



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Scott Ferris, Director, Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department
 Subject: Donation for the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project in memory of Michael Seltzer

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution accepting a cash donation of up to \$80,000 for the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project in memory of Michael Seltzer.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This cash donation in the amount of up to \$80,000 from the friends of Michael Seltzer will be deposited into the Parks Fund donation revenue budget code 138-52-545-000-0000-000-000-481110.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The friends of Michael Seltzer wish to provide a donation of up to \$80,000 to fund the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project. The City's Open Governance Ordinance (OGO) requires City Council approval of any gift to the City in excess of \$1,000 (BMC Section 2.06.150, Ord. 7,166- N.S.) Without this donation, the project would not be possible.

BACKGROUND

Col. Michael "Mike" Seltzer, a Berkeley-reared Air Force fighter pilot and father of three children, died of lung cancer in 2023. Seltzer grew up attending Berkeley schools and graduated from UC Berkeley in 2002, where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program and earned a bachelor's degree in physical sciences. He later deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, rose to become a colonel, and trained dozens of F-16 and F-35 pilots. Additional details about Michael Seltzer and the proposed project can be found in the Berkeleyside article at the following link:

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2025/03/31/airplane-playground-air-force-pilot-michael-seltzer-burn-pits>.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

Donation for the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project
In Memory of Michael Seltzer

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RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This donation will cover the cost of the design and implementation of the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project, without which this project would not be possible.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CONTACT PERSON

Scott Ferris, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront, 510-981-6711

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

ACCEPTING A CASH DONATION OF UP TO \$80,000 FOR THE THOUSAND OAKS SCHOOL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL SELTZER

WHEREAS, Col. Michael “Mike” Seltzer, a Berkeley-reared Air Force fighter pilot and father of three children, died of lung cancer in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Seltzer grew up attending Berkeley schools and graduated from UC Berkeley in 2002, where he enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program and earned a bachelor’s degree in physical sciences. He later deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, rose to become a colonel, and trained dozens of F-16 and F-35 pilots. Additional details can be found in the Berkeley-side article at the following link:

<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2025/03/31/airplane-playground-air-force-pilot-michael-seltzer-burn-pits>; and

WHEREAS, the friends of Michael Seltzer wish to provide a donation of up to \$80,000 to fund the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, the City will implement the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project that will include a community process; and

WHEREAS, without the donation from the friends of Michael Seltzer, this third phase of the project would not be possible; and

WHEREAS, the cash donation in the amount of up to \$80,000 from the friends of Michael Seltzer will be deposited into the Parks Fund donation revenue budget code 138-52-545-000-0000-000-000-481110; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley to accept a cash donation of up to \$80,000 from the friends of Michael Seltzer for the Thousand Oaks School Park Improvement Project in his memory.

