



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 12, 2024

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Berkeley Holiday Fund: 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 Mayor Arreguín to the Berkeley Holiday Fund's annual campaign with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Mayor Arreguín and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Holiday Fund has helped make the holiday season happier for hundreds of Berkeley's neediest residents for 111 years. An all-volunteer organization, the Berkeley Holiday Fund has been partnering with 27 social service agencies to identify Berkeley citizens in need of help during the holidays. By keeping operating costs to a minimum, the Berkeley Holiday Fund ensures that all contributions go directly to help those who need it the most. Last year, they were able to bring a little cheer into the lives of more than 1,130 Berkeley families distributing almost \$145,000.

The Mayor's office has actively participated in this program for over 25 years, along with generous support from the City Council. This year the Berkeley Holiday Fund anticipates distributing approximately 1,200 checks to individuals and families. This item requests the City Council approve an expenditure, not to exceed \$500 of funds from the from the Mayor's office budget to help cover these costs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact. \$500 is available from the Mayor's office budget discretionary account.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with adopting this recommendation.

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Berkeley Holiday Fund 2024

CONSENT CALENDAR

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Attachments:

1: Resolution

2: Letter from Berkeley Holiday Fund

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

BERKELEY HOLIDAY FUND 2024

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Holiday Fund has been making small grants to Berkeley's neediest citizens for 111 years; and

WHEREAS, last year, the Berkeley Holiday Fund distributed almost \$145,000 to more than 1,130 Berkeley families; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Holiday Fund partners with 27 social service agencies to identify Berkeley citizens in need of help during the holidays; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Mayor's Office has supported the Berkeley Holiday Fund's efforts for over 25 years, along with generous support from the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Arreguin has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Holiday Fund seeks funds in the amount of \$500 to help cover the costs of providing checks to Berkeley Holiday Fund recipients; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose of providing services to low income residents of the City of Berkeley.

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 Berkeley Holiday Fund for helping cover the costs of providing checks to Berkeley Holiday Fund recipients.

BERKELEY HOLIDAY FUND

Post Office Box 9779 ♦ Berkeley, California 94709

www.BerkeleyHolidayFund.org

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September 16, 2024

The Honorable Jesse Arreguin

Mayor of Berkeley

2180 Milvia Street

Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mayor Arreguin:

On behalf of the Board of the Berkeley Holiday Fund, I want to thank the Mayor's office for its continuing, generous support for the Fund's annual disbursement of holiday gifts to Berkeley's neediest citizens. And to you personally for serving as the Honorary Chairperson of the Fund. For 111 years the Fund has solicited donations from the citizens of Berkeley and now partners with twenty-seven local social service agencies to identify Berkeley citizens in need of help during the holidays.

Last year, with your help, we were able to offer much needed cheer during the holiday season by sending checks totaling almost \$145,000 and to more than 1,136 individuals and families in Berkeley. Our check are modest, but hear from our partner agencies that they bring a bit of hope and cheer into the lives of our fellow citizens.

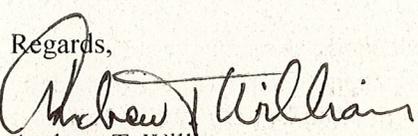
We are requesting that you continue your longstanding support for our efforts. For more than thirty years the Mayor's Office has aided the Holiday Fund. We are grateful for your support of the Berkeley Holiday Fund as our Honorary Chairman and the support of the City Council members as Sponsors.

This year we anticipate distributing approximately 1,200 checks to individuals and families. While we fund every request we receive, the number of requests from agencies varies from year-to-year, and we only send one check to individuals families recommended by multiple agencies.

Since this expenditure requires Council approval, we are formally requesting \$500 in support and are asking for your help in obtaining that approval.

In past years some council members have added funds from their office accounts. We deeply appreciate their support.

Thank you again for all the support and encouragement you have provided in the past to this truly unique Berkeley institution.

Regards,

Andrew T. Williams
Co-Chairperson