

Council member Betty Olds and Council member Darryl Moore

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CONSENT CALENDAR:

January 30, 2007

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Council member Betty Olds and Council member Darryl Moore

RE: Affirming the City of Berkeley's Official Status as a Pro-Choice City and Joining the National Pro-Choice City Campaign

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council pass a resolution defining and affirming Berkeley's status as a Pro-Choice City and that the City of Berkeley officially join the Pro-Choice City Campaign.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR COUNCIL ACTION :**

The City of Berkeley has a long history of supporting women's issues and reproductive health. In 1993, Berkeley passed Resolution No. 56,887-N.S., a very strong statement of Berkeley's support for access to abortion and other services. In 2005, The City Council passed Resolution No. 62,784-N.S. "Stand Up for Choice Day" Honoring Roe V. Wade. (both attached)

The City of West Hollywood has recently initiated a new Pro-Choice City Campaign, through which they plan to foster a network of local governments across the nation committed to supporting women's reproductive health. The City of Berkeley has been invited to join in this campaign.

As a Pro-Choice City, Berkeley would reaffirm and continue its long commitment to the protection of a women's right to choose as well as proactively supporting the right of women to access reproductive health care and education including birth control, pap smears, prenatal care, STD and HIV/AIDS screenings, sex education and family planning services.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS :** None

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

REAFFIRMING BERKELEY'S OFFICIAL STATUS AS A PRO-CHOICE CITY AND JOINING  
THE NATIONAL PRO-CHOICE CITY CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is a long-time advocate and supporter of women's rights and equality, and in particular women's reproductive rights and freedom: and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 1993, the City Council proclaimed Berkeley as a pro-choice city and since that time the City has prided itself on being one of the first cities to officially express its support for a woman's right to choose; and

WHEREAS, in light of increasing political threats to reproductive freedom, it is now more critical than ever to make a unified, nationwide stand for access to reproductive health care; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means creating an environment where women's rights are respected and defended, and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means promoting responsible sex education so that both women and men are aware of their reproductive choices and have the tools to make their own private decisions and take charge of their lives: and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means ensuring widespread access to a variety of birth control options, so that women and men have the resources to implement the choices they make; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means encouraging the expansion of all forms of reproductive health care, including pre-natal care, gynecological care, education and treatment for sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS, and reproductive cancers; and

WHEREAS, being a pro-choice city means defending the right to choose a legal and safe abortion as a final but critical option for women; part of a comprehensive set of reproductive rights that emphasizes the ability of the individual to make informed decisions from a range of reproductive choices and the ultimate control of the individual over her own body and her own life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Berkeley does hereby reaffirm its longstanding position as a pro-choice city, and encourages other cities around the country to join in voicing official support for reproductive rights.