



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

ACTION CALENDAR
 May 30, 2017

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

Subject: Eliminate the required Affidavits of Residency for Commissioners

RECOMMENDATION

That the City of Berkeley eliminate the requirement for Commissioners to submit Affidavits of Residency when they are appointed, and annually thereafter, in pursuit of saving time and money for the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley currently requires all Commissioners to submit a signed Affidavit of Residency before they can be officially appointed, and annually thereafter. If they fail to submit a physical copy of their Affidavit of Residency in person to the Civic Center within 30 days of their appointment as Commissioner (and the annual anniversaries of their appointment that follow thereafter), they are disqualified from holding their position and their appointment rescinded. Many Commissioners have had problems with this requirement, as it can be difficult for someone to take time out of their work day to visit the Civic Center simply to turn in a form, especially on an annual basis. Due to the challenging nature of this requirement, many Commissioners fail to meet this requirement every year and are disqualified from their position; once they do fill the form out, they are reinstated as Commissioners. This creates unnecessary work and expense for the City of Berkeley.

The Affidavits of Residency ultimately accomplish very little in establishing the legitimacy of Commissioners, but create an inordinate amount of paperwork and processing work for the City staff. This bureaucratic red tape is unnecessary and should be eliminated as the City aims to make its processes more efficient. It also needlessly hinders Commissioners from serving their community and upholding their position on the Commission Boards. This will also allow for the elimination of paper waste and is an eco-friendly pursuit.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This will decrease the cost of printing and the time required for processing paperwork for the City of Berkeley.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Eliminates paper waste and consistent with Berkeley's environmental sustainability goals

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

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