



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

October 15, 2002

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: SUPPORT PROCLAMATION HONORING FALUN DAFA MONTH IN CALIFORNIA

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council supports proclamation honoring Falun Dafa month in California.

BACKGROUND:

Falun Dafa (also known as Falun Gong) is an advanced exercise and meditation practice system of mind, body, and spirit based on ancient wisdom. Ten years ago, Mr. Li Hongzhi introduced Falun Dafa to the public in an effort to improve people's health, calm their mind, uplift their spirits and deepen their understanding of life and humanity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.

HONOR OCTOBER AS FALUN DAFA MONTH

- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa (also called Falun Gong) is an ancient form of qigong, the practice of refining the body, mind, and spirit through special exercises and meditation; and
- WHEREAS,** since being introduced to the general public in 1992 by Mr. Li Hongzhi, Falun Dafa has attracted nearly 100 million people over 50 countries around the world; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa has grown to become the most popular form of qigong ever in Chinese history. The major reason for this is that Falun Dafa distinguishes itself from other qigong practices by emphasizing not only physical cultivation, but also cultivation of one's moral character in daily life according to higher principles taught by Mr. Li Hongzhi, Falun Dafa's founder; and
- WHEREAS,** the people who practice Falun Dafa are a diverse community of people who search beyond the boundaries of our cultural, social, economic, and national limitations, and come together in harmony and peace; and
- WHEREAS,** Falun Dafa transcends beyond other qigong practices of the pursuit of health and fitness to the goal of wisdom and enlightenment. At the heart of the practice are the supreme principles of the universe: Truthfulness, Benevolence, and Forbearance; and
- WHEREAS,** Millions of people all over the world have chosen to make the practice of Falun Dafa a part of their daily lives. Since its public introduction ten years ago, it has provided millions of people a way to reach towards better health, happiness, and meaningful living; and
- WHEREAS,** the City of Berkeley has been a strong supporter of Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) practitioners and their right to free expression and spiritual enlightenment in countries where such peaceful movements are being repressed and punished; and
- WHEREAS,** we recognize and celebrate the rich cultural and spiritual awareness that Falun Dafa brings to California and the Bay Area; and
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Berkeley City Council does hereby honor Falun Dafa and proclaims

OCTOBER AS FALUN DAFA MONTH

in the City of Berkeley and invites all citizens and residents of Berkeley to reflect on cultivating our character towards a spiritual understanding of truthfulness, compassion and forbearance for a community of harmony.

Mayor Shirley Dean

Vice Mayor Maudelle Shirek

Councilmember Linda Maio

Councilmember Margaret Breland

Councilmember Dona Spring

Councilmember Miriam Hawley

Councilmember Betty Olds

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Councilmember Polly Armstrong