



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7  
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### CONSENT CALENDAR

December 8, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Darryl Moore  
 Subject: Referral to Budget Process: Violence Prevention and Response Plan

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council refer the Violence Prevention and Response Plan to the January 2009 public safety workshop and the mid-year budget process.

#### BACKGROUND:

Recently there has been an increase in homicides in the City of Berkeley. This has created fear and concern regarding the overall level of safety and has led to suggestions that the city take more steps to prevent violent crime.

It is important that the Council refer the Violence Prevention and Response Plan to the January 2009 public safety workshop for discussion and the mid-year budget process for implementation. Such a plan would look at restructuring resources and considering what surrounding jurisdictions are attempting or are currently doing, including the possibility of cooperation with or copying of other successful efforts.

It would also include:

- Consideration of micro-grants for low-income neighborhoods to create newsletters and help initiate the organization of neighborhood watch groups.
- Consideration of moving towards a community involved policing focus, including having police officers walking the beats in commercial districts and communicating directly with businesses and residents.
- Evaluation of a dedicated, direct, rapid response contact number for direct communication with the beat officer.
- Conduct a well-advertised community meeting, to invite all members of the community to share their experiences and to offer their suggestions.

- Consideration of a targeted increase in youth programs or job programs which could help the city's prevention efforts.
- The possibility of an increase of 2 additional police officers to be funded within 6 months. An additional 2 officers to be funded within one year if the City does not have in place community health and safety teams or a welcoming presence working on the street.

Given the community's concerns about violence, as well as the increasing demands on existing resources to promote violence prevention and response efforts, it is important that this item be referred for discussion and implementation as part of the mid-year budget process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown.

CONTACT PERSON:

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