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Berkeley Police Association Announces City Council Endorsements of Kesarwani in District 1, Droste in District 8 and Anyone But Harrison in District 4

BERKELEY, CA (August 22, 2018) — Representing the sworn officers who comprise the city's police force, the Berkeley Police Association (BPA) today announced three local endorsements in the November 2018 election:

Lori Droste is endorsed for City Council District 8. During her four years on the council, Droste has been an unwavering advocate for a professional, adequately resourced, community-serving police department. She is running for re-election to continue her work to address housing affordability and homelessness; support thriving commercial districts; and advocate for safer communities. She has earned our support because she supports Berkeley police and the people we serve.

Rashi Kesarwani is endorsed for City Council District 1. Kesarwani brings more than a decade of public policy experience to this open seat contest, specializing in health and human services. She is running to advocate for homes that are affordable for working families, young people and seniors; fight for long-term solutions to homelessness; and work collaboratively with first responders to keep neighborhoods safe. We encourage District 1 voters to support Kesarwani.

Anyone But Kate Harrison is endorsed for City Council District 4. Since her election in 2017, Harrison has made no effort to seek input from law enforcement and supported policies that de-professionalize and demoralize the department. Harrison's policies would put unqualified activists in charge of core police functions, remove critical emergency training and place neighbors at risk of property damage. We encourage voters to oppose Harrison.

“Berkeley is at a crossroads on public safety, with a police staffing crisis and critical cuts to traffic safety and crisis intervention training at the same time we're adding people and fielding increased calls for service,” said Chris Stines, president of the Berkeley Police Association. “Supporting Rashi Kesarwani in District 1 and Lori Droste in District 8 – and opposing Kate Harrison in District 4 – will enable the success of our sworn officers in keeping Berkeley’s neighborhoods safe and strong.”

The BPA sought candidates who demonstrated a commitment to the policies and resources needed to keep Berkeley neighborhoods safe, including:

- A sustained and workable plan to increase the number of officers in the field through improved recruitment and retention;
- Maintaining a fair health and retirement package for police officers and addressing the city’s unfunded liabilities so future officers can receive the benefits they earned;
- Revising city policies on helicopters, K-9 units and other industry standard tools
- Continuing to support and strengthen police and neighborhood relations; and
- Maintaining privacy and the safety for victims and officers in the police review and disciplinary process

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About the Berkeley Police Association

The Berkeley Police Association was founded in 1953 by the sworn officers of the Berkeley Police Department. The goal of the BPA is to partner with the community and provide high-quality police service through community interaction, emphasizing the highest degree of cooperation, professionalism and ethical behavior, and to create an atmosphere of safety and security.