



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR
March 12, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Kate Harrison, Cheryl Davila, and Rigel Robinson
 Subject: Persian New Year Festival: City Sponsorship and Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution co-sponsoring the 20th annual Persian New Year Festival on March 19th, 2019
2. Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember including \$100 from Councilmember Harrison, to The Persian Center, the fiscal sponsor of the festival, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Harrison and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

For the past 20 years, The Persian Center in Berkeley has held a Persian New Year Festival to celebrate the East Bay's Persian community, facilitate new cultural experiences for all Berkeley residents, and commemorate the vernal equinox and Persian New Year.

The Persian Center is a space where Iranians, Iranian descendants, and all interested in Persian Culture come together to celebrate traditional Persian festivals and attend classes, workshops, book readings, and more. It was incorporated in 1992 and moved into its permanent home on Durant Avenue in 2000. The Persian New Year Festival is one of their most popular events, bringing participants from across the Bay Area.

The Persian New Year Festival is also called Chaharshanbeh Souri, which means "Eve of Wednesday" because the festival is held on the last Tuesday of winter. All are invited to jump over a bonfire to shake off the darkness of winter and welcome the lightness of spring, a Persian ritual passed down since Zoroastrian times.

We are proposing that City Councilmembers make individual grants of up to \$500 to The Persian Center to support the continued success of the Persian New Year Festival. The event is being held on March 19th.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No impact to the General Fund.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Minimal.

CONTACT PERSON

Kate Harrison, Berkeley City Councilmember, (510) 981-7140

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution for City Sponsorship
- 2: Resolution for Council Expenditures

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

CITY SPONSORSHIP OF PERSIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

WHEREAS, the Persian New Year Festival will take place on March 19th, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Persian New Year Festival has for twenty years been a fun and enriching way to celebrate the advent of spring and the Persian New Year; and,

WHEREAS, the Persian New Year Festival will enrich the City and people of Berkeley through Persian cultural education, crafts, food, music and dancing;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City of Berkeley hereby co-sponsors the Persian New Years Festival, and The Persian Center has permission to use the City's name and logo in the event's promotional materials and signage naming the City of Berkeley as a co-sponsor solely for the purpose of the City indicating its endorsement of the event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this co-sponsorship does not: (1) authorize financial support, whether in the form of fee waivers, a grant or provision of City services for free; (2) constitute the acceptance of any liability, management, or control on the part of the City for or over the Persian New Year Festival; or (3) constitute regulatory approval of the event.

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Councilmember Kate Harrison has surplus funds in her office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax exempt corporation, The Persian Center, seeks funds to provide public services to publicly commemorate and honor the Persian New Year; and

WHEREAS, the celebration will include invaluable educational benefits for the people of Berkeley presented by members of The Persian Center;

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 Persian Center to fund the celebration of the Persian New Year and related cultural activities.