



Kriss Worthington

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CONSENT CALENDAR

Date February 27th, 2018

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

Subject: ~~Affirm Assembly~~~~Affirm Support Assembly~~ Bill 403 and thank Gov. Brown for Signing - Legislative Employee Whistleblower Protection Act

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council ~~support Assembly Bill 403 which ensures whistleblower protections for all legislative employees and~~ send a letter to Governor Jerry Brown ~~appreciating urging him for to signing the bill~~support Assembly Bill 403 into law.

BACKGROUND:

In light of numerous sexual harassment allegations made against powerful individuals in all corners of our society, it is our utmost responsibility to protect those who courageously speak out. Therefore, the city should ~~show appreciation to support the state's efforts Governor Jerry Brown for his signing of Assembly Bill 403, which will~~ ensure whistleblower protections for legislative employees.

In the long term, we hope the state will extend similar protections ~~and take legislative actions to support brave people in all sectors of employment. and professions. both the public and private spheres.~~

Assembly Bill 403 imposes civil and criminal liability on legislators or employees who interfere with or retaliate against an individual's right to make a protected disclosure or good faith allegation. Hence, the bill ~~will would~~ strengthens legal repercussions for those trying to violate a person's ability to be a whistleblower. This bill will increase the transparency of not only would not only make sexual harassment allegations, ~~more transparent, but also other additionally~~ violations of law and legislative standards of conduct.

Here is a link to Assembly Bill 403:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB403

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

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

CONTACT PERSON:

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Attachment:

1. Letter to Governor Jerry Brown

Dear Governor Jerry Brown,

The Berkeley City Council ~~supports~~ ~~is much obliged~~ ~~respectfully obliged~~ requests that ~~to~~ you signing of Assembly Bill 403 into law, ensuring vital whistleblower protections for all legislative employees.

Assembly Bill 403 imposes civil and criminal liability on legislators or employees who interfere with or retaliate against an individual's right to make a protected disclosure or good faith allegation. Hence, the bill will strengthen legal repercussions for whistleblower antagonists. those trying to violate a person's ability to be a whistleblower.

In light of numerous sexual harassment allegations made against powerful individuals in ~~various societal institutions all corners of our society~~, it is the State's utmost responsibility to protect those who courageously speak out. ~~This bill would not only make sexual harassment allegations more transparent, but also other violations of law and legislative standard of conduct.~~ This bill will increase the transparency of not only sexual harassment allegations, but additionally violations of law and legislative standards of conduct. Therefore, your support to this cause ~~this important and long overdue bill~~ is a crucial step to a transparent California government.

~~Assembly Bill 403 imposes civil and criminal liability on legislators or employees who interfere with or retaliate against an individual's right to make a protected disclosure or good faith allegation. Hence, the bill would strengthen legal repercussions for those trying to violate a person's ability to be a whistleblower.~~

~~This bill would not only make sexual harassment allegations more transparent, but also other violations of law and legislative standard of conduct.~~

Legislators and legislative employees should be role models and exemplary citizens and, consequently, should be held accountable for any transgressions of acceptable moral or ethical conduct ~~and the law~~. While this bill is an important step in the right direction, we hope that similar whistleblower protections will soon be extended further into the public and private realms, protecting all sectors of employees in California. All Californians deserve the right ability to stand up and speak out.

In sum, we fully appreciate ~~implore~~ you forte ~~signing~~ Assembly Bill 403 into law. It is well past time for the State of California to support and protect the brave men and women who let their voice be heard against a tide of abuse, corruption, and harassment.

Respectfully,
The Berkeley City Council