

Igor Tregub  
Councilmember District 4

## **REVISED AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1**

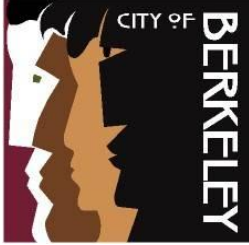
**Meeting Date:** May 19, 2026

**Item Number:** 23

**Item Description:** Berkeley Rotary Endowment Education and Community Welfare Support: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds

**Submitted by:** Councilmember Igor Tregub

**Summary of Changes:** The 2026 Taste of Downtown Berkeley Event has been postponed to 2027. Berkeley Rotary, the hosts of the event, are still working to raise funds for the programs supported by the event. Edits in the resolution and report reflect this change.



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

Adena Ishii, Mayor

Terry Taplin, Councilmember District 2

Shoshana O’Keefe, Councilmember District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR

MAY 19, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Igor Tregub (Author), Mayor Adena Ishii (Co-Sponsor), Shoshana O’Keefe (Co-Sponsor), and Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: [Berkeley Rotary Endowment Education and Community Welfare Support: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds to Berkeley Rotary Endowment](#)  
~~[Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds to Taste of Downtown Berkeley 2026 Event](#)~~

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember from the D13 Discretionary Accounts of members of the Berkeley City Council, including contributions of \$250 from Mayor Ishii and Councilmembers O’Keefe, Taplin, and Tregub, and inviting other members of the City Council to contribute to the Berkeley Rotary Endowment ~~to support the Fourth Annual Taste of Downtown Berkeley 2026~~ with funds relinquished to the City’s general fund.

The relinquished funds will help the Berkeley Rotary Endowment to ~~host an event featuring and increasing visibility for local business and~~ raise funds for their RotaCare Health Clinic, 4-year collegiate scholarship program, ~~and~~ supportive housing and hygiene kits programs. ~~This year’s event will be held on Sunday, June 7, 2026, starting at the Downtown Berkeley Plaza. In previous years, funds were raised in tandem with and through the Taste of Downtown Berkeley event.~~

BACKGROUND

[Since its 2023 pilot, the Berkeley Rotary Endowment in partnership with the Downtown Berkeley Association has been hosting an annual Taste of Downtown Berkeley event to](#)

help raise awareness and funding for a variety of community-serving programs, including health clinic, supportive housing services, and scholarship initiatives at the Taste of Downtown Berkeley events. Over 200 tasters per year have cumulatively raised nearly \$65,000. These contributions have a positive and tangible impact on our community. Every \$1,000 supports one month of hygiene kits and warm clothing for those in need; and \$6,000 supports a scholarship for one student for a year of a 4-year college.

Currently, scholarship program supports 14 low-income students from Berkeley High School. In Fall 2026, the Berkeley Community Scholars' High Hopes Scholarship will be increased from up to \$4,000 annually to \$6,000 annually. These scholarships are available to senior students attending any high school in Berkeley. In addition, for financial contributions, in partnership with Berkeley Community Scholars, Berkeley Rotary provides mentoring for these students.

This year, the Berkeley Rotary elected to switch to a biennial Taste of Downtown Berkeley event, to create a more robust event with increased visibility for local businesses, and higher fiscal impact for local community.

Berkeley Rotary, in partnership with the Downtown Berkeley Association, is hosting the third annual Taste of Downtown Berkeley on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

Featuring 15 participating restaurants, this event invites people to enjoy and celebrate our downtown's diverse, vibrant, and ever-evolving food and drink scene. Proceeds from the \$50 ticket directly support services that Berkeley Rotary provides to benefit underserved members of the community, including the RotaCare Health Clinic, the 4-year collegiate scholarship program, and supportive housing hygiene kit programs.

Since its 2023 pilot, over 200 tasters per year have cumulatively raised nearly \$65,000 for the Rotary Club's community programs, including health clinic, supportive housing services, and scholarship initiatives.

These contributions have a positive and tangible impact on our community. Every \$1,000 supports one month of hygiene kits and warm clothing for those in need; and \$6,000 supports a scholarship for one student for a year of a 4-year college. In addition, this event provides visibility and vibrancy for our Downtown Berkeley businesses.

## FISCAL IMPACTS

No General Fund impact. ~~Up to \$2500~~Funds are available from contributing Councilmembers' Council Office Budget discretionary accounts.

## CONTACT

Councilmember Tregub, 510-981-7140, [itregub@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:itregub@berkeleyca.gov)

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Amy Johnson, Legislative Aide, Council District 4, [amjohnson@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:amjohnson@berkeleyca.gov)

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF MEMBERS OF THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT BERKELEY ROTARY'S ~~FOURTH ANNUAL TASTE OF DOWNTOWN BERKELEY EVENT AND ENDOWMENT FUNDRAISER~~ AND ITS ONGOING COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING**

WHEREAS, the mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders; and

~~WHEREAS, Berkeley Rotary and the Downtown Berkeley Association will be hosting the third annual Taste of Downtown Berkeley, inviting community members and friends to enjoy the diverse Downtown Berkeley food scene on Sunday, June 7, 2026, while raising funds for vital community services, including health care, scholarships, and supportive housing programs; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the Taste of Downtown Berkeley actively promotes local businesses and restaurants by fostering community engagement and enhancing visibility; and~~

WHEREAS, since Taste of Downtown Berkeley's its 2023 pilot, over 200 tasters per year have cumulatively raised about \$63,000 for the Rotary Club's community programs, including health clinic, supportive housing services, and scholarship initiatives; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Rotary's fundraising contributions provide our community with tangible impacts, such as hygiene kits and warm clothing for those in need and scholarships for college students.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their discretionary office budgets, up to \$500 per office, shall be granted to the Berkeley Rotary Endowment ~~towards the Fourth Annual Taste of Downtown Berkeley event and fundraiser~~ with proceeds serving ~~a~~ the public good and local students.