



Kriss Worthington

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Revised
CONSENT CALENDAR
JULY 24, 2018

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution referring the Nextdoor App to the City Manager.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopting a resolution referring the Nextdoor App to City Manager in order for the Berkeley Police Department, [Fire Department](#), [Health Department](#), [Park and Recreation Department](#), and [Public Works Department](#) to provide Berkeley residents with real time updates about their community.

BACKGROUND:

Nextdoor is a news application where community members can inform one another about local events in real time. In contrast with region-wide news, this app relies on close-knit communities to keep posts relevant to members. This app provides a free and convenient platform for all community members to comfortably post and receive real time information. Currently, over 30,000 Berkeley residents use the Nextdoor app, but we want to expand usage to more students and community members.

Community members benefit by receiving notifications about crime, community issues, and city events crime alerts through the app, which can spread awareness faster than other platforms would be faster than any other platform. Currently, the Police Department uses the Nextdoor app. It does not require any contract to expand use to other departments. The Police Department can use the Nextdoor app for both preventing crime, and spreading awareness of emergency situations. The Fire Department can alert neighborhoods of nearby fires or dangerous chemical spills. Berkeley's Health Department can use Nextdoor to send out public health warnings about things like poor air quality, heat waves, and virus outbreaks. Park and Rec Department can send out alerts about park hours or community events. Public Works Department can to alert the public of nearby construction or maintenance. Topics discussed on this app may range from safety concerns, at a specific location to local community events such as protests and neighborhoods meetings.

The most important feature of the app is that it can inform citizens of emergencies and events in real time, rather than after the fact. It is important for community members to be informed about what is happening around them and utilize the available resources to get information as quickly as possible. This knowledge will keep individuals more aware of their community and make them safer overall.

Connecting this app with the City would give more resources to the ~~Berkeley~~ Police Department, Fire Department, Health Department, Parks and Rec Department and Public Works Department. ~~Increasing the usage of the Nextdoor app will enhance its utility and credibility in addition to further educating Berkeley's residents on how to stay safe. enhance the utility and credibility of the application by having more contributors, and most importantly, educate Berkeley residents on how to be safe.~~

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

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

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Kriss Worthington 510-981-7170

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Nextdoor Resolution

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

REFER NEXTDOOR APP TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT, BERKELEY FIRE DEPARTMENT, HEALTH DEPARTMENT, PARK AND REC DEPARTMENT, AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO USE NEXTDOOR TO EDUCATE THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY ABOUT LOCAL CRIME PREVENTION AND LOCALIZED NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

WHEREAS, Nextdoor App provides a platform where neighbors can inform one another about local, current events including crime, health hazards, public works, fire, park ; and

~~WHEREAS, providing Berkeley residents and students with faster, more accessible crime alerts would reduce crime and violence in the City of Berkeley by providing individuals necessary time to take action following dangerous situations; and~~

WHEREAS, Berkeley Police can utilize modern technology as a tool to combat crime by ~~alarming residents and~~ providing advice to stay safe and help prevent crime before it happens; and

WHEREAS, [The](#) Fire Department can use the app for fire prevention and by directing people to shelter and providing advice [regarding](#) dangerous chemicals; and

WHEREAS, [The](#) Health Department can send alerts regarding public health; and

WHEREAS, [The](#) Park and Recreation Department can update residents on public events that are taking place within the City; and

[WHEREAS, Public Works Department can reduce traffic by alerting the public of road construction or maintenance; and](#)

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Berkeley that it hereby refers the Nextdoor App to City Manager.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on **July 24, 2018** by the following vote

Ayes

Noes

Absent

Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest _____
Mark Numainville, City Clerk