



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Subject: Extend the Berkeley Police Department Drone Moratorium for One
 Additional Year

RECOMMENDATION:

Extend the moratorium on the use of unmanned aircraft systems, or “drones,” by the Berkeley Police Department for one additional year.

BACKGROUND:

On February 24, 2015 the Berkeley City Council enacted a one-year moratorium on the use of drones, or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, by the Berkeley Police Department (BPD). This moratorium will soon expire.

It is prudent that Berkeley extend the moratorium, for at least one more year, because drones continue to pose serious risks for health and safety to resident and visitors. According to an investigation by Senator Dianne Feinstein, the number of near-misses and actual collisions between drones and airplanes has “skyrocketed” by a factor of 20 since the Berkeley City Council established the moratorium. Since April 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration reported that almost 1,000 near misses or other incidents nationally occurred with approximately 20 percent of those incidents came from California.

In addition, drone technology poses a serious threat to the privacy and constitutional rights of the people, including the residents of Berkeley.

This moratorium does not preclude the Berkeley Fire Department from using drones for disaster response purposes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Unknown.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Consistent with Berkeley’s Environmental Sustainability Goals and no negative impact.

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