



Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR
 October 31, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington and Kate Harrison
 Subject: Referral to Police Review Commission to Write a Charter Amendment
 Ballot Measure

RECOMMENDATION: Referral to the Police Review Commission to write a charter amendment ballot measure to present to Berkeley voters to reform the Police Review Commission structure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, citizens of Oakland voted to create a Police Review Commission that has power to create real changes. San Francisco voters also passed similar reforms. Berkeley now trails behind these two cities in police accountability standards.

The Police Review Commission (PRC) was established by the voters of Berkeley in 1973. The original 1973 ordinance abolished Internal Affairs, giving sole responsibility for police discipline to the Commission. The city administration of that time held the view that the PRC had an important role to play in reducing the City's liability and fostering a better department. As the PRC was established under an ordinance rather than a charter amendment, it was subject to weakening actions by successive administrations. Regulations limiting the Commission's access to evidence were counter-productive, unnecessary, and not legally required, resulting in and substantially ineffective Commission.

Thus, we refer to the Police Review Commission to review the San Francisco, Oakland, and other police commission models as appropriate and develop a charter amendment ballot measure to provide police accountability. With this referral to the Police Review Commission, the process of writing a ballot measure for the November 2018 election will begin. We request the Commission have a draft ballot measure within six months of the referral.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

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

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