Berkeley City Councilmember
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CONSENT CALENDAR
December 1, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Humbert (Author)

Subject: Berkeley High Crew Safety Equipment: 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 $400 per Councilmember including $400 from Councilmember Humbert to Berkeley High Crew, an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, for the purchase of safety equipment for the Berkeley High School (BHS) rowing team, 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

Established in 1967, Berkeley High Crew is the oldest youth rowing program in Northern California and the only public school rowing team in the western United States. The program runs a Learn to Row summer camp for incoming 9th graders as well as the regular school team, which has 85 registered athletes this year and competes against private clubs and private schools. Last year, the team sent three boats to the Scholastic National Championships, and 95% of its alumni go on to attend college. As a public school program, Berkeley High Crew allows students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch to participate for free and offers a sliding scale for lower-income families. The team receives minimal funding from the school district and relies on family contributions and fundraising, which makes it challenging to meet all equipment funding needs. These donated funds will help the team purchase needed safety equipment, including boat safety lights, maritime-quality megaphones, and life jackets, as practices continue into the darker winter months.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact. $400 is available from Councilmember Humbert's office budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Mark Humbert Council District 8 510-981-7180

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

BERKELEY HIGH CREW SAFETY EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, established in 1967, Berkeley High Crew is the oldest youth rowing program in Northern California and the only public school rowing team in the western United States; and

WHEREAS, the BHS rowing team has 85 registered student athletes this year, competes against private clubs and private schools, and sent three boats to the Scholastic National Championships last year; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley High Crew is committed to making rowing inclusive for all Berkeley High students, allowing students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch to participate for free and offering a sliding scale for lower-income families; and

WHEREAS, the team receives minimal funding from the school district and suffers from severe equipment strain, and without new safety equipment the BHS rowing team could be up a creek without a paddle; and

WHEREAS, as the team heads into the dark winter season, there is a stern need for safety, including boat safety lights, maritime-quality megaphones, and life jackets; and

WHEREAS, it's all of oar responsibility to support youth athletics, and this funding will firm up the team's readiness and help keep them afloat; and

WHEREAS, hopefully this funding will represent a stroke of good fortune and help the rowing team sweep to victory; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember has surplus funds in his office expenditure account, which he would like to steer toward the team; and

WHEREAS, BHS Crew is requesting funds in the amount of $2,631.67 to help purchase safety equipment and keep participation fees low for public school families; and

WHEREAS, the Council has the opportunity to pull together and pitch in for the BHS rowing team, serving the civic interests of youth athletics, safety, and equitable access to aquatic sports;

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 $400 per office shall be granted to Berkeley High Crew for helping cover the costs of safety equipment for the Berkeley High School rowing team.