



CONSENT CALENDAR
September 30, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lunaparra (Author)

Subject: Sacred Rest Drop-in Center Landline: 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 Councilmember Lunaparra's discretionary fund and funds from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute, to Village of Love for a landline at the Sacred Rest Drop-In Center with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

The Sacred Rest Drop-In Center, operated by the Village of Love Foundation, a registered 501c(3) nonprofit organization, on the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley in District 7, is a daytime center that provides unsheltered members of the community a safe place to relax, watch television, drink coffee/tea, enjoy hot meals together, use restroom facilities, store belongings, connect to WiFi, charge and use technology, send mail, and receive social services to become housing-ready.

The Village of Love has a short but rich history of providing for the community. In 2022, the Berkeley community opened its doors to the drop-in center, which was funded jointly by the City of Berkeley and UC Berkeley. Members of the community have expressed that the drop-in center has become a place where unhoused people can find a community of people who truly care.

Since 2019, the number of unhoused people in the Bay Area has reached over 8% and Alameda County's unhoused population rose by 21.5%. Sacred Rest provides local and individualized services, enabling more people to begin their path to permanent housing. The name "Sacred Rest" was given to the space after many discussions community partners had about a similar San Francisco model, Sacred Sleep, that provides a comfortable and relaxing place for unhoused folks to rest and break bread together. One of the biggest challenges people face living on the streets is feeling isolated and alone. Sacred Rest combats this by providing a place for people to be welcomed inside, sit in the shade, break bread together, and enjoy laying down on the lawn without fear of being harassed, attacked, or bothered.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Village of Love aims to enrich the community by developing creative solutions to build bridges across the disparities between residents, businesses, mental health and unsheltered communities. Their Sacred Rest Drop-in Center is currently working on the implementation of a landline service that would allow their community members to communicate with family members and friends who reside in various cities and states outside of the greater Bay Area. Allowing unhoused people to maintain contact with their loved ones is crucial in the overall care and support that the Center hopes to provide. People currently use the staff's phones in order to contact others; however, in the long run, this is not a viable or sustainable option. The Drop-In Center is hoping to include landline services, which would allow the unhoused community to communicate via phone without the need to borrow someone else's. They are seeking financial support to offset the expenses associated with the creation of this landline service.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

FISCAL IMPACTS

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

Attachments:

1. Resolution

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra (510) 981-7170
Jonah Gottlieb, Chief of Staff

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

SUPPORT FOR THE SACRED REST DROP-IN CENTER

WHEREAS, the Sacred Rest Drop-In Center, operated by the Village of Love Foundation, a registered 501c(3) nonprofit organization, on the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley in Southside, is a daytime center which provides unsheltered members of the community a safe place; and

WHEREAS, the Sacred Rest Drop-in Center aims to provide free landline services to its' community members; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Lunaparra has surplus funds in her office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, the Sacred Rest Drop-in Center seeks funds in the amount of \$500 from Councilmember Lunaparra's office and up to \$500 from each Councilmember to help cover the cost of landline services that would allow members contact with loved ones; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would help ensure years of free services, care, and support for the unhoused community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Berkeley City Council that up to \$500 relinquished by Councilmembers – including \$500 from Councilmember Lunaparra – shall be granted to the Village of Love Foundation to help cover landline service costs.

