



BEN BARTLETT
CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 29, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett
Subject: FY25 Budget Request: Funding for Replacement of Six Existing Wrought Iron Barriers for South Adeline Circular Planters

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refer \$50,000 to the FY25 AAO1 budget process for the replacement of the existing six wrought iron barriers that protect the circular planters on South Adeline Street in District 3, as requested by community members and identified by city staff. These new artistic barriers will match the ones on Shattuck Avenue in the downtown area, create new seating opportunities, enhance the aesthetic appeal and foster a more positive community atmosphere.

CURRENT SITUATION

The current planters on South Adeline are surrounded by wrought iron that obstructs seating and creates a negative visual and social atmosphere for the community. This need for replacement was identified by south berkeley neighborhood groups and city staff who have sought help from this office in order to move this forward. Originally, it was thought the city would authorize this payment, but were advised that, in order for this to move forward, this needs to be part of the budget process.

BACKGROUND:

South Berkeley, particularly the Adeline Corridor, has long been a vital yet underserved part of the city. Historically, this area has faced systemic underinvestment in infrastructure and public spaces, which has contributed to a lack of amenities and slower economic growth compared to other parts of Berkeley. South Berkeley, home to a diverse community, including many low-income residents and people of color, has been a focal point for grassroots efforts aimed at revitalization and equitable investment.

In recent years, the city has made efforts to address some of these historical inequities, including improvements to streets and public spaces. However, much work remains to be done to create a welcoming and safe environment that meets the needs of the local community. The South Adeline planters represent one such opportunity for improvement. The current state of the planters, surrounded by obstructive wiring, detracts from the area's potential as a community space. Community members and city staff have identified the need for upgrades, specifically the replacement of the current wiring with decorative rod iron, to enhance both the functionality and aesthetics of these public spaces.

Investing in these small but meaningful improvements is part of a broader commitment to



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addressing the legacy of neglect in South Berkeley and ensuring that all residents have access to safe, beautiful, and functional public areas that promote community engagement.

Community members and city staff brought the issue of obstructed seating and poor visual appeal surrounding the South Adeline planters to the attention of the Councilmember's office.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

This request aligns with broader city goals of enhancing public spaces and creating welcoming community environments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Staff time and cost associated with the installation of the wiring (\$50,000)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

This project supports the city's commitment to creating sustainable and enjoyable public spaces by improving the functionality of existing infrastructure.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The replacement of the current wiring with decorative rod iron will enhance the usability of the planters as seating areas, improve the aesthetic appeal of the public space, and create a more welcoming environment for residents and visitors. This improvement aligns with the city's goals of fostering community engagement through well-maintained and attractive public spaces.

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