



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER
TERRY TAPLIN
 DISTRICT 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
 October 13, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author), Mayor Adena Ishii (Cosponsor),
 Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Cosponsor), and Councilmember Igor Tregub
 (Cosponsor)

Subject: BORP Adaptive Sports and Recreation's 50th Anniversary Celebration:
 Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such
 Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per councilmember, including \$1,000 from Councilmember Terry Taplin, \$100 from Mayor Adena Ishii, and \$150 from Councilmember Igor Tregub, to support BORP Adaptive Sports and Recreation's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There are no impacts to the General Fund. The mayor and councilmembers can each contribute up to \$1,000 from their discretionary office budget.

BACKGROUND

BORP began with a University of California, Berkeley class project and a city council that was willing to invest in it. Susan Sygall, a wheelchair user studying at UC Berkeley, saw that even in a city helping lead the independent living movement, people with disabilities had few opportunities to play sports or enjoy the outdoors together. She designed an adaptive recreation program for a class and, at her professor's urging, brought it to the Berkeley City Council. With cofounder Diane Schechter, she turned the idea into BORP. The council funded the proposal, and BORP was incorporated in 1976.

That beginning is central to what BORP is today: an organization built by and for its community. Rooted in Berkeley's disability rights movement, BORP creates places where disabled people can be athletes, teammates, coaches, and leaders—more than 50% of staff have disabilities. One of the first organizations of its kind, BORP has been a nationwide trailblazer and leader in the adaptive recreation space for five decades.

Berkeley has remained BORP's home through five decades of growth. Generations of athletes have practiced at the James Kenney Community Center where BORP teams still gather today. At Aquatic Park, BORP's Adaptive Cycling and Kayaking Center gives people access to the Bay Trail and the water with adaptive equipment and staff support.

Its offices and fitness studio at the Ed Roberts Campus place BORP alongside organizations that continue Berkeley's work for disability access and independence.

Today, BORP serves youth and adults with physical and vision disabilities through more than 20 weekly programs. In the past year, 1,576 people participated, up from 1,400 the year before. Programs include wheelchair basketball and rugby, goalball, adaptive cycling and kayaking, fitness, and outdoor adventures. BORP provides equipment, coaching, and accessible transportation that make participation possible with scholarships available so cost does not keep people out.

On Thursday, October 15, 2026, from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, BORP will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the University Club at California Memorial Stadium. Returning to the UC Berkeley campus brings the celebration back to where BORP's story began. Founders, athletes, alumni, and longtime supporters will gather to recognize the people who built this community and help fund the programs that keep it growing. The evening will include founders' remarks and the premiere of a film spanning BORP's five decades.

As BORP expands into Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose, Berkeley remains its home and a gathering place for people throughout the Bay Area. The city council helped make BORP possible at its start. Supporting this milestone continues that relationship and helps ensure that even more people can find their way into sports and community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin, Council District 2, 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

AUTHORIZING THE RELINQUISHMENT OF COUNCIL OFFICE BUDGET FUNDS
FOR BORP ADAPTIVE SPORTS AND RECREATION'S 50TH CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, one of the first organizations of its kind, BORP is rooted in Berkeley's disability rights movement and has been a nationwide trailblazer and leader in the adaptive recreation space since 1976, creating places where disabled people can be athletes, teammates, coaches, and leaders—over 50% of its staff have disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley has remained BORP's home through five decades of growth: generations of athletes have practiced at the James Kenney Community Center; BORP's Adaptive Cycling and Kayaking Center in Aquatic Park gives people access to the San Francisco Bay Trail and the water with adaptive equipment and staff support; and its offices and fitness studio at the Ed Roberts Campus place BORP alongside organizations that continue Berkeley's work for disability access and independence; and

WHEREAS, in the past year, 1,576 youths and adults with physical and vision disabilities (up from 1,400 the year before) participated in more than 20 weekly BORP programs, including wheelchair basketball and rugby, goalball, adaptive cycling and kayaking, fitness, and outdoor adventures, with BORP providing equipment, coaching, accessible transportation, and scholarships that truly make participation possible; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2026, BORP will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the University Club at California Memorial Stadium, returning to UC Berkeley where its story began along with founders, athletes, alumni, and longtime supporters to recognize the people who built this community and help fund the programs that keep it growing; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council helped make BORP possible at its start, so supporting this milestone continues that relationship and helps ensure that even more people can find their way into sports and community as BORP expands into Oakland, San Francisco, and San Jose—with Berkeley remaining its home and gathering place.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council of the City of Berkeley approves the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 from each of their discretionary office budgets to support BORP Adaptive Sports and Recreation's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

