



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 1, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
Subject: Resolution in Support of AB 931

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution that recognizes and demonstrates our full support of the Assembly Bill 931 co-authored by Assemblymembers Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty that aims to make significant changes to how law enforcement officers employ lethal force against community members.

BACKGROUND

Following the recent shooting of Stephon Clark, which demonstrated a gross example of excessive force by law enforcement on an unarmed black man, Assembly members Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty have co-authored a bill that aims to alter the procedures that often dictate these situations. AB 931, the Police Accountability and Community Protection Act, increases the standards that must be met in order to use deadly force. Officers must feel that the action is “necessary” instead of just “objectively reasonable.” This change will increase trust between community members and police, and ultimately create safer neighborhoods.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with the City’s climate and environmental goals.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett, 510-981-7130

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AB931

WHEREAS, under current California law, law enforcement officers are permitted to use deadly force if they find the action to be “objectively reasonable”; and

WHEREAS, According to The Washington Post, California had 162 fatal police shootings in 2017, 18 of which killed persons who were unarmed; and

WHEREAS, the law as it stands has created distrust of law enforcement within poor communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, in order to hold officers accountable for their decision to use deadly force, we must increase the standards to which they must adhere; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that we pledge our full support of AB 931 as written by Assemblymembers Shirley Weber and Kevin McCarty.