



Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
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CONSENT CALENDAR

November 27, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Subject: Short Term Referral to Expedite Components of the More Student Housing Now Resolution, and budget referral to the annual appropriation ordinance adoption

RECOMMENDATION:

Short term referral to the City Manager and the Planning Department to promptly move forward with components of the More Student Housing Now Resolution that do not require additional CEQA review, amend existing City ordinances and policies that prevent the implementation of SB 1227, and provide a budget referral to the annual appropriation ordinance adoption that would allocate the necessary resources as determined by the Planning Staff.

BACKGROUND:

This referral is intended to expedite the implementation of particular components of the More Student Housing Now Resolution. The Planning Staff have identified the conversion of second-floor commercial spaces to residential units, the expansion of car-free housing, and the creation of ground floor residential units as not requiring additional CEQA review. Therefore, the Planning Commission should be given the opportunity to vote on these policies at the earliest possible date. This Referral would also allow the City Council to approve a budget based on Planning Staff determination of needed resources for consultants and/or CEQA compliance.

Senator Nancy Skinner introduced and secured the passage of SB 1227, which “requires a density bonus to be provided to a developer that agrees to construct a housing development in which all units in the development will be used for students enrolled full-time at an institution of higher education.” This bill was created with both the City of Berkeley and UC Berkeley in mind, but existing City law may restrict the implementation of SB 1227. Therefore, the Council should recommend that the City of Berkeley make any administrative or ordinance changes necessary in order to take advantage of SB 1227. Doing so would not require additional CEQA review and would help actualize elements of the More Student Housing Resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Budget referral to be determined by Planning Staff recommendation. Preliminary staff report suggested \$250,000

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: No negative impact and consistent with city standards.

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