



Berkeley Homeless Services Panel of Experts

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

June 4, 2025 – 7:00 PM

North Berkeley Senior Center, Poppy Room
1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709

Mayor Ishii:
Carole Marasovic –
Vice Chair

Rashi Kesarwani:
Vacant

Terry Taplin:
Denah S. Bookstein

Ben Bartlett:
Paul Kealoha-Blake

Igor Tregub:
Mary Ann Meany

Shoshana O’Keefe:
Vacant

Brent Blackaby:
Steven Segal

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Donnell Jones - Chair

Mark Humbert:
Alan Levy

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Staff Secretary, jjacobs@berkeleyca.gov, 510.225.8035

All items are for discussion and possible action.

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgment
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2025
5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (*up to 2 min. per speaker to make comments or present questions regarding items not on the agenda. No discussion from the panel is permitted at this time*)

Action Items:

6. Discussion and recommendation on Measure P allocations. Discussion and possible action.
7. Recommendation on prioritization of Housing Retention monies through some revenue source whether P, U-1, General Fund or other stream of funding to meet critical need to prevent further tenant displacement. Discussion and possible action.
8. Discussion and possible recommendation on Council prioritizing funding for a Horizon-type model for an alternative housing site. Discussion and possible recommendation on shifting of monies from other City sources for Council to allocate funding for another site. Discussion and possible action.

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Updates:

- 9. Public Comment on Agenda Items (*up to 2 minutes per speaker to present concerns or questions regarding items on the agenda. No discussion permitted*)
- 10. Commissioner Reports (*up to 5 minutes allotted to each commissioner to speak about updates, concerns, projects, questions, or to request items to be added to the next meeting’s agenda. No discussion permitted*)
- 11. Chair Report (*up to 5 minutes for chair to provide general updates and relay communication from city council or other committees*)
- 12. Adjourn

Attachments:

- 1. May 21, 2025 Minutes.
- 2. Land Acknowledgement Statement.
- 3. FY25-26 HSPE Measure P Budget Recommendations.
- 4. FY26 Mid-Biennial Budget Update – Measure P Forecast.
- 5. Housing Retention Funding 2020-2025.
- 6. History of 5150 Transport Recommendations.
- 7. Council Item – Alternative Housing Options.
- 8. Dorothy Day House – Horizon Transitional Village and SPARK.

Correspondence and Notice of Decision Requests:

Deadlines for Receipt:

- A) Supplemental Materials must be received by 5 PM the day before the meeting.
- B) Supplemental Communications must be received no later than noon the day of the meeting.

Procedures for Distribution:

- A) Staff will compile all Supplemental Materials and Supplemental Communications received by the deadlines above into a Supplemental Packet, and will print 15 copies of this packet for the Commission meeting.
- B) For any Supplemental Material or Communication from a Commissioner received after these deadlines, it is the Commissioner’s responsibility to ensure that 15 printed copies are available at the meeting. Commissioners will not be reimbursed for any printing or materials expenses.
- C) Staff will neither print nor distribute Supplemental Communications or Materials for subcommittee meetings.

Procedures for Consideration:

- A) The Commission must make a successful motion to accept and receive all Supplemental Materials and Communications into the record. This includes the Supplemental Packet compiled by staff.
- B) Each additional Supplemental Material or Communication received by or before the meeting that is not included in the Supplemental packet (i.e., those items received after the respective deadlines above) must be individually voted upon to be considered by the full Commission.
- C) Supplemental Materials subject to a Commission vote that are not accepted by motion of the Commission, or for which there are not at least 15 paper copies (9 for each Commission seat, one for staff records, and 5 for the public) available by the scheduled start of the meeting, may not be considered by the Commission.

***Supplemental Materials** are defined as any items authored by one or more Commissioners, pertaining to an agenda item but available after the agenda and packet for the meeting has been distributed, on which the Commission is asked to take vote at the meeting. This includes any letter to Council, proposed Council report, or other correspondence on behalf of the Commission for which a full vote of the Commission is required.

****Supplemental Communications** are defined as written emails or letters from members of the public or from one or more Commissioners, the intended audience of which is the full Commission. Supplemental Communications cannot be acted upon by the Commission, and they may or may not pertain to agenda items.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Health, Housing & Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

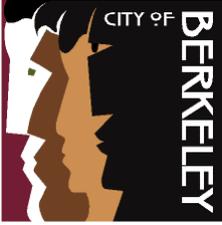
Public Comment Policy:

Members of the public may speak on any items on the Agenda and items not on the Agenda during the initial Public Comment period. Members of the public may not speak more than once on any given item. The Chair may limit public comments to 3 minutes or less.

COMMUNITY ACCESS INFORMATION

ADA Disclaimer “This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the ADA Program Coordinator at 510-981-6418 (V) or 510-981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.”

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City’s electronic records, which are accessible through the City’s website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information. The Health, Housing & Community Services Department does not take a position as to the content.



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2025

1. **Roll Call:** 7:07 PM

Present: Marasovic, Segal, Levy, & Kealoha-Blake.

Absent: Meany (Leave of Absence), Jones, Bookstein.

Staff: Jacobs, Gilman.

Council: None.

Public: 2.

2. Reading of the Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda

Action: M/S/C Segal/Kealoha-Blake move to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy & Kealoha-Blake.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein, Meany.

4. Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2025

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Segel move to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Segal, Levy & Kealoha-Blake.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Jones, Bookstein, Meany.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (up to 2 min. per speaker to make comments or present questions regarding items not on the agenda. No discussion from the panel is permitted at this time)

- Comments from the public: 2

Action Items:

6. Election Scott Gilman, City of Berkeley Housing, Health and Community Services director, to discuss possible flexibility with current streams of funding for homeless services with Q and A. Discussion and possible action.

Discussion; no action taken.

7. Possible letter recommending that Council prioritize Housing Retention monies as a

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necessity through Measure P, U-1 or the General Fund in the budget process.
Discussion and possible action.

Discussion; no action taken.

- 8. Measure P funding recommendations for current budget process. Discussion and possible action.

Discussion; no action taken.

- 9. Possible letter of recommendation addressing displacement of homeless persons in Ohlone Park and other locations without an identified location for them to relocate. Discussion and possible action.

Discussion; no action taken.

Updates:

- 10. Public Comment on Agenda Items (*up to 2 minutes per speaker to present concerns or questions regarding items on the agenda. No discussion permitted*)

- Comments from the public: 1

- 11. Commissioner Reports (*up to 5 minutes allotted to each commissioner to speak about updates, concerns, projects, questions, or to request items to be added to the next meeting's agenda. No discussion permitted*)

- 12. Chair Report (*up to 5 minutes for chair to provide general updates and relay communication from city council or other committees*)

- 13. Adjourn

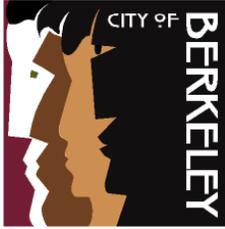
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Minutes Approved on: _____

Josh Jacobs, Commission Secretary: _____

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.



Homeless Services Panel of Experts

ACTION CALENDAR
June 4, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Subject: Measure P Allocations, Fiscal Year 2025-2026

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommendations to allocate Measure P revenue providing homeless services as detailed in Attachment 1, Exhibit A.

SUMMARY

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts (HSPE) reviewed P funding requests for programs, and City staff personnel costs associated with Measure P, for the current annual funding cycle. This review directly followed 3 meetings associated with reviewing community agency allocation funding, a process that considers community agency allocation funding requests every 4 years (the current cycle last considered in 2019, 5 years ago, due to the pandemic), and made recommendations under that process.

During the community agency allocation funding process, HSPE commissioners independently reviewed and scored funding proposals and as a whole, made recommendations. HSPE recommendations were directed to the City Manager who considered them, the City Manager returning with her own recommendations. HSPE found that the earlier recommendations that they had made closely aligned with the City Manager's recommendations and made minor adjustments in some cases to almost perfectly align with the exception of one additional proposed new program.

While it was hoped that other funding gaps for homeless services needs could be addressed through Measure P monies, upon learning that the steep decline in projected Measure P revenue available had substantially decreased from \$10,189,500 to \$6,500,000, HSPE commissioners acknowledged that P revenue was in dire straits limiting funding for homeless services.

With one critical exception, HSPE commissioners aligned with the City Manager's recommendations for P monies with a caveat. That caveat was that there should be further discussion regarding the effectiveness and accountability of programs. However, rather than decreasing funding to providers, HSPE believed that funding for those

programs should be sustained and that following the current funding process, discussion was merited so that HSPE commissioners could receive additional information about the contract monitoring process, possibly making recommendations.

The one exception to the City Manager's recommendations for the use of P monies, where HSPE held steadfast, as it has in previous Measure P funding cycles, was that 5150 transports should not be funded under Measure P monies. While HSPE is fully aware that the language of Measure P provides that transportation can be funded with P revenue, the commissioners did not perceive 5150 transports as a wise use for over 1.3 million in P monies particularly with less monies currently available for needed homeless services.

In other annual P funding cycles, 40%-50% of unhoused persons, were identified as utilizers of 5150 transports. Also in those cycles, the City committed to identifying an alternative source of funding, other than Measure P, to fund 5150 transports.

Historically, funding for 5150 transports had been funded by the County until recent years following the County's decision that the City of Berkeley should fund its own 5150 transports given that the City of Berkeley has an independent mental health division with its own funding.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

As earlier stated, the current Measure P property tax revenue is projected as a substantial decrease from \$10,189,500 to \$6,500,000. The City's budget director issued a report on March 28, 2024 as follows:

Measure P-Property Transfer Tax (-\$5,523,564 less than FY 2023 Actual)

Measure P taxes totaling \$2,840,259 was collected during the first half of FY 2024, which was \$5,523,564 or 66.0% less than the \$8,363,823 collected during the same period of FY 2023. This decrease resulted primarily from the following: (1) A decrease of 61.0% in the dollar value of property sales amount in the first half of FY 2024 versus those in the first half of FY 2023 as reflected in Table 3; (2) The number of property sales transactions decreased by 131 or 60.9% during the first half of FY 2024, as illustrated in the table below; and,(3) There were only four property sales of \$10 million or more totaling \$75 million during this six-month period in FY 2024, compared to 9 transactions with total property sales of \$401 million for the same period in FY 2023. The Measure P1 Property Transfer Tax Revenue projection is being decreased from \$10,189,500 to \$6,500,000.

Property Sales \$1.5 million+		In Million \$					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
FY 2024	\$62.8	\$87.2	\$48.5	\$51.9	\$33.6	\$42.5	\$326.5
FY 2023	114.4	271.1	84.1	63.3	203.7	99.8	836.4
Change	- 51.6	-183.9	-35.6	-11.4	-170.1	-57.3	-509.9
% Change	-45.1%	-67.8%	-42.3%	-18.0%	-83.5%	-57.4%	-61.0%

Property Transactions \$1.5 Million and Above

	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
FY 2024	18	17	12	15	12	10	84
FY 2023	52	41	48	31	24	19	215
Change	-34	-24	-36	-16	-12	-9	-131
% Change	-65.4%	-58.5%	-75.0%	-51.6%	-50.0%	-47.4%	-60.9%

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

With Measure P revenue diminished by over one-third, HSPE aligned with the City Manager to preserve the current homeless service programs, providing necessary services, as best could be done with the exception of recommending the 1,321,605 million in 5150 transports, continuing to contend that another source of funding for this purpose should be identified.

BACKGROUND

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts reviewed Measure P recommendations at its April 10, 2024 meeting and made the following recommendations as follows:

Action: M/S/C Jones/Meany HSPE does not recommend funding the 5150 transport out of Measure P monies.

Vote: Ayes: Meany, Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Jones, and Palmatier.
 Noes: Segal. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Meany the HSPE align with all of the city manager’s recommendations except for the \$1.3 million for 5150 transport.

Vote: Ayes: Meany, Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Jones, and Palmatier.
 Noes: None. *Abstain:* Segal. *Absent:* Bookstein.

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Jones HSPE will incorporate in the report that the reasoning behind not recommending the allocation for the \$1.3 million in 5150 transport is that the city should look towards alternative methods for funding and Measure P monies should be used for homeless services. This rationale is due to the diminished revenue needed for homeless services which do not make 5150 transport a priority for this stream of funding.

Vote: Ayes: Meany, Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Jones, and Palmatier.
 Noes: Segal. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Bookstein.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental impacts excepting that whenever unhoused persons are housed in Berkeley, it leads to a better, healthier environment for all whether that be formerly homeless persons or the general community.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts generally concurred with the City Manager's recommendations as they were thoughtfully made with attention to the current budgetary limitations. HSPE could not concur with the proposed 1.3 million allocation for 5150 transports which is 20% of the total projected 6.5 million in this year's P revenue. Another source of funding needs to be identified so that Measure P monies can be used to fund homeless services.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts could have concurred on the 5150 transports but was uncomfortable in doing so given the standing objection to Measure P monies used for 5150 transports when there are so many other needed homeless services and less P revenue available.

CITY MANAGER

See City Manager companion report.

CONTACT PERSON

Josh Jacobs, Homeless Services Coordinator, (510) 225-8035

Attachments:

1. Exhibit A: HSPE and City Manager Recommendations for P Funding.
2. City of Berkeley Budget Director report, March 26, 2024.

HSPE TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P PROGRAM LONG-TERM FORECAST-----DRAFT

Category of Spending	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2024 Adopted Mid-Biennial	FY 2024 Preliminary Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate	FY 2029 Estimate
Revenues								
<i>Beginning Fund Balance</i>								
Measure P Revenues*	\$ 14,073,750	\$ 10,189,500	\$ 19,887,422	\$ 5,391,019	\$ 3,142,708	\$ (1,877,883)	\$ (6,645,169)	\$ (6,722,411)
Total Revenues and Balance of Funds	\$ 33,961,172	\$ 30,076,922	\$ 26,387,422	\$ 13,590,599	\$ 11,752,267	\$ 7,162,154	\$ 2,846,870	\$ (1,976,392)
LESS: Total Expenses	\$ 14,045,913	\$ 19,160,846	\$ 20,996,403	\$ 10,447,891	\$ 13,630,150	\$ 13,807,322	\$ 9,569,282	\$ 10,077,605
Personnel Costs (1)	\$ 722,413	\$ 722,413	\$ 722,413	\$ 780,206	\$ 842,623	\$ 970,032	\$ 982,835	\$ 1,061,462
CMO: Homeless Services Coordinator	\$ 202,899	\$ 202,899	\$ 202,899	\$ 219,131	\$ 236,661	\$ 255,594	\$ 276,042	\$ 298,125
Finance: Accountant II	\$ 193,441	\$ 193,441	\$ 193,441	\$ 208,916	\$ 225,630	\$ 243,680	\$ 263,174	\$ 284,228
HHCS: 50% Senior Management Analyst	\$ 116,560	\$ 116,560	\$ 116,560	\$ 125,985	\$ 135,956	\$ 146,832	\$ 158,579	\$ 171,265
HHCS: 2 Year Limited Term Community Services Specialist II	\$ 209,513	\$ 209,513	\$ 209,513	\$ 226,274	\$ 244,376	\$ 263,926	\$ 285,040	\$ 307,843
Non-Personnel Costs/Program Expenses	\$ 13,323,500	\$ 16,438,433	\$ 20,273,990	\$ 9,667,685	\$ 12,787,528	\$ 12,887,290	\$ 8,586,447	\$ 9,016,143
Fire: 5150 Response & Transport - Measure P portion of contract	\$ 1,566,867	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605	\$ 1,321,605
Dorothy Day House Shelter	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000	\$ 566,000
Dorothy Day House Drop In	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000	\$ 182,000
BACS Pathways STAIR Center	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525	\$ 2,499,525
BACS Coordinated Entry System (BACS HRC & Shallow Subsidies)	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 829,498	\$ 829,498	\$ 1,371,411	\$ 1,371,411	\$ 1,371,411	\$ 1,371,411	\$ 1,371,411
BACS Permanent Housing Subsidies / Shallow Subsidies	\$ 105,000			\$ 138,800	\$ 138,800	\$ 138,800	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000
No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services	\$ 95,000		\$ 15,300	\$ 61,200	\$ 61,200	\$ 61,200	\$ 61,200	\$ 43,800
LifeLong Medical - Maudelle Shirek Affordable Housing (NPLH)			\$ 170,502					\$ 95,000
Insight Housing - Men's Housing Program								\$ 170,502
COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance - Housing Retention Program (EDC)								
Anti-Displacement Programs (Legal Assistance, Housing Retention Program, Flexible Housing Funds) (100k to BACS HRC; 279k to EDC and remaining to EBCLC) - to be funded by U1 in FY 24								
BDIC Locker Program	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
LifeLong Medical - Street Medicine	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,001	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000	\$ 525,000
YSA Tiny Home	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000
DBA - Homeless Outreach Worker	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Downtown Streets Team	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000
Shelter at 742 Grayson Street	\$ 908,796	\$ 908,796	\$ 908,796	\$ 935,160	\$ 962,315	\$ 990,284	\$ 1,017,119	\$ 1,044,995
Dorothy Day House Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (Winter Shelter)	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 367,150	\$ 376,912	\$ 386,335	\$ 395,993	\$ 405,651
Dorothy Day House - Inland Weather Shelter	\$ 412,185	\$ 412,185	\$ 412,185	\$ 429,000	\$ 446,815	\$ 464,630	\$ 482,445	\$ 500,260
Dorothy Day House Beyond Horizon - 1720 San Pablo Avenue - Supportive Services	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000	\$ 950,000
1387 University Avenue Step Up Housing Project			\$ 1,040,027		\$ 1,066,027	\$ 1,092,027	\$ 1,118,027	\$ 1,144,027
Russell Street Residence Acquisition	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 4,500,000
HHCS: Square One Hotel Vouchers	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334	\$ 133,334
Homeless Response Team	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085	\$ 920,085
Berkeley Relief Fund	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 96,000
Portable Toilets	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Old City Hall Sprinkler system	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164	\$ 578,164
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207	\$ 976,207
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480	\$ 882,480
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837	\$ 23,837
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215	\$ 262,215
Reimagining Public Safety-Expand Downtown Streets Teams as placement for low-level violations	\$ 50,000							
Equitable Clean Streets								
Expand the scope of services for the Downtown Streets Team to address the need for enhanced services around commercial and industrial areas in the Gilman District twice weekly	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Reimagining Public Safety: Conduct a service needs assessment based on 911 and non-911 calls for service, dispatch, and response and capacity assessment of crisis response and crisis-related services								
Reimagining Public Safety: Funding to organizations for Respite from Gender/Domestic Violence	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 220,000
1654 8th Street Operations								
701 Harrison Transition - Site Security	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 88,000
Public facilities improvement								
Encampment Resolution Fund 2 Awarded Grant Match- Rowdway Inn								
HCeB Contract- Interim Housing at Rowdway Inn			\$ 1,925,256					
Encampment Resolution Fund 3 Tentative Grant Match								
Fiscal Year Surplus (Shortfall)	\$ 27,837	\$ (8,971,346)	\$ (14,496,403)	\$ (2,248,311)	\$ (5,020,591)	\$ (4,767,285)	\$ (77,243)	\$ (5,331,685)
Ending Fund Balance	\$ 19,915,259	\$ 10,916,076	\$ 5,391,019	\$ 3,142,708	\$ (1,877,883)	\$ (6,645,169)	\$ (6,722,411)	\$ (12,053,997)

STAFF TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P PROGRAM LONG-TERM FORECAST-----DRAFT

Category of Spending	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2024 Adopted Mid-Biennial	FY 2024 Preliminary Estimate	FY 2025 Estimate	FY 2026 Estimate	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate	FY 2029 Estimate
Revenues								
<i>Beginning Fund Balance</i>			19,887,422	19,887,422	19,887,422	19,887,422	19,887,422	19,887,422
<i>Measure P Revenues*</i>	14,073,750	10,189,500	8,199,580	8,199,580	8,199,580	8,199,580	8,199,580	8,199,580
Total Revenues and Balance of Funds	33,961,172	30,076,922	26,387,002	26,387,002	26,387,002	26,387,002	26,387,002	26,387,002
LESS: Total Expenses	14,045,913	19,160,846	20,996,403	20,996,403	20,996,403	20,996,403	20,996,403	20,996,403
Personnel Costs (1)	722,413	722,413	722,413	722,413	722,413	722,413	722,413	722,413
CMO: Homeless Services Coordinator	202,899	202,899	202,899	202,899	202,899	202,899	202,899	202,899
Finance: Accountant II	193,441	193,441	193,441	193,441	193,441	193,441	193,441	193,441
HHCS: 50% Senior Management Analyst	116,560	116,560	116,560	116,560	116,560	116,560	116,560	116,560
HHCS: 2 Year Limited Term Community Services Specialist II	209,513	209,513	209,513	209,513	209,513	209,513	209,513	209,513
Non-Personnel Costs/Program Expenses	13,323,500	16,438,433	20,273,990	20,273,990	20,273,990	20,273,990	20,273,990	20,273,990
Fire: 5150 Response & Transport - Measure P portion of contract	1,566,867	1,321,605	1,321,605	1,321,605	1,321,605	1,321,605	1,321,605	1,321,605
Dorothy Day House Shelter	566,000	566,000	566,000	566,000	566,000	566,000	566,000	566,000
Dorothy Day House Drop In	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000	182,000
BACS Pathways STAIR Center	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525	2,499,525
BACS Coordinated Entry System (BACS HRC & Shallow Subsidies)	1,000,000	829,498	829,498	829,498	829,498	829,498	829,498	829,498
BACS Permanent Housing Subsidies / Shallow Subsidies	105,000							
No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services	95,000		15,300					
Life/Long Medical - Maudelle Shirek Affordable Housing (NPLH)		170,502	170,502					
Insight Housing - Men's Housing Program								
COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance - Housing Retention Program (EDC)								
Anti-Displacement Programs (Legal Assistance, Housing Retention Program, Flexible Housing Funds) (100k to BACS HRC; 279k to EDC and remaining to EBCLC) - to be funded by U1 in FY 24								
BDIC Locker Program	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Life/Long Medical - Street Medicine	525,000	525,000	525,001	525,000	525,000	525,000	525,000	525,000
YSA Tiny Home	78,000		78,000					
DBA - Homeless Outreach Worker	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Downtown Streets Team	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Shelter at 742 Grayson Street	908,796		908,796					
Dorothy Day House Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (Winter Shelter)	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Dorothy Day House - Inland Weather Shelter	412,185	412,185	412,185	412,185	412,185	412,185	412,185	412,185
Dorothy Day House Beyond Horizon - 1720 San Pablo Avenue - Supportive Services	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000	950,000
1367 University Avenue Step Up Housing Project								
Russell Street Residence Acquisition		4,500,000						
HHCS: Square One Hotel Vouchers	133,334	133,334	133,334	133,334	133,334	133,334	133,334	133,334
Homeless Response Team	920,085	920,085	920,085	920,085	920,085	920,085	920,085	920,085
Berkeley Relief Fund								
Portable Toilets	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000	96,000
Old City Hall Sprinkler system		400,000						
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	578,164	578,164	578,164	578,164	578,164	578,164	578,164	578,164
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	976,207	976,207	976,207	976,207	976,207	976,207	976,207	976,207
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	882,480	882,480	882,480	882,480	882,480	882,480	882,480	882,480
One-Time Use of Measure P for Nexus Community Programs	23,837	23,837	23,837	23,837	23,837	23,837	23,837	23,837
Reimagining Public Safety-Expand Downtown Streets Teams as placement for low-level violations	262,215	262,215	262,215	262,215	262,215	262,215	262,215	262,215
Equitable Clean Streets								
Expand the scope of services for the Downtown Streets Team to address the need for enhanced services around commercial and industrial areas in the Gilman District twice weekly	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Reimagining Public Safety: Conduct a service needs assessment based on 911 and non-911 calls for service, dispatch, and response and capacity assessment of crisis response and crisis-related services								
Reimagining Public Safety: Funding to organizations for Respite from Gender/Domestic Violence	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000	220,000
1654 5th Street Operations								
701 Harrison Transition - Site Security								
Public facilities improvement		88,000						
Encampment Resolution Fund 2 Awarded Grant Match- Rowdway Inn								
HCeB Contract- Interim Housing at Rowdway Inn								
Encampment Resolution Fund 3 Tentative Grant Match								
Fiscal Year Surplus (Shortfall)	27,837	(8,971,346)	(14,496,403)	(3,433,916)	(6,206,196)	(5,952,890)	(1,262,848)	(6,517,190)
Ending Fund Balance	19,915,259	10,916,076	5,391,019	1,957,103	(4,249,093)	(10,201,984)	(11,464,831)	(17,982,022)

TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P FORECAST

		FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate
1	Beginning Fund Balance	\$5,583,073	\$5,583,073	\$2,355,308	\$5,086,743	\$1,702,837	-\$3,766,585
2	Measure P Revenues*	\$6,199,580	\$9,105,870	\$6,509,559	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000	\$9,100,000
3	Total Revenues and Balance of Funds	\$11,782,653	\$14,688,943	\$8,864,867	\$14,186,743	\$10,802,837	\$5,333,415
4	LESS: Total Expenses	\$9,427,345	\$9,602,200	\$13,102,873	\$12,483,906	\$14,569,422	\$11,823,752
	Personnel Costs	\$780,206	\$700,977	\$842,623	\$842,623	\$581,392	\$610,462
5	CMO: Homeless Services Coordinator	\$219,131	\$399,086	\$236,661	\$418,916	\$439,862	\$461,855
6	Finance Accountant II	\$208,916		\$225,630			
7	HHCS: 50% Senior Management Analyst	\$125,885	\$129,502	\$135,956	\$134,791	\$141,531	\$148,607
8	HHCS: 2 Year Limited Term Community Services Specialist II	\$226,274	\$172,389	\$244,376	\$179,285		
	Program Expenses	\$8,647,139	\$8,901,224	\$12,260,250	\$11,641,283	\$13,988,030	\$11,213,290
9	Fire: 5150 Response & Transport	\$814,302	\$814,302	\$814,302	\$500,000	\$400,000	
10	Dorothy Day House Shelter	\$580,150	\$580,150	\$594,654	\$580,150	\$580,150	\$580,150
11	Dorothy Day House Berkeley Emergency Storm Shelter (Winter Shelter)	\$358,750	\$358,750	\$367,719	\$358,750	\$358,750	\$358,750
12	Dorothy Day House - Beyond Horizon	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	\$950,000	
13	Beyond Horizon Shelter Lease	\$935,160	\$935,160	\$962,315	\$962,315	\$990,284	
14	Dorothy Day House University Horizon Community Village - Supportive Services					\$650,967	\$1,301,935
15	BACS Pathways STAIR Center	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768	\$1,765,295	\$2,002,768	\$2,002,768
16	BACS Coordinated Entry System (BACS HRC & Shallow Subsidies)	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411	\$1,235,411
17	No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services						\$105,000
18	No Place Like Home - Scattered Unit Supportive Services					\$138,800	\$138,800

TRANSFER TAX -- MEASURE P FORECAST

		FY 2025 Adopted	FY 2025 Projected	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2026 Proposed	FY 2027 Estimate	FY 2028 Estimate
19	LifeLong Medical - Maudelle Shirek Affordable Housing (NPLH)	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200	\$61,200
20	LifeLong Medical Care - Berkeley Trust Clinic	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$525,000
21	DBA- Homeless Outreach Worker	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
22	Downtown Streets Team	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$225,000
23	BOSS/BOSS Step Up Housing Project - 1367 University Avenue*		\$202,085	\$1,066,027	\$1,014,660	\$1,039,408	\$1,064,759
24	Training and Evaluation	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334	\$133,334
25	Homeless Response Team	\$690,064	\$690,064	\$690,064	\$440,064	\$690,064	\$690,064
26	Homeless Response Team - RV Buy Back expansion				\$250,000		
27	Portable Toilets	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000	\$96,000
28	Insight Housing Campus Hotel - Supportive Services (ERF match)			\$2,496,456	\$1,456,627	\$1,468,050	
29	Campus Hotel - Lease (ERF Match)				\$1,047,477	\$1,067,136	
30	Encampment Resolution Fund 3 Grant Match- Dorothy Day House/ Howard Johnson Contract					\$635,638	\$1,271,276
31	Howard Johnson Lease					\$645,069	\$1,328,843
32	Portable Toilets- Parks, Recreation and Waterfront		\$52,000			\$55,000	\$55,000
33	<i>Fiscal Year Surplus (Shortfall)</i>	<i>-\$3,227,765</i>	<i>-\$496,330</i>	<i>-\$6,593,314</i>	<i>-\$3,383,906</i>	<i>-\$5,469,422</i>	<i>-\$2,723,752</i>
34	Ending Fund Balance	\$2,355,308	\$5,086,743	-\$4,238,006	\$1,702,837	-\$3,766,585	-\$6,490,337

Notes:

(1) Revenue projection does not reflect passage of Measure W that becomes effective on 1/1/27

Housing Rentention Funding 2020-2025

FY	Total	U1	HOME-ARP	Measure P	CDBG-CV	GF
FY21	\$ 2,701,541.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,801,541.00	\$ 900,000.00
FY22	\$ 2,149,531.21	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,881,025.48	\$ 18,505.73
FY23	\$ 1,824,381.14	\$ 301,900.00	\$ -	\$ 1,450,000.00	\$ 72,117.41	\$ 363.73
FY24	\$ 3,368,613.86	\$ 1,250,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ 1,117,866.60	\$ 383.53	\$ 363.73
FY25	\$ 797,139.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 547,139.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

The Housing Retention Program will provide rental assistance to qualifying Berkeley residents who are experiencing an unexpected loss of earnings, revenue, or other economic harm that results in housing instability.

History of 5150 Transport Recommendations

2024

On April 10, 2024, HSPE passed the following motion: HSPE does not recommend funding the 5150 Transport out of Measure P monies.

Vote: Ayes: Meany, Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Jones, and Palmatier.

Noes: Segal. Abstain: None. Absent: Bookstein.

2023

On May 31, 2023, HSPE passed the following motion: Since Measure P has been implemented, HSPE has been consistently concerned about allocations for all 5150 transports coming from Measure P funds. HSPE has looked forward to an alternate source of funding being utilized, particularly as to those persons not experiencing homelessness. However, since no alternate system has yet been implemented, HSPE passed the current recommendation of a \$1,556, 857 for 5150 transports with the caveat that further information need be provided to identify alternate funding in order that funding for this purpose be targeted exclusively to persons experiencing homelessness. Action: M/S/C Hynes/Meany recommend that City Council continue to fund the Fire: 5150 Response and Transport with \$1,556,857 of Measure P funding and that we consult with staff, including the Fire Chief, about what considerations this commission should make about funding in the future in order to find ways to target the funding to people experiencing homelessness.

Vote: Ayes: Kealoha-Blake, Hynes, Marasovic, Bookstein, Meany.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Jones, Wachspress. Leave of Absence: Feller

2022

On May 4, 2022, HSPE passed the following motion: Terminate all funding for the Fire: 5150 Response and Transport because of:

- The concern that the city has continued to provide 5150 transportation with Measure P funds for the previous three years,
- The city needs to provide roofs, not rides.
- The creation of a crisis stabilization center, by working with fire, police, and mental health, and connecting clients to the appropriate resource, will mitigate the excessive number of 5150 transports.

History of 5150 Transport Recommendations

Vote: *Ayes:* Marasovic, Bookstein, Kealoha-Blake, Meany, Jones, De la Guardia, Feller.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* None.

2021

On April 21, 2021, HSPE passed the following motion: HSPE recognizes there are important opportunities that Measure P money can leverage to secure hotels and that we strongly believe that Measure P money should be used to provide housing and to help prevent homelessness.

Therefore, the HSPE recommends that no Measure P money be used to fund 5150 transports and encourages the City to explore alternative funding sources including the potential for insurance & MediCal reimbursements.

Vote: *Ayes:* Marasovic, Wehrman, Sherman, Scheider.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* Absent: Bookstein.

2020

On June 10, 2020, HSPE passed the following motion: approve and send a letter to Council regarding the use of Measure P funds and FY20-21 budget...”

Vote: *Ayes:* Gale, Metz, Patil, Whitson, Jordan, Trotz, Mulligan, Garlin.

Noes: None. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* Carrasco.

The letter contained the following recommendation:

We also once again protest the use of Measure P-generated funds to cover the full costs of 5150 Response and Transport and refer you to our report of October 29, 2020 in which we noted that this service is not limited to people who are homeless and was not budgeted with consideration that most people transported are housed. At that time we recommended the Council refer to the City Manager to produce information regarding the percentage of those transported who are homeless and to identify other potential sources to cover this expense. We reiterate this recommendation.

2019

On November 12, 2019, HSPE sent City Council Recommendations for the Allocation of FY19/20 Measure P Funds, which included the following:

History of 5150 Transport Recommendations

The HSPE notes, the amount of funds available for the Panel to allocate was reduced nearly \$1.5 million pursuant to appropriations in Council's FY19/20 Biennial Budget adoption for City staff and for Mental Health Emergency Transport. The Panel understands that FY19/20 funding is already committed, but wishes to express our strong objection on the pre-allocation of \$2.4 million in FY20/21 Measure P-generated funding to fully cover these transportation costs.

Measure P was passed by the Voters of Berkeley to address the crisis of homelessness, and while some individuals experiencing homelessness may require Emergency Mental Health Transportation, the service is not only limited to people currently homeless. The Emergency Mental Health Transportation costs were not budgeted with the consideration that most individuals transported for Emergency Mental Health Care will actually be housed individuals.

In addition, the Emergency Mental Health Transportation does not result in the creation of more housing or shelter for people experiencing homelessness in the City of Berkeley. The HSPE strongly believes expenditure of these funds are not consistent with the spirit of the Measure P ballot. We recommend the Council requests information regarding the percentage of transported patients, experiencing homelessness. We hope to make recommendations for next year's investments with more consideration using this information.



REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: April 1, 2025

Item Number: 22

Item Description: Alternative Housing Options for People Experiencing Homelessness

Submitted by: Councilmember O'Keefe

Submitting updated version of item for inclusion in agenda packet, with the word "parks" removed from the recommendation.



To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe (Author), Mayor Adena Ishii,
Councilmembers Brent Blackaby and Cecilia Lunaparra (Co-Sponsors)
Subject: Alternative Housing Options for People Experiencing Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager a request for staff to identify a list of potential locations of City properties (such as ~~parks~~, parking lots, buildings, and other sites) and private properties (to be leased or acquired) – for the purpose of establishing alternative housing options including but not limited to indoor/outdoor camping areas, safe RV and car park zones, and/or congregate or non-congregate shelters for people experiencing homelessness based on the model used at Grayson Street.

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Following the clearing of a homeless encampment at Old City Hall in early December 2024, unhoused residents formed a new encampment at Civic Center Park. Many Berkeley High School students, teachers, and parents, City of Berkeley staff, local businesses, Farmers Market vendors and visitors, residents of the encampment and their advocates have urged the City to address concerns related to health hazards and violence in and around the Civic Center Park encampment. While the City shifted focus and resources to address the encampment, successfully rehousing and securing temporary housing for many residents, various other unsanctioned encampments around Berkeley continue to pose similar concerns.

Our City remains committed to supporting our unhoused residents with the dignity, compassion, and respect they deserve while ensuring that public spaces remain equally accessible for all. This is not a mutually exclusive goal and is achievable with the support of critical stakeholders. In 2021, in collaboration with Dorothy Day House and Bayer, the City helped open a transitional shelter where unhoused people reported feeling safe, comfortable, and respected. As expected, the Grayson Street shelter and the safe RV lot closed when the City's lease with REDCO Development LLC expired. Despite its efforts, the City could not immediately identify a viable alternative for the site, but staff took note of the positive effect this indoor camping and safe outdoor parking area had on all Berkeley residents.

Working against larger national and regional trends, the City of Berkeley has significantly reduced unsheltered homelessness by 45%. Despite that, the City continues to struggle to meet the housing and wrap-around service needs of our unhoused residents. While the City continues to pursue long-term, best-practice approaches such as expanding shelter capacity and seeking funding to build more transitional and permanent affordable housing, it's clear

these efforts are not enough. We must look toward supplemental solutions and create opportunities to more expeditiously support the unhoused community, while ensuring our public space is accessible to all.

This item requests that the City Manager identify and compile a list of City- and privately-owned properties to establish housing alternatives such as an indoor/outdoor camping area, safe RV and car parking, and/or congregate or non-congregate shelter for our unhoused residents who want to stay in Berkeley. The purpose is to provide a safe, clean space where unhoused community members can live, access resources, and ultimately transition to permanent housing. Ideally, some of these sites would have capacity to support the relocation of an entire encampment, to preserve an existing supportive community.

BACKGROUND

High cost of living and the lack of affordable housing stock in the United States has led to an increase in unsheltered homelessness and chronic homelessness since 2016. Between January 2023 and January 2024, homelessness in the United States increased by 18% – the largest jump since the Department of Housing and Urban Development began reporting in 2007. Additionally, although underreported, unhoused people are more likely to be victims of violent crime than they are to commit these crimes, often worsening cycles of trauma among the unhoused community and beyond.¹

In 2024, Alameda County saw the first decrease in homelessness in a decade. Between 2022 and 2024, Berkeley saw a 21% overall decrease in homelessness and a 45% decrease in unsheltered homelessness. These decreases at the County and City levels are likely the direct result of massive investments in affordable housing production and our homelessness response system, as made possible by Berkeley residents through their support of Measures O and P – both passed in 2018 with over 77% and 72% approval, respectively. Furthermore, Measure U1 – passed in 2016 with nearly 75% of the vote – has generated millions for affordable housing projects.

In 2017, the Berkeley City Council launched the Pathways Project to address homelessness by providing temporary shelter while working on longer-term solutions. Phase 1 established the STAIR Center, a low-barrier shelter open 24 hours a day and with services such as on-site mental health support, substance use disorder programming, and job training services. Phase 2 introduced the 1,000 Person Plan to ensure shelter or housing for every homeless person in the City.

According to the 1,000 Person Plan Referral Response, to end homelessness for 1,000 people in Berkeley, the City will need up-front investments in targeted homelessness prevention, light-touch housing problem-solving, rapid rehousing, and permanent subsidies, with a cost of \$16-19.5 million upfront and an annual ongoing expense of between roughly \$12-15 million. Staff

¹ Berg, Steve. “The Disturbing Realities of Homelessness and Violence.” National Alliance to End Homelessness, January 24, 2022. <https://endhomelessness.org/blog/the-disturbing-realities-of-homelessness-and-violence/>.

concluded that even this level of investment would unlikely end homelessness, but could increase the system’s capacity to support those experiencing long-term and chronic homelessness.²

At the start of 2023, Berkeley had nearly 350 shelter beds, 108 of which were seasonal and open only during the winter months. Over the course of 2023, more than 900 individual people used a shelter bed in Berkeley. As of late 2024 and since the inception of Measures O, P, and U1, more than 650 interim housing beds and permanent housing units have been funded, serving over 2,000 residents. The City also had about 50 transitional housing beds dedicated for specific populations, including transition-aged youth, people with substance use disorders, and veterans. During January and February of 2024, 82% of available shelter beds were occupied each night on average. Non-congregate shelters had higher levels of utilization: 93% of beds in non-congregate shelters were full on average, compared to 79% of beds in congregate shelters.³

In the last several years, Berkeley has passed major zoning reforms, implemented Measure O, and is racing to meet its commitments under the Housing Element, building housing at the fastest rates in decades. Still, on any given night in Alameda County, more than 8,000 people experience homelessness, with 844 of those people residing in Berkeley. 39% of unhoused residents in Berkeley reported that the primary cause of homelessness was related to losing housing, while 33% reported their condition was related to the loss of a job and income, and 21% reported it was due to health-related issues.⁴

Despite unprecedented investments in housing, affordable housing stock remains limited, and building costs and timelines remain uncircumventable. Given the urgency around addressing newer and existing encampments around the City, Berkeley and its residents could benefit from exploring additional short-term options for alternative housing such as tiny houses, micro units, ADUs, vehicle camping, indoor or outdoor camping sites, and more – with the ultimate long-term goal of providing permanent housing.

Fortunately, there is precedent for establishing a comprehensive camping area and transitional programs in Berkeley. In 2021, the City partnered with Dorothy Day House to create the Horizon Transitional Village and Safe Parking and Respite Kickstart (SPARK) site at 742 Grayson Street in West Berkeley. The site operated from July of 2021 until the City’s lease ended on October

² City of Berkeley. Referral Response: 1000 Person Plan to Address Homelessness, April 30, 2019. [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-02-14 Item 14 Referral Response Home Share.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2023-02-14%20Item%2014%20Referral%20Response%20Home%20Share.pdf).

³ City of Berkeley. Gap Analysis of Berkeley’s Homelessness System of Care, July 9, 2024. [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07-09 Item 16 Referral Response Gap Analysis of Berkeley’s Homelessness.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-07-09%20Item%2016%20Referral%20Response%20Gap%20Analysis%20of%20Berkeley's%20Homelessness.pdf).

⁴ Alameda County. “City of Berkeley Homeless Census & Survey 2024 Executive Summary .” Alameda County Health Housing and Homelessness Services , 2024. <https://homelessness.acgov.org/homelessness-assets/docs/infographic/Berkeley%20PIT%202024%20Infographic.pdf>.

31, 2022. The site combined an RV parking area with on-site services and vehicle repair assistance, creating a holistic program for people living in their vehicles.

The SPARK site provided space for up to 40 RVs, and its residents – primarily individuals displaced from unsanctioned RV encampments at 8th and Harrison Streets – were able to access basic amenities like water, portable toilets, and showers, along with vehicle repair stipends for up to \$1,500 to help with RV maintenance. Additionally, the indoor site provided space for about 50 people and included small personal storage cubbies, a breakfast area, recreational space with a library and “movie theater” and a back storage area for residents to store larger items.⁵



(Photo credit: Supriya Yelimeli, Berkeleyside)

Case management and housing navigation services were also provided, supporting long-term housing transitions. The program served approximately 150 individuals during its operation, successfully connecting about 30 participants to permanent housing. While staff inquired about extending the lease, the owner of the property, San Francisco-based REDCO Development LLC expressed intent to build a life sciences hub on the property.

Ultimately, homelessness is a symptom of bigger, interconnecting trends that have grown worse in the last decade and are largely out of Berkeley’s control. Despite the challenges, Berkeley has adopted a humane approach that has been proven to work and made significant progress in addressing homelessness, a testament to the tremendous work of City Staff and the commitment of Berkeley residents alike. This item presents an opportunity for Berkeley to continue to lead on the issue of homelessness by asking the City Manager to explore novel and innovative approaches that remain rooted in our values.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

⁵ Yelimeli, Supriya. “New West Berkeley homeless shelter opens as city emerges from COVID-19 pandemic.” Berkeleyside, July 2, 2021. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2021/07/02/new-west-berkeley-homeless-shelter-grayson-street-2>

In July 2021, Berkeley City Council voted to endorse the All Home California Regional Action Plan (RAP), which seeks to reduce the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness across the nine county Bay Area region by 75%.

Further, the City of Berkeley Administrative Regulations, Regulating Temporary Non-Commercial Objects on Sidewalks and in Parklets, Pursuant to BMC § 14.48.120, states that “Temporary Noncommercial (TNC) Objects,” as defined by code (e.g., personal belongings under immediate control, of certain size/weight, and not for sale), must not impede the safe and accessible Path of Travel, violate designated TNC Prohibited Areas, or otherwise pose health or safety risks on public sidewalks or parklets. These regulations permit removal of TNC objects that exceed defined size or time limits, obstruct pedestrian or disability access, or infringe on critical infrastructure such as fire hydrants, transit stops, or building entrances, and require advance notice (except in emergencies) before the city may remove such objects.⁶

Berkeley’s official encampment policy adopted in 2024, reaffirms the City’s commitment to offering interim housing whenever possible but authorizes removal of encampments without a shelter offer under six specific conditions, such as when an encampment poses a fire hazard, creates an imminent health risk, constitutes a public nuisance, is located on or dangerously close to a roadway, interferes with authorized construction or maintenance, or impedes city or utility operations.⁷

ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The City of Berkeley is known for its creative and innovative approach to public policy. While the City should remain on course and continue creating additional permanent housing, without a plethora of transitional and temporary housing and safe site options for unhoused individuals, many will continue to experience unsheltered homelessness with little access to resources. On any given night, some 24% of Berkeley’s unhoused residents sleep on the street or sidewalk. This item recognizes that it is neither sustainable nor suitable for an average of 445 people to camp on our public sidewalks, streets, and parks every single night.

While there is no panacea for homelessness, the City can help people experiencing homelessness live with dignity by ensuring they have a safe space to access personal hygiene care and resources with their belongings and pets, remaining within their community and support networks.

CONSULTATION/OUTREACH OVERVIEW AND RESULTS

⁶ City of Berkeley, Municipal Code, Chapter 14.480, Section 120 (2018).

<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Administrative%20Regulation%2010.2.pdf>

⁷ City of Berkeley. Encampment Policy Resolution to Promote Healthy and Safe Neighborhoods and Related First Reading of Ordinance Amending Chapter 14.48 of the Berkeley Municipal Code, September 10, 2024. [https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09-10 Item 37 Encampment Policy Resolution.pdf](https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-09-10%20Item%2037%20Encampment%20Policy%20Resolution.pdf).

The author and co-sponsors consulted with City Staff and numerous community stakeholders including but not limited to unhoused community members, business representatives, non-profit leaders, and advocates.

Councilmember O’Keefe discussed the item with the City Manager and he expressed an interest in working with City Staff to evaluate possible locations to expand alternative housing options. Further, Councilmember O’Keefe and Mayor Ishii met with the Deputy City Manager and head of Neighborhood Services to solicit their input and feedback, incorporating it into this item. Councilmember O’Keefe also met with residents of the Harrison Street encampment and spoke with homeless advocates, who expressed support for the idea.

Moreover, Councilmember Lunaparra hosted a Forum on Homelessness in early December that was specifically focused on soliciting ways to address homelessness from unhoused people themselves, and a camping area was repeatedly brought up as something that would be beneficial to Berkeley’s unhoused residents and the city as a whole.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

This item proposes identifying locations that can be used for shorter-term solutions such as City-managed RV and car parks, indoor/outdoor camping areas, and/or additional congregate or non-congregate sites that may provide immediate, emergency shelter and relief for unhoused people, ensuring they will be connected to resources while the City works toward more permanent solutions, and preserves access to Berkeley’s public parks and spaces for all.

IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

This referral exclusively asks the City Manager to identify and develop a list of locations for the creation of a safe, alternative housing site. Implementation will not take place until further Council action. This referral does not include discussion of how a potential site could be operationalized or administered. Blueprints and precedent already exist and have been proven successful for such implementation at the Grayson Street Shelter and safe RV Zone, and we request staff consult these plans to inform their work.

Feasibility should be determined under the assumption that city funds will be used to purchase/lease and manage the eventual site or sites. The intent of this referral is to provide additional safe housing options for Berkeley’s unsheltered residents and not to address the issue on a regional level. While identifying a source of funding is not within the scope of this referral, the search process should be done with the goal of ensuring local control of any eventual housing sites.

Anecdotal conversations with many unhoused people and their advocates reveal that the following criteria should be taken into consideration by City Staff when evaluating possible sites for a camping area:

- Public transit accessibility

- Proximity to existing homeless services, such as Dorothy Day House or the Sacred Rest Drop-In Center
- Access to food, electricity, potable water, on-site showers, laundry, and sanitation
- Regular trash and waste removal
- ADA compliance

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

N/A

FISCAL IMPACTS

Fiscal impacts limited to staff time.

OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

The City Manager should return to the City Council with a list of sites to provide safe alternative housing options, a report detailing the concerns and roadblocks to implementation, and information regarding steps the City can take to initiate and/or secure a site for such shelter.

Due to the urgent nature of this public health and humanitarian crisis, this item asks the City Manager to expedite this process and return to Council as soon as feasible.

CONTACT

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Horizon Transitional Village and RV Safe Parking Site

Dorothy Day House, Berkeley, will operate the Horizon Transitional Village 24 hours per day, seven days a week with a maximum of 50 guests each night. It is a coed shelter located at 742 Grayson Street in Berkeley. DDH will provide residents 3 meals per day. Housing Case Management services will also be provided. DDH will preform intakes for all residents using HMIS and track length of stay and services provided. HTV shelter will provide: showers, laundry service access, lockers, clean clothing, PPE, hygiene. HTV shelter coordinators will prepare residents for housing stability readiness and through partner agencies, will provide: healthcare accessibility, education opportunities, workforce development, income benefits, AOD/addiction service and referrals, mental health services, other social service workshops events and activities.

In addition, Dorothy Day House will operate a 40 space RV safe parking program at 742 Grayson Avenue. DDH will provide 24/7 staff and will provide linkages to needed services. DDH will provide some food to guests through partnerships with other programs. DDH will receive referrals exclusively from the City's outreach team. DDH will provide maintenance, site security, and provide flex funds to make minor RV repairs and vehicle registration.

Horizon Exit Destinations

