

**BEN BARTLETT**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

May 7th, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Budget Referral Healthy Black Families Community Engagement - Ashby BART Development and Equitable Black Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer \$60,000 each to the FY2024/25 and FY2025/26 budget process to support a Community Advisory Group to provide thought leadership around implementation of a Black Cultural Zone and Health Equity Zone. This Community Advisory Group will address the ongoing community engagement needs to ensure community input/influence in the development of the Ashby BART station, the reparative framework for the historically Black Community including the Black Equity Zone and Health Equity Zone.

BACKGROUND:

Since 2020, Healthy Black Families (HBF) has worked with the City of Berkeley (COB) on the Right to Return Housing Preference Policy (RRPP) and Equitable Black Berkeley (EBB) initiative as a part of the San Francisco Foundation (SFF) Partnership for the Bay's Future (PBF) collaborative grant. Grant funding from SFF PBF for these efforts will end May 30, 2024.

HBF's staff has coordinated community engagement for the RRPP and lead community engagement on behalf of EBB. Through monthly People's Assemblies and surveys, HBF has engaged the Black Community in a data-driven and thoroughly documented process. They have participated in BART community and Board meetings to ensure that the community's vision for a Thriving Black Berkeley, including harm repair, a right to return, extensive affordable housing, impacts on health equity, and opportunities for economic development, are adequately communicated. HBF has, through the data collection process, defined the community's priorities and brought the community's voice into the transit-oriented development (TOD) decisions during the City of Berkeley's strategic planning process informing plans for the larger Adeline Corridor Redevelopment, incorporating this voice into a reparative framework to evaluate historic harm done to this community through redlining, predatory lending, and other forms of anti-Black racism.

With this additional funding, Berkeley can continue to move forward their strategy to repair harm done to the South Berkeley community, begin to mitigate the impact of generations of segregation and make the Berkeley community a stronger, thriving and more equitable place for all its residents. As BART moves forward with a TOD plan at the Ashby station, and the of Berkeley executes a larger plan to develop the Adeline Corridor, HBF will work to ensure that the outcomes will be designed and implemented to maximize equity outcomes for the African American community and low-income residents. These would

be informed by the City of Berkeley Health Equity Study, Alameda County Mortality Report and data provided by the community through the EBB work. Continued funding for these community engagement activities is instrumental for the overall success of this body of equity work.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Total allocation of \$120,000 from the General Fund; \$60,000 for each of the FY2024/25 and FY2025/26 biennial budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

CONTACT PERSON

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