

Police Review Commission

COUNCIL INFORMATION

September 10, 2002

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Police Review Commission

Subject: SUPPORT OPPOSITION TO THE PATRIOT ACT

STATUS:

The PRC has submitted the attached letter in support of Councilmember Worthington's Council Item, "Resolution Opposing the Patriot Act, Justice Department Directives, and Executive Orders that Prevent the Protection of Civil Rights and Liberties" and urges Council to adopt this resolution at the September 10, 2002 meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (if applicable)

None

CONTACT PERSON:

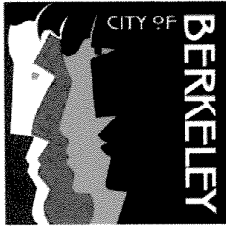
Barbara Attard—981-4960
PRC Officer

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Attard", written over a horizontal line.

Barbara Attard, PRC Officer

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Police Review Commission

August 19, 2002

FOR COUNCIL INFORMATION

Honorable Mayor
Members of the City Council
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor Dean and Members of the Council:

The Police Review Commission (PRC) supports Councilmember Kriss Worthington's Council Item, "Resolution Opposing the Patriot Act, Justice Department Directives, and Executive Orders that Prevent the Protection of Civil Rights and Liberties" and urges Council to adopt this resolution at the September 10, 2002 meeting. Councilmember Worthington's resolution delineates items in the Patriot Act and directives and orders from various branches of the federal government that pose serious threats to the liberties and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States, and to democracy as we know it.

The PRC has been concerned about U.S. Department of Justice tactics developed for investigations and protection of homeland security after the devastating attacks on the United States on September 11. While the PRC understands the extreme gravity of our situation, undermining freedom in order to protect it is not an acceptable solution. Targeting large groups of people for questioning absent evidence linking such individuals to specific criminal acts constitutes racial profiling. Not only is this practice discriminatory and an ineffective means of combating crime, but it threatens to disrupt police community relations, as well. Directives from the Justice Department to ease intelligence-gathering and wire-tapping guidelines instituted to combat past abuses by law enforcement groups opens the door to a dangerous breach of personal security on a national scale, and constitutes a serious affront to liberty.

The PRC appreciates Councilmember Worthington's efforts to take action on these important issues. PRC action on this item: DeBose/Sternberg (Moved/Seconded) to request staff to draft a letter from the PRC to Council supporting Council member Worthington's Resolution Opposing the Patriot Act. Passed with Clark, DeBose, Mapps, Ritchie, and Sternberg affirming and White abstaining. There were no votes in opposition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Ritchie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

David Ritchie
Chair, PRC

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