



RULES AGENDA:
ITEM:

Memorandum

TO: RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ACA 5

DATE: June 23, 2020

Approved

Sylvia Arenas

Date

6/23/2020

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a position of support for ACA 5 (Weber) – Government Preferences.
2. Recommend this item be agendized for the June 30, 2020 City Council Meeting for Council discussion and action to advocate the City's support for ACA 5 to the California State Assembly and Senate.

BACKGROUND

Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) No. 5 was introduced by Assemblymembers Shirley Weber, Mike Gipson, Miguel Santiago, and Lorena Gonzalez to delete the provisions enacted through Proposition 209 of 1996. If approved by voters, ACA 5 would permit the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors in government hiring, college admissions, and government contracting. ACA 5 is currently in the Senate Committee on Appropriations.

ACA 5 aligns with the City's growing commitment to racial equity since joining the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE) in 2018, the recent establishment of the Office of Racial Equity, and the Mayor and Council's commitment to address racial inequity head-on with urgency and ongoing discussions about systemic racism.

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities continue to face discrimination and disparity in education, housing, health, and more. Despite the increase in California's Latino population, they remain heavily underrepresented in government jobs. The amount of Black state workers has decreased since 1996 while the number of non-minority males increased, especially in executive leadership positions. One year following the passage of Proposition 209, UC Berkeley's admission rates dropped 29.3 percent for Black applicants, 32.2 percent for Native American applicants, 31.4 percent for Chicano applicants, and 6.9 percent for Latino applicants. Contrary to popular belief, the passage of the proposition also had a negative impact on Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

RULES AND OPEN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

June 23, 2020

Subject: Support for ACA 5

Page 2

As a result, cities including the City of Berkeley, City of San Francisco, City of Oakland, and City of Los Angeles have adopted similar positions of support for ACA 5 through resolution. I urge the staff to refer to the City of Berkeley's resolution attached as a model to draft a similar resolution to advocate the City's support for ACA 5 to the California State Assembly and Senate. Now more than ever, we must support ACA 5 to address the inequities that our BIPOC communities face. By embracing our identities and allowing diversity to be part of our decisions, we are standing up for our communities of color and ensuring that they continue to receive equitable support.