

RESOLUTION NO.

-N.S.

- WHEREAS, a preliminary review of student representation in Berkeley Mayor and City Council commission appointments appears to reveal shocking statistics on underrepresentation of students, Chicanos/Latinos, and Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) as well as a slight underrepresentation of African Americans; and
- WHEREAS, students compose about 20% to 25% of Berkeley's population yet only account for about 25 out of 342 (approximately 8.1%) commissioner positions; and
- WHEREAS, according to Census 2000, Asians and Pacific Islanders (API) make up 17.6% of Berkeley's population, yet only about 16 API serve among the 310 approximately 5.2%) commission spots; and
- WHEREAS, according to Census 2000 Chicanos/Latinos make up 9.5% of Berkeley's population, yet only about 13 Chicanos/Latinos serve among the 310 (approximately 4.2%) commission spots; and
- WHEREAS, according to Census 2000 African Americans make up 12.3% of Berkeley's population yet only about 32 African Americans serve among the 310 (approximately 10.3%) commission spots; and
- WHEREAS, Berkeley has a complex network of 34 Board and Commissions to which the Mayor and each district City Council member appoint a representative; and
- WHEREAS, there are routinely dozens of vacant commission positions; and
- WHEREAS, students in general are actively involved in the community and thus it is vital that they be represented in decision-making bodies of the city of Berkeley; and
- WHEREAS, vacancies are not an indication of good government since vacancies may lead to absence of quorum and inability to take action in a timely manner; and
- WHEREAS, nearly three years ago, the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution calling for the active appointment and invitation of Berkeley residents to commissions. Since then, while the City has seen little improvement in the diversity of its commissions, one cannot ignore the convenient fact that many Councilmembers' appointments continue to lack representation of diversity that is reflective of the city.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley will actively seek to fill vacant positions and attempt to send a clear invitation to residents that Berkeley welcomes commissioners from any and all ethnic/racial backgrounds, including Chicanos/Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Black and African Americans, and students in general.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley shall hold a semi-annual review of progress in appointing new commissioners as well as establishing goals and a plan of action of recruiting and reviewing new commission applicants.

RECEIVED AT
COUNCIL MEETING OF:

OCT 18 2005

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY