



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

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CONSENT CALENDAR

December 13, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Pledge for Racial Equality

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council join Californians across the state in pledging to:

- Demand our state legislators and decision makers support policies that we believe promote racial equity, and to hold government accountable for solutions that overcome longstanding racial disparities
- Uphold equity, enfranchisement and economic justice by supporting the full participation and access to benefits and institutions for all California residents
- Promote a vision for our collective future based on opportunity and advancement and to join with people to honor and protect the diverse cultures and languages of our communities
- Take action to strengthen protections against racial violence, racial profiling, and discrimination

BACKGROUND:

The Pledge for Racial Equity is part of the Applied Research Center's Action Network, which includes the following groups/organizations who have also signed the pledge:

California Partnership, California Church Impact, ACORN California, California Reinvestment Coalition, UNITE HERE 2850, ACLU Northern California Racial Justice Project Council on American-Islamic Relations San Francisco Bay Area, Chinese for Affirmative Action/Center for Asian American Advocacy, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Equal Justice Society, Policy Link, Ella Baker Center, New Racial Studies Project – UC Santa Barbara, Californians for Justice, Challenging White Supremacy, California Pan-Ethnic Health Network, Youth Together, Reentry Solutions, Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, California Tomorrow, Korean Immigrant Worker Advocates, PowerPac, Justice Matters Institute, South Asian Network, Center for Third World Organizing, UNITE HERE Local 49, Priority Africa Network, La Raza Central Legal, FOCUS Filipino Support Community, Love Sees No Borders, Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, Inc., Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing, Teamsters Local No. 350, Los Angeles Community Action Network, UFCW Local 428, Women of Color Resource Center, California State Council of UNITE HERE, San Mateo County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and more...

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.

Working Principles for Racial Equity

FOCUS ON RACIAL EQUITY OUTCOMES

As one of the nation's first states with a majority of people of color, we must advance a proactive policy agenda that honors and addresses the diverse needs of all Californians. Good intentions are not enough. We must stand for what we believe in and never compromise our values. Ambitious policy solutions must promote accountability and work to overcome long-standing racial disparities and inequities.

EQUITY, ENFRANCHISEMENT AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE FOR ALL

Californian residents must have a right to full participation and access to benefits and institutions, including quality education, viable employment, affordable housing and health care, healthy environments and the right to vote. Language, immigration status, income, and criminal history should never be used as tools to discriminate, deny access, and violate rights.

INVEST IN OPPORTUNITY AND ADVANCEMENT

We must invest in improving education, increasing access to services, strengthening our work force, and building community and state infrastructure to ensure a brighter, stronger California. Revenues and investments should be based on a vision for our collective future.

STRENGTHEN PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACIAL VIOLENCE, RACIAL PROFILING, AND DISCRIMINATION

In a post-September 11 environment, communities of color are subject to individual acts of hate and government-sanctioned acts of profiling and discrimination. California must strengthen and enforce anti-discrimination protections, while also ensuring that no state resources are misused to target Californians based on race, ethnicity, religion, or immigration status.

ENDORSERS

California Partnership • California Church Impact • ACORN California • California Reinvestment Coalition • UNITE HERE 2850 • ACLU Northern California Racial Justice Project Council on American-Islamic Relations San Francisco Bay Area • Chinese for Affirmative Action/Center for Asian American Advocacy • Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund • Equal Justice Society • Policy Link • Ella Baker Center • New Racial Studies Project UC Santa Barbara • Californians for Justice • Challenging White Supremacy • California Pan-Ethnic Health Network • Youth Together • Reentry Solutions • BayArea Immigrant Rights Coalition • California Tomorrow • Korean Immigrant Worker Advocates PowerPac • Justice Matters Institute • South Asian Network • Center for Third World Organizing • UNITE HERE Local 49 • Priority Africa Network • La Raza Central Legal • FOCUS Filipino Support Community • Love Sees No Borders • Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco • National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, Inc. • Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing • Teamsters Local No. 350 • Los Angeles Community Action Network • UFCW Local 428 • Women of Color Resource Center • California State Council of UNITE HERE • San Mateo County Central Labor Council AFL-CIO • National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights • and more...

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