



CONSENT CALENDAR
June 30, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Adena Ishii (Author), Councilmember Igor Tregub (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Replenishing Business Damage Mitigation Fund: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Fund

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per Councilmember including \$10,000 from Mayor Ishii and \$500 from Councilmember Tregub to the Downtown Berkeley Association, the administrator for the Business Damage Mitigation Fund, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for the purpose of providing the resources needed to support local small businesses who experience property damages (including vandalism), from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Mayor Ishii, Councilmember Tregub and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

On June 2, 2020, the Berkeley City Council passed a referral to the FY 2021 Budget Process to establish a COVID-19 Business Damage Mitigation Fund in an amount up to \$100,00 to provide one-time grants to small businesses who experience property damage due to vandalism and other factors during the COVID-19 local State of Emergency. The 2020 Council referral also set conditions on the use of grant funds: 1) grants limited per incident to the amount of the affected party's deductible or \$3,000 whichever is greater; 2) limit to two grants per business; 3) prioritize repair of exterior damage; and 4) prioritize small independent businesses in need.

A total of \$85,000 was allocated to the Downtown Berkeley Association for administration of the grant program. These grants have helped businesses in removing graffiti, replacing broken windows, doors or furniture, and cleaning/sanitizing their site. The funds were exhausted in 2022 and were replenished in 2024 by former Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin. Now, the Damage Mitigation Fund has depleting funds.

This item will contribute to the fund by continuing to support local small businesses in Berkeley that may have financial constraints.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact; \$10,000 is available from Mayor Ishii's budget discretionary account & \$500 is available from Councilmember Tregub's budget discretionary account.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Adena Ishii
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Attachments: Resolution for Council Expenditures

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF DISCRETIONARY FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TOWARDS THE BUSINESS DAMAGE MITIGATION FUND, A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Mayor Adena Ishii has funds in her office discretionary account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit organization, the Downtown Berkeley Association, seeks funds from the City of Berkeley not to exceed \$10,000 per Councilmember, including the amount of \$10,000 from the office of Mayor Adena Ishii and \$500 from Councilmember Tregub, to provide the resources needed to support local small businesses in Berkeley who experience property damages (including vandalism); and

WHEREAS, the Business Damage Mitigation Fund was originally established in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide one-time grants to any small business in Berkeley to mitigate damage such as removing graffiti, replacing broken windows, doors or furniture, or cleaning and sanitizing business sites/properties; and

WHEREAS, this fund has supported many small businesses in Berkeley and if funded, it will continue to create a positive driving force to attract more small businesses, retain existing small businesses, and demonstrate the City's commitment to the evolving circumstances that create financial burdens for businesses.

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 up to \$10,000 per office shall be granted to the Downtown Berkeley Association to fund the Business Damage Mitigation Fund for following services to continue to provide support to local small businesses who experience property damages (including vandalism).

