



CONSENT CALENDAR
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin

Subject: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets Capacity-Building Grant

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 biennial budget process \$300,000 to provide Young Lives Matter Foundation, Inc. with funding for two years of operating costs for the Berkeley Junior Jackets Football and Cheer youth sports program, and to develop longer-term strategic planning, sustainability and growth plans for the organization.

Direct the City Manager to evaluate organizational capacity and strategic planning supported by this funding on a rolling basis, developing and tracking Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) consistent with Reimagining Public Safety and Gun Violence Prevention program implementation, including but not limited to: program participation, violence prevention training, and staff retention.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$150,000 in annual General Fund impact.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Berkeley Junior Jackets youth sports programs remain entirely volunteer-run, relying on personal donations from the community and participating families, and City support for field rental expenses. According to the Young Lives Matter Foundation, the households participating in Berkeley Junior Jackets programs—many of whom are on opposite sides of local gang rivalries—agree to peace because of their involvement with the youth in these programs.

Lorenzo Grayson, in his role as President of the Young Lives Matter Foundation, has requested funding from the City of Berkeley to support Berkeley Jr. Jackets Football and Cheer (BJJ) in the amount of \$150,000 per year. The organization's mission is to support underserved youth with life skills, culturally attuned relationships, conflict resolution skills, and leadership development to promote prosocial engagement and positive youth development. The program has five football teams and two cheerleading squads, serving 150 African-American youth per year. Program participants include community members who are at highest risk for involvement with ongoing violence.

\$150,000 would enable the organization to:

- Compensate coaches with stipends.
- Bring in additional training and support for coaches, such as the Positive Coaching Alliance.
- Offer enrollment at low or zero cost to all participating youth and families
- Cover the cost of team annual banquet and awards dinner; offer a coaches' dinner, and quarterly staff retreats.
- Begin to develop longer term sustainability and growth plans for the organization.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley City Council approved a \$6,000 allocation for Berkeley Junior Jackets in November 2022, and a \$7,000 allocation in late 2023 to defray the full rental costs for the season's games and practices, in addition to equipment and uniforms.

Since 2017, the nonprofit Young Lives Matter Foundation has operated the Berkeley Junior Jackets athletics program to build community through leadership, wellness, academic, and sports programming for Berkeley's young people. As an all-volunteer organization, Junior Jackets is doing invaluable work for Berkeley's families and children with intensely limited resources, and is continuously fundraising to maintain operations. Their programs are of particular importance to the Black families that call South and West Berkeley home, as well as those displaced from Berkeley. The Berkeley Jr Jackets mission of encouraging positive life choices while dealing with academic achievement, personal nutrition, social acceptance, domestic violence, homelessness, and bullying is critically important for Berkeley's lower-income neighborhoods that have experienced increases in violent crime and property crimes.

Nonprofit community-based services such as Berkeley Jr Jackets need active support from local government so that they can pursue their mission at full capacity. Supporting community-based organizations and services that have already built trusting bonds with local residents has been consistently raised as a key strategy for implementing a successful Gun Violence Prevention program, colloquially known as Ceasefire, in Berkeley and jurisdictions across the nation. While this item proposes a one-time allocation, the organization's central role in community violence prevention calls for evaluation and accountability practices consistent with ongoing program implementation overseen by the City's Reimagining Public Safety Project Coordinator. Thus, while this presents an additional cost to the City in the short term, the investment would also enable the organization to build internal capacity to seek and retain other funding sources such that it can continue providing vital programming at a sustainable lower cost to taxpayers in the future.

Supporting free youth sports programming and mentorship in the community advances our Strategic Plan's goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets Facilities Expenses (November 2023)



CONSENT CALENDAR
Nov. 14, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Taplin, Councilmember Hahn (co-sponsor), Councilmember Harrison (co-sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets Facilities Expenses

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Annual Appropriations Ordinance #2 process \$7,000 to provide Young Lives Matter Foundation, Inc. the necessary funds for the Berkeley Junior Jackets youth sports program's operating expenses associated with the use of Berkeley Unified School District facilities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$7,000.

BACKGROUND

Since 2017, the nonprofit Young Lives Matter Foundation has operated the Berkeley Junior Jackets athletics program to build community through leadership, wellness, academic, and sports programming for Berkeley's young people. As an all-volunteer organization, Junior Jackets is doing invaluable work for Berkeley's families and children with intensely limited resources, and is continuously fundraising to maintain operations. Their programs are of particular importance to the Black families that call South and West Berkeley home, as well as those displaced from Berkeley. The Berkeley Jr Jackets mission of encouraging positive life choices while dealing with academic achievement, personal nutrition, social acceptance, domestic violence, homelessness, and bullying is of immeasurable importance at a time when violence has escalated in South and West Berkeley. Nonprofit community-based services such as Berkeley Jr Jackets need active support from local government so that they can pursue their mission at full capacity.

The Berkeley City Council approved a \$6,000 allocation for Berkeley Junior Jackets in November 2022. A \$7,000 allocation would defray the full rental costs for the season's games and practices, with an additional \$200 left over for equipment and uniforms.

Supporting free youth sports programming and mentorship in the community advances our Strategic Plan's goal to champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Taplin Council District 2 510-981-7120

Attachments:

- 1: Berkeley Unified School District Property Management Invoice and Permit: Jacket Stadium (7/19/23)
- 2: Berkeley Unified School District Property Management Invoice and Permit: Jacket Field and the Wrestling Room (8/22/23)
- 3: Urgent Item: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets (November 2022)



Berkeley Unified School District

**Berkeley Unified School District
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INVOICE and PERMIT**

Date: 7/19/23

Permit #24-0003

Invoice # 24-0003

To: Berkeley Jr Jackets

Facility: Jacket Stadium

Date of use: 8/20, 8/26, 9/9, 9/23 & 10/6

Hours of use: 7a-6p

Custodial fees: \$546 per game

Rental fees: \$396 per game

TOTAL DUE: \$4710

Certificate of insurance on file expires .

Payment is due 10 days before the date of use. If payment is not received by due date this permit will be canceled.

Please make cashier's check or money order payable to: Berkeley Unified School District and refer to your permit number on all correspondence and payments. Send payment to:

**Jeff Snow
Facility Manager
C/O Berkeley High School
1980 Allston way
Berkeley, CA 94704**

Jeffrey Snow
Berkeley High School Facility Manager
(510) 644-4567



Berkeley Unified School District

**Berkeley Unified School District
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT INVOICE and PERMIT**

Date: 8/22/23

Permit #24-0007

Invoice # 24-0007

To: Berkeley Jr Jackets Practices

Facility: Jacket Field and the Wrestling Room

Date of use: 8/21-9/1 (5 days a week) 9/4-10/20 (3 days a week)

Hours of use: 7:30-9:00p

Custodial fees: 0

Rental fees: \$2090

TOTAL DUE: \$2090

Certificate of insurance on file expires .

Payment is due 10 days before the date of use. If payment is not received by due date this permit will be canceled.

Please make cashier's check or money order payable to: Berkeley Unified School District and refer to your permit number on all correspondence and payments. Send payment to:

**Jeff Snow
Facility Manager
C/O Berkeley High School
1980 Allston way
Berkeley, CA 94704**

Jeffrey Snow
Berkeley High School Facility Manager
(510) 644-4567



URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES

Meeting Date: November 15, 2022

Item Description: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets Field Use Expenses

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)
Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.
- X Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)
There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:

Berkeley Junior Jackets is an all-volunteer non-profit that has led youth sports and education programming alongside the organization Youth Lives Matter since 2017. In recent years, the organization has paid Berkeley Unified School District for the use of the fields at Berkeley High School for many of their games. The costs for using these fields are incredibly burdensome for an organization running without profit. The City of Berkeley must do what it can to support programs like the Jr Jackets, which primarily serves Berkeley's Black youth, with funding when opportunities such as this one arise. A budget allocation at this time is necessary in order to allow Jr Jackets to plan for its next year of programming.



CONSENT CALENDAR

November 15, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Budget Referral: Berkeley Junior Jackets Field Use Expenses

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refers \$6000 to the November Annual Appropriations Ordinance to provide Berkeley Junior Jackets' the necessary funds to cover expenses associated with the use of Berkeley Unified School District facilities in the operation of their youth sports program.

FISCAL IMPACTS

An estimated \$6,000 for the use of Berkeley High School's field during the 2023-2024 school year.

BACKGROUND

Since 2017, Berkeley Junior Jackets has worked in conjunction with Youth Lives Matter to build community through leadership, wellness, academic, and sports programming for Berkeley's young people. As an all-volunteer agency, Junior Jackets is doing invaluable work for Berkeley's families and children with intensely limited resources. Their programs are of particular importance to the Black families that call South and West Berkeley home, as well as those displaced from Berkeley. The Berkeley Jr Jackets mission of encouraging positive life choices while dealing with academic achievement, personal nutrition, social acceptance, domestic violence, homelessness, and bullying is of immeasurable importance at a time when violence continues to wreak havoc on West Berkeley communities. Organizations such as Jr Jackets, which runs without profit and is limited in its resources, require active support from local government so that they can pursue their mission at the height of their ability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

None.

CONTACT

Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

