



EMERGENCY ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting date: July 30, 2024

Item Description: Funding to McGee Avenue Baptist Church in partnership with the City of Berkeley Young Adult Project for the National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, 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 May 21, 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 July 15, 2024.

The urgency of this request is underscored by the fact that the National Night Out, a national event on August 6, 2024, is fast approaching, and the request for funds came in on July 22, 2024. The timeline necessitates an emergency item for immediate action.



BEN BARTLETT

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 30, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author) and Sophie Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: McGee Avenue Baptist Church: Funding for McGee Avenue Baptist Church in partnership with City of Berkeley Young Adult Project for National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, 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 McGee Avenue Baptist Church to fund operational resources for McGee Avenue Baptist Church in partnership with the City of Berkeley Young Adult Project for National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, 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:

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual nationwide event designed to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while fostering a sense of community. Celebrated on the first Tuesday of August, NNO promotes community-building and neighborhood camaraderie through various events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, seminars, and more. The NNO website states, "Millions of neighbors participate in National Night Out across thousands of communities from all fifty states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide."

Since 2007, McGee Avenue Baptist Church has partnered with the City of Berkeley Young Adult Project to host a National Night Out Block Party. This partnership has been instrumental in creating a safe, engaging, and welcoming environment for the community. The event provides an opportunity for residents to meet their neighbors, interact with local law enforcement, and participate in activities that promote public safety and community spirit.

One of the most impactful programs of McGee Avenue Baptist Church is the Voices



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Against Violence Program, a Gun and Gang Violence Prevention/Intervention initiative. This program, aimed at steering high-risk individuals in South and West Berkeley away from violence and toward better futures, implements and promotes hope, healing, and safety strategies in some of the city's most vulnerable areas. By providing wrap-around services, incentives, and training opportunities for high-risk youth and young adults, Voices Against Violence is instrumental in promoting a safer, more livable Berkeley for all.

The Voices Against Violence Program achieves its goals by galvanizing a dynamic partnership of respected community organizations and a reputable university partner and employing an assets-based approach to youth development. This approach engages young people to help create solutions to the challenges of gun and gang violence impacting the community.

The National Night Out event is open to the general Berkeley community and is specifically designed to empower the youth involved in the Voices Against Violence program. By funding operational resources for this event, we aim to support the longstanding tradition of community engagement and collaboration that National Night Out represents. Additionally, this funding will provide necessary resources for McGee Avenue Baptist Church and its partners to engage the highest-risk young people, helping to stop and reverse the rise in gun violence while guiding them towards positive alternatives.

This year's event, scheduled for Tuesday, August 6, 2024, promises to be another successful gathering of Berkeley residents. It's an opportunity for the community to come together, celebrate, and strengthen their bonds, all while contributing to a safer and more vibrant Berkeley.

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:

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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 MCGEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT EVENT

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

WHEREAS, McGee Avenue Baptist Church, a non-profit organization, will receive funds for \$500 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, the McGee Avenue Baptist Church supports equitable public safety, ending violence, and ending gun violence for students, young adults, families, and our community through educational, community, and volunteer programs; 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;

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 McGee Avenue Baptist Church for their 17th Annual McGee Avenue Baptist Church & City of Berkeley Young Adult Project for National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 6, 2024.