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ADENA ISHII
MAYOR OF BERKELEY

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 17, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Adena Ishii (Author), Councilmember Brent Blackaby (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Mark Humbert (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Annual Berkeley Holiday 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 $500 per Councilmember including $500 from Mayor Ishii, $500 from Councilmember Blackaby and $500 from Councilmember Humbert to the Berkeley Holiday Fund with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Mayor Ishii and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

Founded over a hundred years ago, in 1912, the Berkeley Holiday Fund, embodies the "the Berkeley Spirit" by providing aid to residents in Berkeley during the holiday season. Sending cash cards to almost 1,111 individuals and families in 2025, totalling over $132,000. The Holiday Fund is completely donation based and volunteer staffed.

For 113 years, the Fund has solicited donations from the Berkeley community and now 26 local service agencies to identify Berkeley residents in need of help during the holidays. This list of partner agencies include Berkeley Youth Alternatives, East Bay Community Law Center, LifeLong Medical Care, Multicultural Institute, and more.

While the Berkeley Holiday Fund addresses every request it receives, the number of requests from agencies varies year-to-year. The organization can only send one cash card to individuals and families recommended by multiple agencies.

From the outset the Berkeley Holiday Fund has traditionally been supported by the Berkeley Mayor and members of the Berkeley City Council. With the Berkeley Mayor

often serving as the Honorary Chair and for more than thirty years the Mayor's office has provided a small grant to support the mailing of cash cards to the people referred by the Holiday Fund.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact; $500 is available from Mayor Ishii's, Councilmember Blackaby's and Councilmember Humbert's budget discretionary accounts.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Adena Ishii
510-981-7100

Attachments: 1: 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 TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

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

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation, the Berkeley Holiday Fund, seeks funds in the amount of $500 to provide the following service of offering aid to residents in need in Berkeley during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Holiday Fund, founded in 1912, is completely donation-based & volunteer-staffed and sent cash cards to almost 1,111 individuals and families in 2025, totaling over $132,000; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Holiday Fund embodies the “the Berkeley Spirit” by providing aid to residents in Berkeley during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, historically the Berkeley City Council has generously supported and contributed small grants to the Berkeley Holiday Fund.

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 $500 per office shall be granted to the Berkeley Holiday Fund to fund the following service of offering aid to residents in need in Berkeley during the holiday season.