



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7

2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 26, 2008

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Use of the Berkeley Veterans Building for Veterans Activities

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the City Manager the creation of a City of Berkeley policy to allow the short-term use of the Berkeley Veterans Building for veterans activities.

BACKGROUND:

The Berkeley Veterans Building, located at 1931 Center Street, was built in 1928 due to a state law that allowed counties to set aside tax revenue to construct buildings in memory of veterans. The Berkeley building was one of eight buildings maintained by the County of Alameda until the late 1980s when budgetary constraints forced the county to transfer most of the buildings to host cities.

When the Berkeley Veterans Building was transferred to the City in 1988, veterans groups negotiated a deal in which they were given exclusive use of the second floor, one office on the first floor and the right to use other portions of the building on the same conditions as other members of the public and that their input "shall be sought by the city manager in developing building uses and improvements".

Historically, veterans organizations were able to meet in the Berkeley Veterans Building. But in recent years they have been told they cannot use their traditional space for seismic safety reasons. Recently veterans learned that other people are meeting in their traditional meeting space. The veterans are currently seeking access for monthly veterans meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, 981-7170

