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ACTION CALENDAR

May 1, 2018

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

Subject: Referral to the Planning Commission to allow 4 temporary zoning amendments to increase student housing in the Southside Area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council refers the Planning Commission to allow 4 zoning amendments to increase student housing in the Southside Area through a Temporary Emergency Pilot Project.

BACKGROUND:

In current Planning Commission work plan indicates student housing zoning changes may take several years. The Planning Commission should explore the creation of a Temporary Emergency Pilot Project that allows 4 zoning amendments to increase student housing in the Southside area between College to Fulton and Bancroft to Dwight.

A Temporary Emergency Pilot Project is the best solution especially with a surge in the undergraduate population. Because this Temporary Emergency Pilot Project will be in place of immediate policy change, this will deliver quick relief to those that need it most--the students.

The proposed Temporary Emergency Pilot Project will take place over a set time period of 3 years with a limited and clearly outlined number of projects. During this time period, notwithstanding what is outlined in the current Zoning Ordinance, projects will be permitted:

- 1) Allow 4 projects that convert commercial space to residential space;
- 2) Allow 4 new projects to allow ground floors on any street to be converted into residential use except on Telegraph Avenue;
- 3) Allow up to 2 tall buildings up to 12 stories
- 4) Allow 6 projects to include a 20-foot height increase in order to increase the availability of student housing

The Temporary Emergency Pilot Project will help to ameliorate those suffering from the shortage in student housing. It will also make a greener Berkeley by cutting the commute times for students at UCB, BCC, or other schools in the vicinity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Minimal as this is only a referral.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Denser Housing close to campus will dramatically reduce greenhouses gases compare to students commuting by cars.

CONTACT PERSON:

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