Kriss Worthington
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CONSENT CALENDAR
November 19, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Support Senate Bill 316 the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013, and Oppose Senate Bill 1486

RECOMMENDATION:
Adopt a Resolution supporting Senate Bill 316 Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 and opposing Senate Bill 1486. Send a copy of the resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, Majority Leader of the Senate, US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Congress member Barbara Lee, and the United States Postmaster General.

BACKGROUND:
The California State Association of Letter Carriers has requested that the Berkeley City Council support the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013. The Postal Service is the second largest civilian employer in the country with 22% of its employees being U.S. veterans. Senate Bill 316 would allow the Postal Service to manage its budget more effectively, be more competitive with other delivery service providers, and protect many of the jobs that are being threatened by Senate Bill 1486. Senate Bill 316, the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013, would prohibit cuts to Saturday mail service, reinstate overnight delivery standards, and prevent shutdowns of mail sorting centers.

FISCAL IMPACTS:
None.

CONTACT PERSON:
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Attachment:
1. Resolution in Support of the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

IN SUPPORT OF THE POSTAL SERVICE PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

WHEREAS, the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 would sustain the United States Postal Service and avert unnecessary closures that hurt communities; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service's financial issues are due to unnecessary requirements and regulations imposed on it. The Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 would remove burdensome regulations, so the United States Postal Service can manage its budget more effectively and be more competitive with other delivery service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 would prohibit cuts to Saturday delivery, thus protecting rural communities, small businesses, and senior citizens, as well as reducing the need for customers to seek other delivery options; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 gives serious consideration to the employment statuses of the employees, 22% being veteran and many with disabilities, of the second largest civilian employer; and

WHEREAS, the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 would reinstate overnight delivery standards to speed mail delivery, prevent shutdowns of mail sorting centers, and protect voting by mail throughout California, which is now commonplace and remains essential to our democracy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council urges US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein to pass the Postal Service Protection Act of 2013 (Senate Bill 316), sponsored by Senator Bernard Sanders, that would ensure the modernization and preservation of the United States Postal Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council urges US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein and Congress member Barbara Lee to oppose any postal reform legislation that does not end the mandate requiring the USPS to pre-fund future retiree health benefits, does not continue the mandate for 6-day delivery service, does not protect door to door delivery as it currently exists, and does not provide additional oversight and transparency to the United States Postal Service's plan to close, relocate, or sell 3,270 post offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, Majority Leader of the Senate, US Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, Congress member Barbara Lee, and the United States Postmaster General.