

**BEN BARTLETT**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 21, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember 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 funds, including \$500 from Councilmember Bartlett for pre-planning of the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival (organized by Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. 501(c)3), with funds relinquished to the City's General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Bartlett and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND:

President Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1st, 1863, but people in bondage in Texas remained unaware of their freedom until 1865, as their captors withheld this information from them. On June 18, 1865 Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army arrived in Galveston, Texas with 1,800 soldiers on a mission to force the captors to release the people in bondage, whose population had swelled to over a quarter of a million.

The next year, newly-freed people in Texas flooded the streets, celebrating June 19th as their own emancipation day. Local groups kept the Juneteenth tradition alive and, in 1979, the passage of H.B. 1016 made June 19th Black Heritage Day an official Texas holiday. In commemoration of African American culture and traditions, Juneteenth is now celebrated in communities nationwide.

The Berkeley Juneteenth Festival was founded by R.D. Bonds, Bradley Walters, and Sam Dyke, who started the Festival celebration to promote community pride, and bring together South Berkeley businesses and residents in the celebration of a major African American cultural event. The establishment of Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI), culminated in the first annual Festival in 1987. Former City Councilmembers Mary Wainwright and the late Maudell Shirek were instrumental in obtaining City sponsorship. The late Lothario Lotho and Giselle Thomas also dedicated over 25 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative impact.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$500 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

CONTACT PERSON:

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ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution

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

AUTHORIZE 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, Councilmembers Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation – Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. – will receive the funds; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI) Promotes greater societal cohesiveness and well-being by educating and involving the community-at-large in historical, family, and cultural activities pertaining to people of color; and

WHEREAS, BJAJ hosts various activities including Black History Month Celebrations and the Berkeley Juneteenth Festival; and

WHEREAS, cultural celebrations are critical to the social and spiritual unity of our community, and are integrated into BJAJ events; and

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, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc.

