



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

May 16, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington, Darryl Moore, and Max Anderson

Subject: Resolution to Support Security Officers

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council adopt a resolution to support security officers' fundamental right to unionize and bargain collectively.

BACKGROUND:

Private security is one of the fastest growing occupations in the United States, with the workforce being disproportionately drawn from communities of color, including African American and recent immigrant communities. The private security industry does not provide its officers with a adequate career enhancing opportunities and training, as well as living wages and adequate benefits. The cumulative effects of low wages, minimal benefits, and inadequate promotional opportunities will continue to burden the families and communities of those employees affected.

By passing this resolution the City of Berkeley resolves to stand with officers fighting for a better life and to support the right to unionize and bargain collectively. The City shall also encourage security firms and those who use these firms to respect these rights.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE

CONTACT PERSONS:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington	981-7170
Councilmember Darryl Moore	981-7120
Councilmember Max Anderson	981-7130

WHEREAS, more than one million private security officers – more than twice the number of police officers – are employed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, private security is one of the ten fastest growing occupations in the United States and the workforce is disproportionately drawn from communities of color, including African American and recent immigrant communities; and

WHEREAS, the events of September 11, 2002 emphasize how important security officers are to protecting lives and property; and

WHEREAS, despite the increased concerns about security following the events of September 11, 2001, most security officers in major cities are paid poverty wages, have fewer benefits, and receive minimal training; the average annual pay for security officers is less than \$19,000 a year; insurance, if it is offered, is unaffordable; officers do not receive paid sick days or holidays; and

WHEREAS, the private security industry does not provide officers with a career ladder, hence their opportunities for advancement are limited; we should challenge the fast-growing private security industry, which enjoys billions of dollars in profits every year, to share more of its profits with workers from our community in the form of wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, if security companies provided officers with raises and benefits, hundreds of millions of dollars would flow into our nation's communities of color and poor neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, if security jobs provided greater opportunities for training and a career ladder, officers would have greater future prospects and provide more security for their families; and

WHEREAS, officers in the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, are uniting with the Service Employees International Union, the nation's largest union of security officers; and

WHEREAS, officers have already met resistance, and companies are impeding their right to determine for themselves how best to improve their lives; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley resolves to stand with officers who are fighting for a better life for themselves and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley supports security officers' fundamental right to unionize and bargain collectively; the Council of the City of Berkeley resolves to encourage security firms and those who use security services, i.e. major building owners, retail outlets, mall companies, and other, to respect officers' right to unionize to improve their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities.