



**BEN BARTLETT**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

## **EMERGENCY ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL**

**Meeting date: December 10, 2024**

**Item Description: Funding to Lights of Tomorrow MX (Malcolm X Elementary School) Bike Giveaway for affinity group, Brotherhood and Sisterhood participants at their event on December 18, 2024, Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds**

**Submitted by: Councilmember Ben Bartlett**

### **Rationale:**

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54954.2(b) (2), Councilmember Ben Bartlett submits the attached item to the City Council for placement on the December 10, 2024 meeting agenda. Gov. Code Section 54954.2(b) (2) states that “Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of a legislative body presents at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision.”

This item requires immediate action, and the need to take action arose after the agenda for this meeting was published, which would have required submitting the item on November 18, 2024.

The urgency of this request is underscored by the fact that the event on December 18, 2024, is fast approaching, and the request for funds came in on December 04, 2024. The timeline necessitates an emergency item for immediate action.



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CONSENT CALENDAR

December 10, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author)

Subject: Lights of Tomorrow nonprofit MX (Malcolm X Elementary School) Bike Giveaway on December 18, 2024 - Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of funds, including \$500 from the discretionary Council Office Budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett, to Lights of Tomorrow to fund operational resources for MX (Malcolm X Elementary School) Bike giveaway event on Wednesday, December 18, 2024. The funds will be relinquished to the City's General Fund from the Discretionary Council Office Budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett and the Discretionary Council Office Budgets of any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND:

On December 18, 2024, the Lights of Tomorrow will host a Bike Giveaway event for participants, celebrating their dedication and achievements. The event will run from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at MX School (Ellis Street side) and provide bicycles to both Brotherhood and Sisterhood participants. The event underscores the program's commitment to empowering youth through meaningful community engagement.

The Brotherhood and Sisterhood program at Malcolm X Elementary School (MX) was founded by Monica Jones, Parent, and Site Council President, to enhance family engagement and connect boys in grades 2-5 with positive male role models from the Berkeley community and beyond. Structured initially as lunchtime meetings with boys and their fathers, the program transitioned to an after-school schedule on Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 PM to accommodate limited lunchtime availability. Participants from the Learns and Bears programs are escorted to the meeting space provided by MX second-grade teacher Mrs. Arroyo in Room 109 and return to their programs afterward.

The program features weekly guest speakers and interactive activities. Guest speakers have included Berkeley City Council representatives, Berkeley Fire Department personnel with their fire truck, and a 20-year Navy veteran who attended MX and grew up in South Berkeley. Activities have included a community cleanup on Sacramento



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Street, a fishing trip with preparatory lessons on assembling fishing poles, and various educational sessions.

Recognizing female students' interests, the program expanded to include a Sisterhood group. Boys meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, while girls meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Highlights have included a Women's History Month event with Superintendent Erika Forde, where participants recited poems and engaged in meaningful discussions, as well as sessions with a local book author and a chef from the district's food department, who provided food sampling demonstrations.

Each session incorporates discussions on goal-setting, acts of kindness, personal boundaries, and accountability. Meetings begin with a check-in, allowing participants to share their experiences from the school day. The program fosters a culture of respect and kindness, emphasizing that mistakes are growth opportunities, and participants are given a fresh start each day. Panel discussions further promote mutual understanding, with boys and girls having opportunities to ask each other questions.

The program has consistently engaged approximately 15 participants in both the boys' and girls' groups. It is seen as a safe and supportive space where students are encouraged to build trust, develop social skills, and strengthen their connections to the community. Confidentiality is emphasized, ensuring that what is shared during meetings is not used to ridicule or harm others outside the group.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

No negative impact.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no General Fund impact; \$500 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

### CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
James Chang

[bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info)  
[jchang@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:jchang@cityofberkeley.info)

### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Lights of Tomorrow nonprofit MX Bike Giveaway Flyers



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Attachment 1:

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

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A DONATION TO THE LIGHTS OF TOMORROW NONPROFIT BIKE GIVEAWAY FOR MX BROTHERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD GROUP

**WHEREAS**, Councilmember Ben Bartlett has funds in his office expenditure account, and

**WHEREAS**, Lights of Tomorrow, a non-profit organization, will receive funds for \$500 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's office expenditure account; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lights of Tomorrow nonprofit supports equitable public safety of at-risk behaviors for students and our community through educational, community, and volunteer programs that connect them with positive role models from the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of such services would fulfill the municipal public purpose of providing students and the youth with opportunities through educational programs and activities to empower them to build a safer, more prosperous future; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their office budgets, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Lights of Tomorrow nonprofit Mx Bike giveaway on December 18, 2024



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Attachment 2:

You are invited to our

# BIKE Giveaway



**DECEMBER 18TH, 2024**

Begins : 1pm Ends : 3 pm  
 Where : Mx School (Ellis Street side)  
 Participants: MX Brotherhood and Sisterhood  
 Rsvp at +916-225-5735

*Donations Welcomed*

paypal: [lightsoftomorrow09@gmail.com](mailto:lightsoftomorrow09@gmail.com)  
 Zelle and Venmo : 916-225-5735  
 Cash App: Smjtravel

Donations are tax deductible and I can provide a receipt..  
 You are welcome to come help distribute bikes or arrange for me to pick up  
 your purchase from either Target (Emeryville or Albany locations) or  
 Walmart (Hilltop Richmond)