



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
June 26, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager
Submitted by: Eric Angstadt, Director, Planning and Development
Subject: Safe Urban Gardening in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

Request that the City Manager direct staff to prepare a pamphlet in support of safe urban gardening based on input from both the Community Environmental Advisory Commission and the Community Health Commission, and provide educational outreach.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Production of a brochure is estimated to cost \$3,000 (account no. 010-8304-420.40-50) plus minimal staff time for educational outreach

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) voted to adopt an Urban Gardening pamphlet (attached to the CEAC report). Commissions do not normally “adopt” pamphlets; therefore, Council approval was requested. However, as described below, the proposed pamphlet may not adequately reflect recommendations from the Community Health Commission (CHC). Staff supports production of a pamphlet, but recommends that it be finalized and produced by staff based on feedback from both commissions.

BACKGROUND

The CEAC voted on May 3, 2012 to send an Action Report to the Council to adopt and disseminate an urban gardening pamphlet drafted by the Commission. The Community Health Commission discussed the proposed pamphlet in March. The CHC did not take any action; however, they provided input that the main message of the brochure should be to support urban gardening as a safe and healthful activity, rather than on the risks of lead and arsenic. They also made specific recommendations regarding the need to wash hands and produce, which were included in the brochure.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Neither the Council nor commissions normally adopt pamphlets. Rather, they provide policy direction to staff, that then develop and produce the materials.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Adopt the pamphlet as recommended by CEAC.

CONTACT PERSON

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