



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: RESPONSE TO HATE GRAFFITI AT PACIFIC CENTER

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council City actively responds to the hate graffiti at the Pacific Center. This response will include but not be limited to: offer of a reward, and inclusion of this incident in the discussion for the upcoming Town Hall forum on hate/crimes to be held on October 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center.

BACKGROUND:

The Berkeley area LGBT community faces a triple whammy of three hot issues needing to be addressed.

1. This week the Pacific Center bulletin board was vandalized with hate graffiti including the word fag and a swastika. Our entire community must unite to oppose the hatefulness that leads to this kind of graffiti and to hate crimes against the LGBT community.
2. The BUSD faces severe new federal restrictions on their funding that could penalize our schools if they care enough to limit use of their facilities by organizations that discriminate.
3. Local Scouts are increasing their opposition to the national BSA anti-gay discriminatory policies. We are working to build coalitions with local Scouts and Scouting for All to put more pressure for changing national BSA policy.

This item addresses the first issue and our office will return with a city response to the additional concerns at the next council meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

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