



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
 PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177
 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR

September 10, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Kriss Worthington, District 7, Berkeley City Council
 Subject: City Manager Referral: Penalty for "Pirate" Taxi Cab Drivers Operating Without a Permit

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to levy an administrative citation up to \$5,000 for "Pirate" Taxi Cab Drivers and Owners who come from other cities and operate in the City of Berkeley without a permit.

BACKGROUND

"Pirate" operators or unregulated taxi cab operators are a problem that is evident in cities in the Bay Area. The proliferation of these unregulated cabs dilutes earnings for legitimate cab companies, reduces tax revenue for the city, and puts riders at risk. Some cities in the Bay Area have instituted penalties to try to curb these unregulated for hire vehicles.

Oakland, CA Ordinance Number 13161 states, "Whereas, if an investigation determines that a taxi operator is operating without a permit, a fine up to \$5,000 may be assessed..."

San Francisco, CA Municipal Code states, "Violation of any of the following subsections of the San Francisco Transportation Code governing the operation of a motor vehicle for hire shall be punishable by the administrative fines set forth below:
 Divv II § 1105 (a)(1) Operating without a permit: \$5,000"

Every taxi cab driver and owner in Berkeley should have an equal opportunity at each fare within the city limits. They should not have to compete with taxi cab operators from other cities who operate without a valid permit. A fine of \$5,000, similar to the city of San Francisco and Oakland, would deter these "pirate" taxi cab drivers from picking up fares within Berkeley's city limits.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Minimal.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington, 510-981-7170
 Evan Costner, Intern, evancarpentercostner@gmail.com

