

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 25, 2006

To: Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Wozniak
Subject: Budget Allocation from Councilmember Wozniak's Office

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the expenditure of \$3,000 in FY06 funds from Councilmember Wozniak's office budget to fund KitchenDemocracy's efforts to increase participatory democracy in Berkeley.

BACKGROUND:

Councilmember Wozniak's office budget has a small surplus due to salary savings and unspent discretionary funds. I am requesting that the City Council approve contributing \$3,000 to KitchenDemocracy which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing voter involvement in local issues.

KitchenDemocracy helps people participate in democracy by utilizing the Internet to create a dialog between decision makers in city government and voters on local issues. Expert opinions are posted on particular issues and voters are asked to vote on a particular proposition via a secret ballot as well as post their opinions on the matter. In a period of a few months over seven hundred local residents have weighed in on a number of issues. Many of these participants have contacted our office and given us very positive feedback on the experience.

If you wish to learn more about KitchenDemocracy, go to
<http://www.kitchendemocracy.org/>

FISCAL IMPACTS: \$3,000 from Councilmember Wozniak's office budget (no impact on the general fund.)

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Wozniak, 981-7180.

RESOLUTION XXXXX – N.S.

WHEREAS, KitchenDemocracy is a nonprofit that promotes participatory democracy;
and

WHEREAS, KitchenDemocracy, is a website where community members can learn
about political issues, share their opinions, read what experts and their neighbors think,
and communicate with local government bodies; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Wozniak's office budget has carry over funds from FY06.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Berkeley, that Councilmember
Wozniak requests that \$3,000 from the District 8 office budget be allocated to
KitchenDemocracy.