



Gordon J. Wozniak
Councilmember District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 19, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Gordon Wozniak

Subject: Quarterly Crime Reports

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend that the City Manager prepare quarterly crime reports for the City Council. These reports would summarize both the violent and property crimes committed in Berkeley during the previous quarter as well as historical crime trends. In addition, a brief analysis of different crime indices as well as a comparison with other neighboring cities would be provided using the latest corrected data.

BACKGROUND:

- Recently there has been some controversy regarding the level of crime in Berkeley and how Berkeley compares with other cities. To facilitate this important discussion, it would be helpful if there were a comprehensive and official set of crime statistics so that the discussion was on the same page. In addition, sometimes there are errors in the crime data which are subsequently corrected, but not always reflected in current crime indices. These corrected data need to be promulgated so that the community has a true picture of public safety in Berkeley.
- There are several kinds of crime indexes, which measure different things. It is important for the community to understand what these different indices measure. To give the citizens of Berkeley a true picture of the extent of crime in their neighborhoods, it is also important to use the most up-to-date data.
- The quarterly reports on workers compensation have been very useful in updating the Council on health & safety in the workplace and formulating policy to address problems. It is envisioned that quarterly crime reports would inform the Council on the level of public safety in our community and help formulate policy to address problems.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

Since crime data is prepared on a regular basis, the costs would consist of the staff time necessary to prepare the quarterly reports.

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