



Berkeley City Council

WORKSESSION

June 4, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

Subject: Presentation: Ralph Cantor and Dr. Frank Lucido  
Negative Impacts of Alcohol and Marijuana Use on Adolescents

SUMMARY:

As a member of the COB/BUSD Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) Task Force, Councilmember Capitelli would like to raise awareness of the high levels of alcohol and marijuana use and abuse by Berkeley students and youth.

BACKGROUND:

The most recent California Healthy Kids Surveys from 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012 provide ample evidence that Berkeley youth are using alcohol and marijuana at significant rates. (See attachment). The findings include:

- At least once in their life, of 11<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed:  
64% have used alcohol (compared to 66% of California youth)  
56% have used marijuana (compared to 42% of California youth)
- In the last 30 days, of 11<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed:  
45% have used alcohol (compared to 42% of California youth)  
37% have used marijuana in the last 30 days (compared to 24% of California youth)
- At least once in their life, of 11<sup>th</sup> graders surveyed, 34% reported being high or drunk on school property

Community environmental factors and social norms contribute to these high rates. Minors can easily obtain marijuana and alcohol; students see drug and alcohol use as being less harmful than smoking tobacco; and there is a common perception that our community is tolerant of use by minors.

The use and abuse of marijuana and alcohol by minors impairs a child's physical health, emotional development and academic success. Substance use and abuse is linked to other high-risk behaviors and can have devastating effects on families and the community as a whole.

In 2008, in response to this alarming data, the City of Berkeley and the Berkeley Unified School District formed a partnership to jointly address Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug (ATOD) use and abuse among Berkeley's youth.

The purpose of the Task Force has been to develop a comprehensive ATOD prevention work plan for the School District and the Berkeley community at large. In its 2010 Report, the Task Force issued 7 key prevention and intervention recommendations. (See attachment).

This is a city-wide, cross-jurisdictional challenge. Successful implementation of these recommendations requires city and school district coordination and collaboration.

City Council support will be essential to move this effort forward. It is expected that this work session will initiate a City Council discussion about prioritizing next steps.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Joint Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Task Force Report and Recommendations, June 2010
2. California Healthy Kids Survey, Berkeley Unified Secondary 2011-2012 Key Findings
3. Presentation