



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
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CONSENT CALENDAR

May 12th, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author) and Cheryl Davila (Author)  
 Subject: Berkeley Juneteenth Association: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Fund to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember, including \$500 from both Councilmember Ben Bartlett & Cheryl Davila, for pre-planning the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival (organized by Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. 501(c)3). The funds will be relinquished to the City's General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Bartlett and any other councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, but people in bondage in Texas remained unaware of their freedom until 1865 since their captors withheld this information from them. On June 18, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army along with 1,800 soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas to force the captors to release the people in bondage, whose population had swelled to over a quarter of a million.

The next year, newly-freed people in Texas flooded the streets, celebrating June 19th as their own emancipation day. Local groups kept the Juneteenth tradition alive and, in 1979, the passage of H.B. 1016 made June 19th Black Heritage Day an official Texas holiday. In commemoration of African American culture and traditions, Juneteenth is now celebrated in communities nationwide.

The Berkeley Juneteenth Festival was founded by R.D. Bonds, Bradley Walters, and Sam Dyke, who started the festival celebration to promote community pride and bring together South Berkeley businesses and residents in the celebration of a major African American cultural event. The establishment of Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI) culminated in the first annual Festival in 1987, hosting 32 successful annual Juneteenth Festivals since. Former City Councilmembers Mary Wainwright and the late Maudell Shirek were instrumental in obtaining City sponsorship. The late Lothario Lotho and Giselle Thomas also dedicated over 25 years. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival will be tentatively held on Sunday, June 21, 2020 on Alcatraz Ave and Adeline St.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION No General Fund impact; \$500 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENT: 1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Councilmembers Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation – Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. – will receive the funds; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI) promotes greater societal unity and well-being by educating and involving the community-at-large in historical, family, and cultural activities pertaining to people of color; and

WHEREAS, BJAJ hosts various activities including Black History Month Celebrations and the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival; and

WHEREAS, cultural celebrations are critical to the social and spiritual unity of our community, which are the embodiment of BJAJ events; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their council office budget, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc.