

**BEN BARTLETT**

VICE MAYOR

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 6, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett

Subject: *Bench Donation: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds*

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of funds, including \$3500 from Vice Mayor Bartlett for creating a community bench in memory of the efforts of community members made in 2020 on the Black Lives Matter movement, with funds relinquished to the City's General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Vice Mayor Bartlett and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND:

In 2013, three female Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created a Black-centered political project called Black Lives Matter<sup>1</sup>. It began with a social media hashtag, #BlackLivesMatter, after the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin in 2012. The movement grew nationally in 2014 after the deaths of Michael Brown in Missouri and Eric Garner in New York. Since then, it has established itself as a worldwide movement, particularly after the death of George Floyd at the hands of police in Minneapolis, MN. Most recently, the organization has spearheaded demonstrations worldwide protesting police brutality and systematic racism that overwhelmingly affects the Black community.

In the City of Berkeley, after the death of George Floyd, community members rose and marched to address police brutality happening throughout the nation<sup>2</sup>. Amidst the pandemic in 2020, the City of Berkeley had various demonstrations expressing the importance of addressing this issue in pursuing justice and safety for all. And so, the George Floyd Community Safety Act was established in Berkeley<sup>3</sup>. Through this act, the City of Berkeley

<sup>1</sup> Campbell, Adina. "What Is Black Lives Matter and What Are the Aims?" BBC News, 12 June 2021, [www.bbc.com/news/explainers-53337780](http://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-53337780).

<sup>2</sup>Samway, Katharine Davies. "Thousands Turn out for Huge Demonstration in Berkeley for Black Lives Matter." Oakland Voices, 15 Sept. 2022, [oaklandvoices.us/2020/06/09/thousands-turn-out-for-huge-demonstration-in-berkeley-for-black-lives-matter/](http://oaklandvoices.us/2020/06/09/thousands-turn-out-for-huge-demonstration-in-berkeley-for-black-lives-matter/).

<sup>3</sup>Bartlett, Ben. "Safety for All: George Floyd Community Safety Act." Medium, 25 Sept. 2020, [medium.com/@benbartlett/safety-for-all-george-floyd-community-safety-act-8dbf9de37b89](https://medium.com/@benbartlett/safety-for-all-george-floyd-community-safety-act-8dbf9de37b89).



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pledged to implement initiatives and reforms to reduce the footprint of the Police Department and reassign non-criminal matters to Specialized Care Units (SCU); rectify the current aspects of the Police Department to hold better its officers accountable for their actions, and institute progressive training protocols; and invest the savings from the reduced footprint into SCU's into wellness programs addressing endemic disparities in health, housing, and education.

In commemorating tens of the thousands of Berkeley community members who marched for justice for the deaths of Black Americans who have suffered police brutality, we hope to establish a bench made in honor of all of those whose contributions have led to reform and beneficial change for our Berkeley community.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative impact.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$3500 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Ben Bartlett	510-981-7130
James Chang	510-981-7131

CONTACT PERSON:

1. Resolution No. XXXXX



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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 BERKELEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FUND TO PROVIDE AWARDS TO STUDENTS FOR THEIR WORK ON HIGHLIGHTING BLACK INVENTORS.

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

**WHEREAS**, The City of Berkeley Public Works will receive funds in the amount of \$3500 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's office expenditure account; and

**WHEREAS**, the Black Lives Matter movement provided the Berkeley community with awareness and education to address police brutality; and

**WHEREAS**, the bench would provide a commemoration for the efforts of all community members who contributed to the Black Lives Movement;

**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 The City of Berkeley Public Works for this purpose of providing a bench to commemorate the efforts made through the Black Lives Matter Movement.

