

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Humbert (Author)

Subject: Russell Street Halloween Festivities (2026–2029): 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 \$4,000 per Councilmember including \$4,000 from Councilmember Humbert to the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association for Russell Street Halloween festivities from 2026 to 2029 with funds relinquished to the City's General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Humbert and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

Russell Street Halloween in the Elmwood neighborhood is a long-standing tradition that draws large crowds of trick-or-treaters and other ookey-spooky Halloween characters.<sup>1</sup> This community-led event features lovingly decorated homes, costumes, and seasonal activities. Residents on Russell Street transform their houses into creepy and fun displays, making it one of the best spots for trick-or-treating in Berkeley. The event has become a cherished celebration, especially for families seeking a lively and safe Halloween experience. These funds will help the event cover expenses and ensure that Russell Street Halloween remains a Boo-erkeley tradition for years to come.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact. \$4,000 is available from Councilmember Humbert's office budget discretionary account.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with adopting this recommendation.

CONTACT PERSON

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2022/11/01/halloween-elmwood-berkeley-trick-treat>

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

RUSSELL STREET HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the Russell Street Halloween festivities, sponsored by the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association, will take place on October 31, 2026 and is expected to take place on October 31 each year thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the annual event is a fang-tastic Elmwood community tradition; and

WHEREAS, Russell Street Halloween is a skele-ton of fun for the whole family; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember has surplus funds in his office expenditure account, witch he would like to contribute to the event; and

WHEREAS, the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association is trick-or-treating for funds in the amount of \$4,000 to help cover the costs of the festivities for the next four years (2026–2029); and

WHEREAS, coffin up funds for this event would serve the civic interests of community-building, creating safe spaces for holiday celebrations, and preventing this event from ghosting;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Councilmembers from their Council Office Budgets up to \$4,000 per office shall be granted to the Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association for helping cover the costs of Russell Street Halloween festivities.