



CONSENT CALENDAR
March 10, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Lunaparra (Author), Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor), Mayor Ishii (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Berkeley Free Clinic Critical Renovations: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds 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 Vice Mayor Lunaparra's discretionary fund, \$500 from Councilmember Taplin's discretionary fund, and funds from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute, to the Berkeley Free Clinic for critical renovations at its new location at 830 University Avenue, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1969 during the People's Park era, the Berkeley Free Clinic (BFC) has served as a cornerstone of community health for over five decades. Operated as a volunteer-run collective, the BFC provides 100% free acute medical care to anyone in need—regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status. Its services include STI and UTI testing and treatment, HIV linkage and PREP, TB testing, and peer counseling. It also assists clients with benefits enrollment, housing referrals, and access to community resources. The BFC primarily serves unhoused, uninsured, undocumented, and low-income residents who often face the greatest barriers to care. By offering zero-cost services, the BFC reduces pressure on local safety nets and contributes to better public health outcomes across the city.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

After operating for decades at 2339 Durant Avenue in District 7, the BFC was forced to relocate when that building, owned by a local church, was sold and deemed unsuitable for occupation. Its move to 830 University Avenue (formerly the Ann Chandler Public Health Center) allows the BFC to maintain continuity of care in the city it has proudly served for over 50 years. To meet OSHPD standards, the BFC undertook extensive renovations, including demolition, carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, drywall, flooring, and expansion of exam and restroom areas. These upgrades, which cost \$196,809, a major investment for a volunteer-driven organization, were necessary to bring the facility into compliance with OSHPD standards for medical settings and to ensure safe, high-quality care for Berkeley residents. The renovated facility will allow the BFC to expand

capacity, extend clinic hours, and continue serving Berkeley's most vulnerable residents in a safe and compliant environment. Financial assistance from the Berkeley City Council for the renovations would help the BFC maintain its vital role in the local safety net and support equitable healthcare in our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No anticipated impacts.

FISCAL IMPACTS

No General Fund impact. \$500 is available from both Vice Mayor Lunaparra and Councilmember Taplin's office budget discretionary accounts.

Attachments:

1. Resolution

CONTACT PERSON

Vice Mayor Cecilia Lunaparra, (510) 981-7170
Jonah Gottlieb, Chief of Staff

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

SUPPORT FOR CRITICAL RENOVATIONS AT THE BERKELEY FREE CLINIC

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Free Clinic (BFC), a registered 501c(3) nonprofit organization operated as a volunteer-run collective, has provided 100% free acute medical care to anyone in need—regardless of income, insurance, or immigration status—for over five decades; and

WHEREAS, the BFC's services include STI and UTI testing and treatment, HIV linkage and PREP, TB testing, and peer counseling. The BFC also assists clients with benefits enrollment, housing referrals, and access to community resources; and

WHEREAS, the BFC primarily serves unhoused, uninsured, undocumented, and low-income residents who often face the greatest barriers to care. By offering zero-cost services, the BFC reduces pressure on local safety nets and contributes to better public health outcomes across the city; and

WHEREAS, after operating for decades at 2339 Durant Avenue in District 7, the BFC was forced to relocate when that building, owned by a local church, was sold and deemed unsuitable for occupation; and

WHEREAS, the BFC's move to 830 University Avenue (formerly the Ann Chandler Public Health Center) allows the BFC to maintain continuity of care in the city it has proudly served for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, to meet OSHPD standards, the BFC undertook extensive renovations, including demolition, carpentry, plumbing, HVAC, drywall, flooring, and expansion of exam and restroom areas; and

WHEREAS, these upgrades were necessary to bring the facility into compliance with OSHPD standards for medical settings and to ensure safe, high-quality care for Berkeley residents. The renovated facility will allow the BFC to expand capacity, extend clinic hours, and continue serving Berkeley's most vulnerable residents in a safe and compliant environment; and

WHEREAS, the BFC seeks funds in the amount of \$500 from Vice Mayor Lunaparra's office, \$500 from Councilmember Taplin's office, and up to \$500 from each Councilmember to help cover the cost of renovations. Vice Mayor Lunaparra and Councilmember Taplin each have surplus funds in their office expenditure accounts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Berkeley City Council that up to \$500 relinquished by Councilmembers – including \$500 from Vice Mayor Lunaparra and \$500 from Councilmember Taplin – shall be granted to the Berkeley Free Clinic to help cover renovations at its new location.

