



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: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Whistleblower Protection Program

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council refers to the City Manager to explore the creation of a Whistleblower Protection Program for the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND:

Earlier this year, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into California law AB 2001, which allows California cities and counties to establish and maintain a whistleblower hotline (through an auditor or controller) similar to programs that exist currently for state agencies. Since then, the City of Oakland has adopted a local ordinance establishing a hotline and guidelines for a whistleblower program.

A city-run whistleblower program would serve the purpose of receiving complaints through a hotline from city employees and the public regarding the quality and delivery of city services, inefficient use of city funding, and improper government activity. Such a program would also provide for the protection of the identity of the person providing the information that initiated the investigative audit. This item directs the City Manager to explore the feasibility of a local program in Berkeley that may include in its scope a whistleblower hotline, administrative funding considerations, retaliatory protections, and legal penalties.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

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