

RESOLUTION NO. 65,751–N.S.

SERVICE ANIMALS WELCOME IN BERKELEY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley has been at the forefront of the disability rights movement; and

WHEREAS, an individual's disability is not always visible to others; and

WHEREAS, service animals perform tasks directly related to a person's disability; and

WHEREAS, service animals are working animals and not pets; and

WHEREAS, many business owners and their staff do not understand their responsibilities and obligations regarding service animals in places of public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, no special harness, vest or other identification on a service animal is required for public access; and

WHEREAS, "guide dogs" have been in use for nearly a century, use of service animals to assist persons with hearing impairments and other disabilities is much more recent; and

WHEREAS, users of service animals continue to be denied their legal rights to nearly unrestricted public access for their service animals; and

WHEREAS, the Community Health Commission, Commission on Disability, and Animal Care Commission have supported Service Animals Welcome in Berkeley since 2005; and

WHEREAS, Service Animals Welcome in Berkeley supports compliance in Berkeley with existing state and federal law on service animal access and rights of people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Service Animals Welcome in Berkeley has broad community support including service dog users, service dog advocates, their families, friends and neighbors, merchants, the California Hotel and Lodging Association, Bergin University of Canine Studies and more.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is directed to incorporate educational materials in the Business License Tax process to inform business owners of their responsibilities regarding service animals; include content about service animals and the responsibilities of Berkeley Businesses on the City's website; include the phone number for the City's Disability Services Specialist; provide signs for businesses to voluntarily put in their windows regarding service animals; and work with Business Improvement Districts and

Commercial District Organizations to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on May 29, 2012 by the following vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Arreguin, Capitelli, Maio, Moore, Wengraf, Worthington, Wozniak and Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Tom Bates, Mayor

Attest: 

Mark Numairville, CMC, Acting City Clerk