



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 30, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront  
 Subject: Donation: Memorial Bench at Berkeley Marina in memory of Michael W. Orton

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution accepting a cash donation in the amount of \$3,400 for a memorial bench to be placed at Berkeley Marina in memory of Michael W. Orton.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The value of a single bench and memorial plaque is \$3,400, which covers the purchasing and installation costs performed by the City. The cash donation will be deposited into Marina Fund donation revenue budget code 608-52-544-591-0000-000-000-481110 and will be appropriated in FY 2026.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The family of Michael W. Orton wishes to donate a memorial bench in their memory to be placed at the Berkeley Marina with a cash donation of \$3,400. Per the City's Park Bench Donation Policy, individuals may donate memorial benches to the City's parks in selected locations, subject to the approval of the Director of the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department, and pay for all associated costs, subject to Council disclosure and approval of the gift donation. The Director has determined that the proposed donation complies with the City's Bench Donation Policy as described in Resolution No. 64,148-N.S. and has approved the donation, subject to Council approval.

BACKGROUND

Benches are placed throughout the City in accordance with the City's Park Bench Donation Policy approved by Council on July 22, 2008 (Resolution No. 64,148-N.S.). The City's Open Governance Ordinance (OGO) requires City Council disclosure and approval of any gift to the City in excess of \$1,000 (BMC Section 2.06.150, Ord. 7,166-N.S.)

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACT

The City's vendor for benches, Dumor, Inc., makes it a priority to purchase only sustainably-harvested wood derived from stringently-regulated timber source locations,

including California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. This policy reduces solid waste volumes in landfills, helps conserve natural resources and limits the environmental effects resulting from the extraction of virgin materials. The benches therefore comply with the City's environmentally preferable purchasing policy, specifically section 3.7 Forest Conservation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City's Parks Donation Policy provides a mechanism whereby families can donate a memorial bench that both honors a family member and provides the public with a needed amenity.

CONTACT PERSON

Bruce Pratt, Parks Superintendent, 510-981-6700  
Alexandra Endress, Waterfront Manager, 510-981-6737

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ -N.S.

DONATION: MEMORIAL BENCH AT THE BERKELEY MARINA IN MEMORY OF  
MICHAEL W. ORTON

WHEREAS, on July 22, 2008, Council adopted the Park Bench Donation Policy (Resolution No. 64,148-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, the City's Open Governance Ordinance (OGO) requires City Council disclosure and approval of any gift to the City in excess of \$1,000 (BMC Section 2.06.150, Ord. 7,166-N.S.); and

WHEREAS, the family of Michael W. Orton wishes to donate a memorial bench in their memory to be placed at the Berkeley Marina with a cash donation of \$3,400; and

WHEREAS, per the City's Park Bench Donation Policy, individuals may donate memorial benches to the City's parks in selected locations, subject to the approval of the Director of the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department, and pay for all associated costs, subject to Council disclosure and approval of the gift donation; and

WHEREAS, the Director has determined that the proposed donation complies with City's Bench Donation Policy as described in Resolution No. 64,148-N.S. and has approved the proposed donation; and

WHEREAS, the cash donation will be deposited into Marina Fund donation revenue budget code 608-52-544-591-0000-000-000-481110- and will be appropriated in FY 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that a cash donation in the amount of \$3,400 for a memorial bench to be placed at the Berkeley Marina in memory of Michael W. Orton is hereby accepted.

