



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

October 18, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Support Commission Diversity

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopts a resolution to encourage City Councilmembers to actively seek to fill vacant positions with consideration of the needs and benefits of a more representative and diverse commission roster. The Berkeley City Council shall also implement semi-annual reviews of its progress to determine if additional steps should be taken to ensure that these goals are met.

BACKGROUND:

At the April 23, 2002, Council voted to approve a resolution titled Students Voicing Opportunity & Increasing Commission Equity (Students VOICE). This resolution asked for an active effort in filling of vacant commission appointments and recruitment of potential commissioners from any and all ethnic/racial backgrounds, including Chicanos/Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Black and African Americans, and students in general.

Since then, while the City has seen little improvement in the diversity of its commissions, one cannot ignore the inconvenient fact that some Councilmembers' appointments continue to lack representation of diversity that is reflective of the city. This resolution would reaffirm the spirit of the prior vote by Council and help to add encouragement for Councilmembers to more accurately reflect the city's diverse population through its commission appointments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

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