



## Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley District 7

2180 Milvia Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 [kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us](mailto:kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us)

### CONSENT CALENDAR

May 16, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Referral to the Budget Process for Reinstatement of the Community Health and Safety Team and restoration of bike patrol officers for Telegraph Avenue

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Berkeley City Council refer to the budget process, the restoration of the Telegraph Area Community Health and Safety Team and two bike patrol officers.

#### BACKGROUND:

Telegraph Avenue has suffered from City budget cuts in recent years. Notably, the reduction of City bike patrol police officers from four (4) down to two (2) has significantly reduced the visibility of police presence on Telegraph. This impact affects the actual safety and diminished the perception of safety. Periodically, Berkeley has focused massive police presence to stabilize the area but then resources are diverted to other pressing priorities, especially targeting violent crimes.

This item seeks to return the number of bike officers to what was there a few years ago. Instead of dramatic up and down attention, this referral could offer a more stable presence to the merchants and visitors to Telegraph Avenue, reassuring the residents as well.

The Community Health and Safety Team (CHST) has been successful at working with residents, businesses, and members of the Telegraph area community in working with individuals in need of services in the area. In light of growing concerns and the need for improved health and human services in the Telegraph area, the reinstatement of this program would provide valuable help for those who need it.

Additionally, if the City restores its own coverage to previous levels, we might better be able to convince the University to match the increased levels.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Around \$324,000 for two additional bike patrol officers and CHST operational costs if approved in June.

#### CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.