



## URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

**Meeting Date:**        **October 10, 2023**

**Item Description: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to the General Fund and Grant of Such Funds to promote Chess on Telegraph Avenue**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

☐ **Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)**  
*Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.*

☒ **Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)**  
*There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.*

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

### **Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:**

The need for action came to the attention of the Council subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted. There is a need to take immediate action, as the "chess club," a regular community gathering that has been operated by individuals on Telegraph Avenue, had their property confiscated by the property owner of the location where they were situated, including tables, chess sets, and other items that enable a treasured community gathering space to function.



CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 10, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Rigel Robinson (Author), Councilmember Mark Humbert (Co-sponsor)

Subject: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to the General Fund and Grant of Such Funds to promote Chess on Telegraph Avenue

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$1,000 per Councilmember, including \$1,000 from Councilmember Robinson and \$500 from Councilmember Humbert to the Office of the External Affairs Vice President of the Associated Students of the University of California (EAVP) to fund materials and equipment to promote playing chess on Telegraph Avenue.

BACKGROUND

On the early morning of September 29, 2023, the community chess club that has operated on Telegraph Avenue had its property removed by the property owner of 2478 Haste Street. While the District 7 office has made efforts to identify the location of the belongings, this has not yet been successful, and it is possible that the belongings will not be recovered. Chess players who find community at the chess club currently do not have the materials to play chess and build community as they previously did.

It is clear that the community space created by the operation of the chess club is important to many Berkeley residents and serves as an active and accessible “third space” in the City — or a place other than work or home where people can congregate.

The ASUC Office the External Affairs Vice President has offered to serve as an organizational intermediary to receive funds from this item and work in partnership with the student organization Telegraph for People to promote chess and public recreation on Telegraph Avenue.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact; \$1,000 is available from Councilmember Robinson's discretionary account and \$500 is available from Councilmember Humbert's discretionary account.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Rigel Robinson, (510) 981-7170  
Sam Greenberg, Legislative Assistant

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

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

WHEREAS, Councilmember Rigel Robinson and Councilmember Mark Humbert have surplus funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, the “chess club” that has operated on Telegraph Avenue since 2021 has provided a unique community space that aligns with Berkeley’s values and commitment to a vibrant and non-commercialized public realm; and

WHEREAS, the chess club had its materials confiscated by the property owner of 2478 Haste Street, reported at multiple thousands of dollars lost; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such funding would fulfill the municipal public purpose of supporting a publicly accessible social space for Berkeley residents of all ages, races, and backgrounds to congregate; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the \$1,000 relinquished by Councilmember Robinson and \$500 by Councilmember Humbert from their Council Office Budgets and any other Councilmember who wishes to contribute shall be granted to the Office of the External Affairs Vice President of the Associated Students of the University of California (EAVP).