



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

March 27, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington  
Subject: Cesar E. Chavez Day - National Holiday On March 31<sup>st</sup>

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution to urge recognition of the Cesar Chavez Holiday in California, and support the Cesar Chavez National Holiday Coalition in asking Congress to designate March 31<sup>st</sup>, Cesar's birthday and the day the United Farm Workers was founded, as Cesar Chavez Day.

#### BACKGROUND:

Volunteers and organizations have formed the Cesar Chavez National Holiday Coalition to call on the U.S. Congress to establish an official federal paid holiday in honor of Cesar E. Chavez, the late president of the United Farm Workers, on his birthday March 31<sup>st</sup>. This should include a Cesar Chavez day of service-learning and community action.

#### *From the United Farm Workers:*

Cesar was in Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's words, "one of the heroic figures of our time." He led the historic non-violent movement for farm worker rights and dedicated himself to building a movement of poor working people that extended beyond the fields and into cities and towns across the nation.

He inspired farm workers and millions of people who never worked on a farm to commit themselves to social, economic and civil rights activism. Cesar's legacy, like the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., continues to educate, inspire and empower people from all walks of life. He is a role model for all Americans and for generations to come.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

#### CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170

RESOLUTION NO.

-N.S.

WHEREAS, Cesar Chavez's Birthday was established as a California State Holiday in 2000. The Cesar Chavez Holiday legislation was created specifically to give students from elementary school through college the day off from school, and workers across California a paid holiday from work; and

WHEREAS, The Cesar Chavez Holiday commemorates Cesar E. Chavez, the late president of the United Farm Workers and the historic non-violent farm workers' movement of poor and working people, led by Chavez; and

WHEREAS, Chavez inspired farm workers and millions of workers to commit themselves to a life of social, economic, and civil rights activism; and

WHEREAS, The Chavez Holiday celebrates Latina/o dignity, pride, and our struggle for full equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, The Oakland Unified School District, the San Francisco Unified School District, some other school districts, and many colleges and universities will be closed on March 30, 2007 to honor the holiday; and

WHEREAS, The tremendous outpouring of support for Latina/o equality in California and nationwide over the past year makes clear that the time to fully recognize the Cesar Chavez Holiday in every school and workplace is now; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley calls on every school district, community college, and university throughout California to abide by the spirit and the letter of the law and close on the Cesar Chavez Holiday, and calls for the Chavez Holiday to be recognized as a paid holiday for workers throughout California on or about this date for every year hereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges participation in the Cesar Chavez Holiday marches planned for Los Angeles, Oakland, and other cities throughout California.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Senators Diane Feinstein and Barbara Boxer to support the designation of March 31<sup>st</sup> as a federal holiday, which should include a Cesar Chavez day of service-learning and community action.