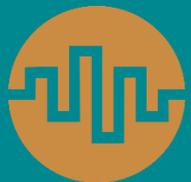
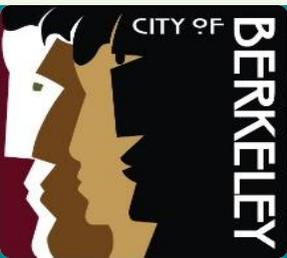


Whistleblower Report: \$286,000 Ambulance Purchase

Berkeley City Council Meeting

March 24, 2026



BERKELEY CITY AUDITOR

Whistleblower Program



Program for employees to report **fraud, waste or abuse**



Anonymous and confidential



Public reports to enhance transparency and accountability



Allegation

- Report received in late 2024
- Ambulance purchased without prior Council approval
- Council approval required for purchases over \$100,000



Objective and Outcome



Objective: Determine if the allegation was substantiated and assess process gaps.



Outcome: **Allegation was substantiated**



Findings and Impacts

Finding: \$286,000 ambulance was purchased without required approvals

Impact: City was financially committed without oversight; Ambulance could not be used due to withheld title

Finding: Retroactive Council approval wasn't transparent.

Impact: Council and the public were unaware of City's prior commitment



Recommendations

- 1. Add to the Purchasing Manual that no purchases are allowed without a requisition, purchase order, and Council approval over the threshold.**
- 2. Add clear escalation steps if purchasing steps are skipped.**
- 3. Provide training on purchasing roles and responsibilities.**
- 4. Establish a process to notify Council if purchasing steps are bypassed.**



We would like to thank city departments for their assistance with this investigation.



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