



REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL

Meeting Date: **March 9, 2026**

Item Number: **18**

Item Description: **Berkeley High School National Society of Black Engineers
Junior Chapter: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget
Funds to the General Fund and Grant of Such Funds**

Submitted by: **Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe**

Changes include adding Councilmembers Terry Taplin and Brent Blackaby as co-sponsors, and slight revisions to the report.



To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe (Author), **Councilmember Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Brent Blackaby (Co-Sponsor)**
Subject: Berkeley High School National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to the 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 Shoshana O'Keefe's discretionary fund and funds from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute, to the Berkeley High School National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter to support **its ongoing work to engage and empower students through STEM education, mentorship, leadership development, and community building. ~~their participation in the National Society of Black Engineers 2026 Annual Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.~~**

BACKGROUND

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is one of the largest student-led organizations in the U.S., with over 700 chapters and a membership of more than 24,000 worldwide. For over 50 years, NSBE has played a vital role in fostering innovation, guiding engineers to graduation, and enhancing STEM education for many K–12 students globally.

The mission of NSBE is to increase the number of Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact their community. Each year, NSBE leaves a profound mark on its participants. From the thousands of 3rd–5th graders engaged in the national Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) camps, to the 15,000 collegiate students honing their academic and technical skills, NSBE strives to increase the number of diverse students studying engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The NSBE Jr. Chapter at Berkeley High School has experienced remarkable growth, achievement, and has even received national recognition. In 2025, BHS students and co-advisors were honored with the Pre-College Program of the Year Award at the 51st Annual Leadership Convention in Chicago, IL – recognizing BHS students for their outstanding engagement, leadership, and impact throughout the year.

The NSBE Jr. Pre-College Initiative (PCI) program is designed to stimulate interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The goal is to encourage students in grades 9-12 to attend college and pursue technical degrees. Berkeley High's PCI program helps students discover firsthand how engineering and technology relate to the world around them and uncover the excitement of academic excellence, leadership, technical development and teamwork.

~~The National Society of Black Engineers 2026 Annual Convention will be held between March 18 and March 22 in Baltimore, Maryland and will bring together over 16,000 attendees from across the country.~~ This item supports the Berkeley High NSBE Jr. Chapter's work to promote student learning, advance professional development, and cultivate future leaders, innovators and global citizens prepared to make a lasting impact on their community and beyond.

FISCAL IMPACTS

No General Fund impact.

CONTACT

Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe, sokeefe@berkeleyca.gov

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

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

WHEREAS, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is one of the largest student-led organizations in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, for over 50 years, NSBE has played a vital role in fostering innovation, guiding engineers to graduation, and enhancing STEM education for many K–12 students globally; and

WHEREAS, the mission of NSBE is to increase the number of Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact their community; and

WHEREAS, the NSBE Jr. Chapter at Berkeley High School has experienced remarkable growth, achievement, and has even received national recognition; and

WHEREAS, the NSBE Jr. Chapter was honored with the Pre-College Program of the Year Award at the 2025 Golden Torch Awards of the 51st Annual Leadership Convention; and

~~WHEREAS, the National Society of Black Engineers 2026 Annual Convention will be held between March 18 and March 22 in Baltimore, Maryland and will bring together over 16,000 attendees from across the country; and~~

WHEREAS, by supporting ~~the Berkeley High NSBE Jr. Chapter, Berkeley High students in this endeavor~~, the Berkeley City Council will be encouraging student learning and professional development, and ~~helping~~ cultivate future leaders, innovators, and global citizens poised to make a lasting impact on their community and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budgets – up to \$500 per office – shall be granted to the Berkeley High School National Society of Black Engineers Junior Chapter.