data to CrimeMapping.com. We hope this issue may be resolved with very minimal difficulties to you. We share a common understanding that the most current crime data is significant in raising awareness in areas where crimes are on the rise and to effectively combat and contain crimes by law enforcement agencies.

CrimeMapping.com users are restricted to viewing of data within about six months. The public has expressed great interest in gaining access to your crime data maps for longer periods, especially for comparative purposes.

The City's constituents and other members of the public have voiced a need for the creation of a single joint map, revealing up-to-date crime data from both the BPD and UCPD. Many users would then have easier access to both departments' information, thus clearly viewing the City's law enforcement agencies' crime data on a single joint map.

The City of Berkeley requests the creation of a permanent up-to-date map for an easier and useful viewing of both BPD and UCPD crime data on a single joint map.

Thank you for your help in these matters. Please let us know if there is anything the City can do to help address these issues.

Sincerely,
The City of Berkeley