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CONSENT CALENDAR

~~40/31~~11/14/2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Subject: City Manager Referral To Improve Fire Safety Standards For Rebuilt Fire-Damaged Structures

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer to the [Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and the City Manager](#) to [research an Ordinance](#) to require repair and replacement of fire damaged buildings to be brought up to current fire safety standards.

BACKGROUND:

In recent years, a number of buildings - both commercial and residential - have [burned down/been significantly damaged by fire](#). Currently, the owners of [partially](#) fire damaged structures are not [always](#) required by the City of Berkeley to [bring the entire structure up reconstruct properties to current meet today's](#) fire safety standards. This results in the inability of multiple owners of fire-damaged properties to receive coverage from insurance companies/providers for the upgrading of fire preventative measures including fire sprinklers, and alarm systems.

The City of Oakland, with whom we share a vulnerable hills region, mandates all portions of building structures in need of repair following fire damage to meet the current Building and Fire Code for fire protection. Similarly, the City of Lancaster requires that structural repairs to buildings with a damage ratio more than 0.10 (10 percent) be strengthened and brought into compliance with code. In the light of the recent disasters in the North Bay, and the growing threat of climate-induced wildfires, it is prudent that Berkeley follow the lead of our fellow cities to protect building occupants and Berkeley residents from hazard.

This will benefit landlords, who will be able to access insurance reimbursement and tenants, who will live in more fire safe buildings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Minimal

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

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

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ATTACHMENT:

<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/ceda/documents/form/oak059152.pdf>