



Councilmember  
Cheryl Davila  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 28, 2019

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Cheryl Davila and Ben Bartlett

**Subject:** Berkeley Juneteenth Festival: 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 \$500 per Councilmember including \$500 from Councilmember Cheryl Davila, to support purchase of street-pole banners announcing the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival June 16, 2019, 11AM-7PM, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Davila, the Mayor and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$500 is available from Councilmember Cheryl Davila's Council Office Budget discretionary account (011 11 102 000 0000 000 411).

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Providing community support for an uplifting, historical and cultural event that memorializes the end of a tragic era in U.S. and world history and celebrates the resurgence of African American peoples.

#### BACKGROUND

The Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freed slaves in southern states during the Civil War. However, the good news did not reach slaves in Galveston, Texas until June 19, 1865. On this date, they celebrated the final execution of the Emancipation Proclamation. June 19th was shortened to JUNETEENTH, a portmanteau of "June" and "nineteenth". Former slaves flooded the streets and rejoiced. On this day, JUNETEENTH - African Americans were finally free! Lest we forget, the first Juneteenth celebration had a bittersweet tinge: celebrating freedom, but never forgetting the nightmare of slavery. JUNETEENTH became a tradition for African American communities in the south, and as they migrated to other parts of the US, the tradition of JUNETEENTH went with them. In 1986, R.D. Bonds, Sam Dyke and other members of the Adeline-Alcatraz Merchants Association, organized to promote the economic and social well-being of residents and small

businesses in South Berkeley, started Juneteenth in Berkeley, to highlight the Adeline Corridor, and promote community pride. Community cooperation was the objective. Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI), a nonprofit established in 1987, celebrated the first annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival in 1987.

We are proposing that the City Council make a minimum grant of \$100 to the fund to purchase and mount banners announcing the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival on street-poles along Adeline Street between Alcatraz and Fairview Streets. The total estimated cost of the banners is \$5000.00.

CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila, Councilmember District 2

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ATTACHMENTS: 1: Resolution

LINK: [http://www.berkeleyjuneteenth.org/about\\_juneteenth.html](http://www.berkeleyjuneteenth.org/about_juneteenth.html)

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 Cheryl Davila has surplus funds in her office expenditure account (budget code 011 11 102 000 0000 000 411); and

**WHEREAS**, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation Berkeley Juneteenth Festival Committee, a community-serving non-profit is seeking donations of support the purchase of street pole banners to highlight the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Festival community event on June 16, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, cultural events like Chinese New Year, Saint Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Juneteenth, celebrate our diversity and unify us as a community so that we may come together to commemorate and honor our traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, Berkeley Juneteenth Cultural Celebrations (BJCC) through its sponsorship and development of the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival has provided us with the opportunity to celebrate African American music, culture, and traditions; and

**WHEREAS**, BJCC events such as the Juneteenth Festival events us to highlight contributions African Americans have made to our community and the fabric of America as a whole;

**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 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Berkeley Juneteenth Celebration Event.

