



Berkeley Police Department

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 29, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen City Manager
 Submitted by: Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police
 Subject: Grant: Fiscal Year 2027 Alcohol Policing Partnership (APP) Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager, to execute a grant contract and any subsequent amendments with the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) in the amount of \$97,330 for fiscal year 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley Police Department (BPD) will be the direct recipient of the grant in the amount of \$97,330 dollars for fiscal year 2027. The grant will support Berkeley Police Department operations to reduce underage drinking, limit youth access to alcohol, and verify that alcohol-licensed businesses are operating in compliance with the California Business and Professions Code. Grant revenues will be deposited into the Police Department's One-Time Grant Fund. There is no required local match of funds to obtain the grant.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley faces a significant and detrimental issue with underage drinking and alcohol-related disturbances, particularly in areas surrounding the University of California, Berkeley. These issues significantly impact public safety, strain local law enforcement, and disrupt the quality of life for residents, students, and visitors.

One of the most problematic areas is located in the south campus, a popular gathering spot for students and young adults. Throughout 2025 and 2026, BPD has responded to more than 1800 calls for service in the 2400-2600 block of Durant Ave and the 2300-2500 block of Telegraph Ave. These calls include incidents of public intoxication, noise disturbances, fights, intoxicated armed individuals, and vandalism. The frequency of alcohol-related offenses, including DUIs and assaults, highlights the need for proactive enforcement to address these issues.

The consequences of unchecked underage drinking and alcohol-related misconduct extend beyond immediate safety concerns. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to long-term health issues, impaired academic performance, increased risks of addiction, violent criminal behavior, and risk of physical harm. Community stakeholders, including

residents, business owners, and University officials, have voiced concerns over the impact of alcohol misuse on Berkeley's reputation as a safe, vibrant, and cultured city. For businesses that fail to comply with state and local alcohol regulations, BPD will work closely with ABC and the Alameda County District Attorney's Office to bring those businesses into compliance.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive, data-driven initiative that combines targeted enforcement, education, and community collaboration. Without a coordinated response, Berkeley risks continued strain on public safety resources, reduced quality of life, and long-term social and economic repercussions.

BACKGROUND

The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) created the Alcohol Police Partnership (APP) grant in 1995. The primary purpose of the grant is to create strong collaboration between ABC and local law enforcement agencies. The goal of the grant is to deliver education and training to officers, businesses and underage people, and use proactive enforcement measures such as business compliance checks and Minor Decoy operations to target businesses that facilitate sales to minors or intoxicated individuals.

Previously, the City of Berkeley received funding from ABC through targeted enforcement grants, most recently in Fiscal Year 2025-26. During these grant periods, Berkeley saw a 13% noncompliance in sales to minors of the businesses visited. Underage alcohol use and public drinking have remained prevalent in Berkeley, even with the ABC grant funding and enhanced enforcement efforts and continue to pose an ongoing challenge for the department.

In two recent ABC APP operations 84 citations/arrests for alcohol related offenses were issued. One of these operations occurred during UC Berkeley's "CAL Day," where throngs of students were openly imbibing, carrying, and sharing gallon jugs of alcohol, many to the point of intoxication. Events similar to "CAL Day" and "Welcome Week" occur several times throughout the year where there are large spikes of underage alcohol consumption, and alcohol-related medical emergencies and disturbances.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental impacts associated with this report

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The BPD has been awarded an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) grant in the amount of \$97,330 to support the department's enforcement of alcohol-related laws including but not limited to underage sales, underage drinking and liquor license compliance checks. Without this funding, BPD would be greatly hindered in the effort to reduce alcohol-related crimes as well as alcohol related injuries and overconsumption.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

If the award is not accepted, the City's enforcement of alcohol related laws would be constrained.

CONTACT PERSON

Jennifer Louis, Chief of Police, 981-5700

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

GRANT CONTRACT: BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ACCEPT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL ALCOHOL POLICING PARTNERHSIP GRANT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AWARDED DOLLARS TO THE BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE LAWS PROHIBITING THE FURNISHING OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS AND POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL BY PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 21 AS WELL AS OTHER ALCOHOL RELATED CRIMES.

WHEREAS, the Police Department is committed to providing a safe and secure environment through vigorous law enforcement within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, underage access to alcohol and excessive drinking is currently a problem within the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, there has been a longstanding problem with underage drinking and the availability of alcohol to people under the age of 21 throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department does not have sufficient resources within the existing budget and staffing constraints to expand their work on these specific issues; and

WHEREAS, establishments that sell alcoholic beverages and/or bars can attract criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, the underage minors and the young adult community continue to acquire alcoholic beverages through fake identification, merchants who fail to check identification or asking someone to purchase products for them; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Police Department desires to undertake enforcement to limit access to alcoholic beverages by minors funded in part from state funds from Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC); and

WHEREAS, the funds have been appropriated into the ABC Alcohol Policing Partnership grant find with the understanding that grant funds received hereunder shall not be used to supplant expenditures controlled by this body.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager, is hereby authorized to execute a contract and any amendments or extensions with Alcoholic Beverage Control in order to accept funds in the amount of \$97,330 from ABC for the enforcement of alcohol related laws for FY 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any liability arising out of the performance of this contract, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. Alcoholic Beverage Control disclaims responsibility for any such liability.