



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR

June 1, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts (SSBPPE)
 Submitted by: Poki Namkung, Chairperson, SSBPPE Commission
 Subject: Recommendation that the City Council Pass a Resolution Regarding Procurement, Sales and Serving of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages.

RECOMMENDATION

The Sugar Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts recommends that the Berkeley City Council adopt a Resolution that City of Berkeley departments and City food services contractors shall not:

- 1) Serve sugar-sweetened beverages at City meetings and events on City property;
- 2) Procure sugar-sweetened beverages with City funds; or,
- 3) Sell sugar-sweetened beverages on City property, including in vending machines.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On February 24, 2020, the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee moved an item to Council recommending approval of the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts Resolution regarding procurement, sales and serving of sugar-sweetened beverages with the following changes in the resolved clause:

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Berkeley shall not:

1. Procure sugar-sweetened beverages with City funds; and
2. Serve or sell sugar-sweetened beverages on City property, including in vending machines.

And be it further resolved that the City discourages sugar-sweetened beverages at events on City property that receive City of Berkeley funding, and mandate that these events be required to provide options other than sugar-sweetened beverages.

And be it further resolved that in areas or facilities where employees regularly work beyond the core business hours of 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., the City of Berkeley shall provide refrigerators in good working order and of adequate size for the number of employees in

that area, to bring and store their own beverages.

In addition, ask the City Council to make a referral to the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts to consider how to regulate sugar sweetened beverages at events held on City of Berkeley Property hosted by non-City entities who receive City of Berkeley funds.

M/S/C (Hahn/Bartlett). All Ayes.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Cost of promulgating information, notifying City Departments and revising clauses in City contracts.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently, the City of Berkeley has no policy regarding either the procurement of sugar-sweetened beverages with City funds or the sales or distribution of sugar-sweetened beverages at City meetings and events or on City property.

On September 19, 2019, the SSBPPE Commission voted as follows:

Moved to approve and adopt the SSB Resolution (version #13) and the accompanying Council Report and forward to the City Council.

M/S/C: Commissioners Scheider/Rose

Ayes: Commissioners Browne, Crawford, Moore, Rose, Ishii, and Scheider

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent from vote: None

Recused: None

Excused: Commissioners Morales and Namkung

Definitions: Sugar-sweetened beverages or SSBs refer to all beverages with added caloric sweeteners with a minimum of 2 calories per fluid ounce, as defined in Chapter 7.72 of the City of Berkeley Municipal Code.ⁱ SSBs include juices with added sweetener, sodas, energy drinks, sweetened teas and coffee drinks, and sport drinks. These drinks offer little or no nutritional value, but include massive quantities of added sugar. For instance, a single 20-ounce bottle of soda typically contains the equivalent of approximately 16 teaspoons of sugar.

In BMC Chapter 7.72, SSBs exclude 100% juice, diet drinks, waters, and milk drinks as well as medical drinks and baby formula.

BACKGROUND

In November of 2014, the Berkeley voters passed Measure D with 76% of the vote, which requires both the collection of a 1 cent-per-ounce tax on the distribution of SSBs in the City of Berkeley and the convening of the Sugar Sweetened Beverage Products

Panel of Experts (SSBPPE) to recommend investments to both reduce the consumption of SSBs as well as to address the health consequences of the consumption of SSBs including diabetes, dental caries, heart disease and obesity.ii

To accomplish these goals, the SSBPPE recommended that the City create the Healthy Berkeley program to reduce the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (“SSB”) in Berkeley and to address the effects of SSB consumption. The City Council unanimously adopted this recommendation on November 29, 2016 and awarded a \$1.5 million per year investment to be granted to community agencies and the Berkeley Unified School District garden and nutrition program. \$225,000, or 15%, of this funding is allocated to the City Public Health Division to administer and evaluate the Healthy Berkeley Program. See November 29, 2016, Council agenda items 33a and 33b.iii

The City of Berkeley requires that all Healthy Berkeley funded programs (including the school district) adopt an organizational policy curtailing the service, procurement and sale of SSBs. The purpose of these organizational policies is to change norms in our community about consuming sugary drinks and support the educational work of these programs.

We know from the public health campaigns to reduce tobacco use, that institutional policies that change norms have a powerful impact on behavior and are a vital tool to improving health in our communities. Education and media campaigns are not enough to change behaviors, especially when pervasive and persuasive marketing by corporations influence choices that people make, and when there is an addictive aspect to the behavior as is the case with both tobacco and sugar.iv

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In 2014, Berkeley voters overwhelmingly passed Measure D and since then the City of Berkeley has led the effort to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and resulting health impacts and disparities, not only in Berkeley but also in the Bay Area and nationwide. Sales of sugary beverages have decreased and school and community groups have been funded to continue the effort to reduce sugary drink consumption and improve health. Now is an opportune time for the City to once again provide leadership for City employees and the community by enacting a healthy beverage policy for the City that restricts procurement of sugary drinks as well as the serving and sales of sugary drinks at City events. This policy would be responsive to the will of the voters, supportive of school and community efforts to improve Berkeley residents' health, and a model to other cities. This policy will align the City with Healthy Berkeley grantees who have already adopted similar policies. The SSBPPE encourages the City to take this step to set an example and demonstrate its own commitment to the further reducing sugary drink consumption and improvement in community health.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

In January 2018, the SSSBPPE voted to recommend that the Berkeley City Council adopt an Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to direct the City of Berkeley departments and City food services contractors to refrain from: 1) Procuring sugar-sweetened beverages with City funds; 2) Selling sugar-sweetened beverages on City property, including in vending machines; and, 3) Serving sugar-sweetened beverages at City meetings and events on City property. On March 27, 2018, the City Council voted to refer the recommendation to the City Manager and request that the City Manager draft an ordinance for consideration by the City Council. In June 2018, the City Council ranked this ordinance around 32 among items to develop for the City. No further action was taken until May of 2019, when Council Member Harrison reached out to Holly Scheider, her appointee on the SSBPPE Commission, and suggested that the Commission put forward a Resolution in place of an Ordinance with the same content.

CITY MANAGER

See the City Manager companion report.

CONTACT PERSON

Dechen Tsering, SSBPPE Commission Secretary (510) 981-5394

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CITY POLICY / AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE TO DIRECT CITY OF BERKELEY DEPARTMENTS TO REFRAIN FROM PROCURING, SERVING OR SELLING SUGARY DRINKS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is known for its commitment to reducing inequities in diet and disease and in promoting access to healthy food and beverages.

WHEREAS, drinking just **one** serving of sugar-sweetened beverage per day poses a **30 percent or higher risk** of becoming diabetic.

WHEREAS, drinking just **one** serving of sugar-sweetened beverage per day poses a **30 percent or higher risk** of early death from cardiovascular disease.

WHEREAS, city employees deserve a healthy work environment, with an increased variety of healthier low-sugar alternative beverages such as flavored waters, plain or carbonated water, 100% juice, milk drinks, diet drinks, unsweetened or artificially sweetened iced teas and coffee drinks.

WHEREAS, it is recognized that city staff are free to bring and consume their own sugary beverages at work.

WHEREAS, other public institutions that have completely eliminated the sales of sugar sweetened beverages on their premises and have demonstrated that as a result, positive changes have been documented in the staff's metabolic disease indicators associated with lower risk of diabetes and heart disease

WHEREAS, giving City employees access to healthier beverages in the workplace will increase healthy beverage consumption and reduce the impact of diet-related disease, thus reducing the City's health care expenses.

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley requires that *all* organizations receiving funding from Healthy Berkeley not serve or sell sugar sweetened beverages on their premises.

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District does not serve or sell soda to students of all ages and students on their premises and this contributes to positive adult role modeling regarding healthy beverage consumption.

WHEREAS, Chapter 7.72 of the City of Berkeley Municipal Code^v has already defined sugar-sweetened beverages as all beverages with added caloric sweeteners with a minimum of 2 calories per fluid ounce, including juices with added sweetener, sodas, energy drinks, sweetened teas and coffee drinks, and sport drinks which offer little or no nutritional value, but include massive quantities of added sugar and in addition, Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.72 also defines exemptions and thus excludes waters, 100% juice, milk drinks, diet drinks, as well as medical drinks and baby formula.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley and City food services contractors **shall not**:

- 1) Procure sugar-sweetened beverages with City funds; and,
- 2) Serve or sell sugar-sweetened beverages on City property, including in vending machines.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the City discourages sugar-sweetened beverages at events on City property that receive City of Berkeley funding, and mandate that these events be required to provide options other than sugar-sweetened beverages.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that in areas or facilities where employees regularly work beyond the core business hours of 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., the City of Berkeley shall provide refrigerators in good working order and of adequate size for the number of employees in that area, to bring and store their own beverages.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED to ask the City Council to make a referral to the Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts to consider how to regulate sugar sweetened beverages at events held on City of Berkeley Property hosted by non-City entities who receive City of Berkeley funds.

ⁱ B.M.C. 7388-NS § 7.72, 2014, City of Berkeley

ⁱⁱ B.M.C. 7388-NS § 7.72, 2014, City of Berkeley

ⁱⁱⁱ Berkeley Nov. 29, 2016 agenda:

https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2016/11_Nov/City_Council_11-29-2016_-_Regular_Meeting_Agenda.aspx Language in the Nov. 29, 2016

Resolution, Agenda item 33a, pages 9 and 11, follows:

“BUSD will not sell or serve sugar-sweetened beverages (as defined by the SSB tax) at any BUSD schools or campuses.”

“Funded organizations must have in place or agree to adopt prior to being funded an organizational policy prohibiting serving SSBs at organization sponsored events or meetings.”

^{iv} <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/01/the-sugar-addiction-taboo/282699/>

^v B.M.C. 7388-NS § 7.72, 2014, City of Berkeley

