



Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR

JULY 24, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
 Subject: Resolution referring the Wildfire App to the City Manager

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopting a Resolution referring the Wildfire App to City Manager in order for the Berkeley Police Department to provide Berkeley residents with real time updates on their community.

BACKGROUND

Wildfire is a news application through which 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 within a 5 mile radius in order to keep posts relevant to members. This app provides a convenient platform for all community members, where they can comfortably post and receive real time information.

One example of the usefulness of the Wildfire app is when it alerted students of an active shooting and gave them more time to react and get to safety. Wildfire app is not meant to replace calling 911, instead it would simply alert the public about crimes in their community. Not only does the Wildfire app include alerts of local crimes, but also contains relevant topics and events in the area around the University.

It is important for community members to be informed about what is happening around them and receive alerts in real time rather than after emergencies occur. Wildfire will let them utilize its available resources to get this information as soon as possible.

Connecting this app with the City would provide the Berkeley Police Department with additional resources, enhance the usefulness and credibility of the application through its additional contributors, and educate residents on how to stay 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 Wildfire App Resolution

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

REFER TO THE CITY MANAGER TO WORK WITH BPD TO USE THE WILDFIRE APP
TO EDUCATE THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY ABOUT LOCAL CRIME

WHEREAS, the Wildfire App exemplifies the benefits of technology by providing real time information about local crime that has happened in City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, keeping residents and students constantly informed would reduce crime and violence in the City of Berkeley by providing individuals necessary time to take action during a dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department can have access to more resources to send out quick alerts about crime in the city; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department can also filter fake alerts and racial profiling published by the community in order to make the app more credible; and

WHEREAS, community members can comfortably post regardless of language and cultural barriers; and

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Berkeley that it hereby refers the Wildfire App to the 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

