

Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

October 13, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Susan Wengraf (Co-Sponsor) and Mayor Jesse Arreguin (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: “Step Up Housing” Initiative: Allocation of Measure P Funds to Lease and Operate a New Permanent Supportive Housing Project at 1367 University Avenue

RECOMMENDATION

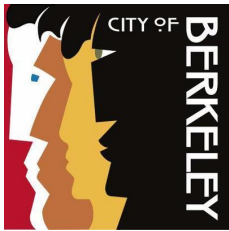
Adopt a resolution allocating approximately \$900,000 per year for 10 years, as well as a one-time allocation of approximately \$32,975 from Measure P transfer tax receipts to support the lease and operation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the homeless at 1367 University Avenue. This resolution is put forward out of consideration that the City Council has already approved in its FY 2020-21 budget—on June 30, 2020—an allocation of \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy, a portion of which is available to be spent on the 1367 University Avenue project.

Refer to the next meeting of the Budget and Finance Policy Committee to confirm the availability of requested funding for the 1367 University project and to set priorities for other Measure P-funded programs and services as part of the mid-year budget process.

CURRENT SITUATION

Homelessness is increasing in the City of Berkeley and throughout the Bay Area. Berkeley currently has 1,108 homeless residents, of whom 813 were living on the street as of a point-in-time count in January 2019. This represents a 14% increase in two years.

To help address the need for supportive housing, Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) has proposed to operate the Step Up Housing initiative, a new permanent supportive housing project for individuals experiencing homelessness. BOSS is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that will serve as the master tenant and provide supportive services to the residents of the project at 1367 University Avenue.



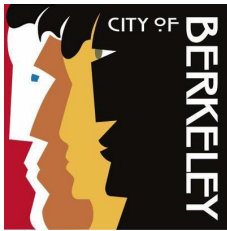
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BOSS has partnered with Panoramic Interests to develop the new permanent housing project, which was unanimously approved by the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board on July 9, 2020 and can be built on an accelerated 16-week timeline. As a result, the project will result in huge savings both for costs of and time of development. While Panoramic Interests will be responsible for obtaining building permits, financing construction, and building the project, BOSS will be responsible for all operations and property management.

The project will include 39 fully furnished studio apartments, private bathrooms for each studio, a 400-square-foot community room, a community kitchen, two offices for support staff and services, permanent on-site property management, and 24/7 security. The building will be constructed with modular units built around an approximately 615-square-foot private central courtyard.

BOSS will provide services for Step-Up Supportive Housing including connecting residents to mental health resources, substance abuse recovery services, employment, education, and legal services and will accompany them to service providers when appropriate. The program will ensure participants obtain health insurance coverage and connect them to primary care providers. Opportunities for socialization and peer support will be provided through the organization of on-site support groups, learning workshops, social activities, community meals, and service visits by outside providers. BOSS will also manage an on-site food pantry in collaboration with Alameda County Community Food Bank. These services will help residents maintain stable housing, improve mental and physical health, and decrease social isolation. On-site service hours will be provided Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, but the case manager or another designated staff member will be on-call as needed at all times.

The program will be staffed by a number of employees, including a program manager, housing manager, property manager, cook, maintenance worker, and overnight monitor. Roughly two-thirds of the expenses are related to program operations and delivering supportive services for the residents. The balance of the expense is for housing. The total operating budget is \$1,844,515 annually. This resolution would cover \$900,000 of the annual operating costs over a 10-year period and a one-time \$32,975 allocation for start-up costs, including purchasing household items for the units, kitchen supplies, groceries, office furniture, security cameras, etc.



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The remaining \$944,515 is being requested from the County of Alameda. The City's commitment is contingent upon the funding of the balance of the project.

BACKGROUND

California has the highest real world poverty rate of any state, 17.2% over the previous three years and much higher than the national rate.¹ A major contributing factor to the state's high poverty indices is that many California residents spend much of their income on housing due to high construction costs.² Throughout the state, many affordable housing development projects are stalled, burdened, and have incurred higher than the median costs for development.

For example, in Alameda, CA, Everett Commons, which is a low-income development that provides housing for only 20 families, costs \$947,000 per unit.³ The notoriously high price of land and the rising cost of construction materials are contributing factors. On the other hand, the Step Up Housing Initiative uses an efficient and cost-effective modular construction model that provides 39 individuals with not only stable housing, but a safe and supportive environment where they can access critical employment, health, substance abuse, and community resources and services. Berkeley can help address the shortage of homes and effectively alleviate the City's homelessness crisis through this innovative and practical project.

REVIEW OF EXISTING POLICIES AND PLANS

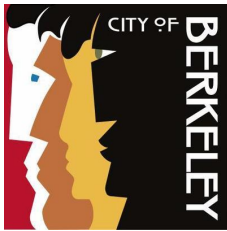
Berkeley voters overwhelmingly passed Measure P in November 2018 with 72% of the vote. The Measure raised the transfer tax on property sales over \$1.5 million from 1.5% to 2%, which is expected to generate approximately \$6-8 million annually. These funds were intended to be allocated towards various homeless services, including permanent housing, supportive services, and navigation centers.

Measure P also created an independent commission, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts, to provide recommendations on funding allocations to the City Council. In December 2019, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts published its first set of recommendations for initial investments from the General Fund to address homelessness in Berkeley. The Panel's recommendations prioritized certain categories of activities and

¹ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-272.pdf>

² <https://www.sacbee.com/article245815115.html>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2020-04-09/california-low-income-housing-expensive-apartment-coronavirus>



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set forth a percentage of funding for each category. Permanent housing was listed as the top priority, with 30% of the funds recommended to be allocated towards such projects. The remainder was recommended to be allocated towards shelter and temporary accommodations, immediate street conditions and hygiene, supportive services, flexible housing subsidies, and infrastructure. The City Council approved on June 30, 2020 Measure P allocations for FY 2020-21 that included \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy.

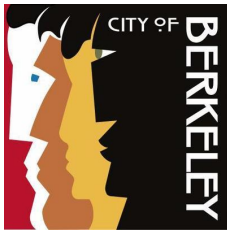
In 2017, the City Council also referred staff to create a 1000 Person Plan, which seeks to end homelessness for 1000 people in Berkeley. In 2019, City staff responded to this referral and concluded that the Council needed to provide up-front investments in targeted homelessness prevention, light-touching housing problem-solving, rapid rehousing, and permanent subsidies. This proposal to lease and operate the Step Up Housing initiative at 1367 University would help move forward the 1000 Person Plan and also accomplish the Homeless Services Panel's top priority of providing stable and permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

In addition, this project also fulfills the goals of Councilmember Bartlett's original Step Up Housing initiative, which passed unanimously on February 14, 2017. See Attachment 3 for the original item.

CONSULTATION/OUTREACH OVERVIEW

Councilmember Bartlett's office collaborated with BOSS and Panoramic Interests to ensure the long-term success of this new permanent supportive housing project, the Step Up Housing initiative. By bringing together BOSS's expertise in the field of supportive services and Panoramic's efficient modular construction model, this project can be operational and begin providing stable housing to 39 individuals within twelve months of receiving this funding commitment, resulting in dramatic savings in costs and delivery time.

BOSS was founded in Berkeley in 1971 to serve severe and persistent mentally ill homeless individuals and their families, and has since expanded to serve over 3,000 families and individuals per year across Alameda County, including persons experiencing homelessness, mental illness, former incarceration/justice system involvement, domestic or community violence, unemployment, and other crises. BOSS has 49 years of experience serving the target population, and 45 years of experience operating emergency, transitional, and permanent housing programs.



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Panoramic Interests has been building high density infill development projects in the Bay Area since 1990. Its work in downtown Berkeley and San Francisco includes 15 projects, adding more than 1,000 new units of housing, and 100,000 square feet of commercial space. From 1998-2004, Panoramic built seven new mixed-use apartment buildings in downtown Berkeley. During this time, Panoramic housed more than 80 Section 8 tenants, making it the largest private provider of Section 8 housing in the City.

This collaborative effort between the City, the service provider, and the developer can serve as a regional model for future permanent supportive housing projects in Berkeley and throughout the Bay Area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

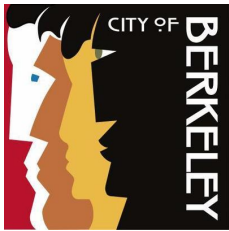
The City's funding commitment will help address the homelessness crisis by allowing for the long-term and stable housing of 39 individuals experiencing homelessness as well as the provision of on-site services to help those individuals retain housing, improve their mental and physical health, connect with employment and education opportunities, and decrease social isolation. This Step Up Housing initiative not only will result in huge cost savings through its streamlined processes, but also it can be operational within twelve months of receiving this funding commitment. In addition, this project will serve as a regional model for other jurisdictions to consider when dealing with the homelessness crisis in their cities.

FISCAL IMPACTS

The new permanent supportive housing project, known as the Step Up Housing initiative, at 1367 University is requesting a one-time \$32,975 allocation for start-up costs and \$900,000 annually for 10 years from Measure P transfer tax receipts. The remaining \$944,515, to cover the annual \$1,844,515 operating budget, is being requested from the County of Alameda. The supportive housing model will have dramatic savings of cost and delivery time.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project itself was determined by the Planning Department to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15332 (In-Fill Development Projects) of the CEQA Guidelines.



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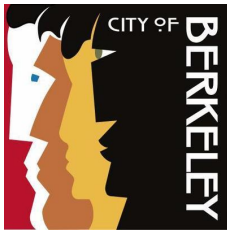
CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENTS AND MATERIALS

1. Resolution
2. Project Summary Sheet
3. Step Up Housing Council Item from February 14, 2017: “Direction to City Manager: “Step Up Housing” Initiative – Supportive Housing for Homeless and Very Low-Income People”



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

ALLOCATING APPROXIMATELY \$900,000 ANNUALLY FOR 10 YEARS AND A ONE-TIME AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY \$32,975 OF MEASURE P FUNDS TO LEASE AND OPERATE THE NEW PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT FOR THE HOMELESS AT 1367 UNIVERSITY AVE.

WHEREAS, the City Council passed unanimously the original Step Up Housing Initiative introduced by Councilmember Bartlett on February 14, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Measure P was passed by Berkeley voters in November 2018 to raise the transfer tax on roughly the top-third of properties from 1.5% to 2% and allocate those funds towards various homeless services, including permanent housing, supportive services, and navigation centers; and

WHEREAS, Measure P designated the Homeless Services Panel of Experts to advise the Council on expenditures for homeless services; and

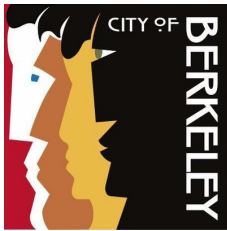
WHEREAS, in December 2019 the Homeless Services Panel of Experts published their recommendations for initial allocations under Measure P, including highlighting permanent housing as the City's top priority and recommending 30% of Measure P funds be allocated to permanent housing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved on June 30, 2020 Measure P allocations for FY 2020-21 that included \$2.5 million for permanent housing subsidy; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board approved the permanent supportive housing development project at 1367 University on July 9, 2020.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it approves the following for the project at 1367 University Ave:

- A reservation of approximately \$32,975 in Measure P funds for start-up costs associated with the project.



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- A reservation of approximately \$900,000 in ongoing funds annually for 10 years for the leasing and operation of the proposed project, with funding adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley, CA.
- In the event BOSS is unable to perform its function as the service provider, an alternative qualified service provider may operate the project with the review and approval of the City Manager, or her designee.
- Further, the City's commitment is contingent upon the funding of the balance of the project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or her designee, is hereby authorized to execute all original or amended documents or agreements to effectuate this action; a signed copy of said documents, agreements, and any amendments will be kept on file in the Office of the City Clerk.



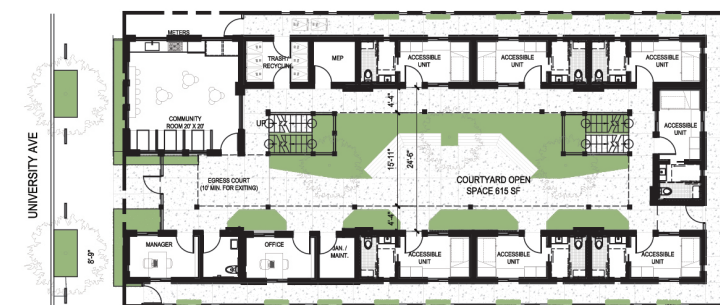
Step-Up Housing, 1367 University Ave. Berkeley (39 studios, community room, two offices)



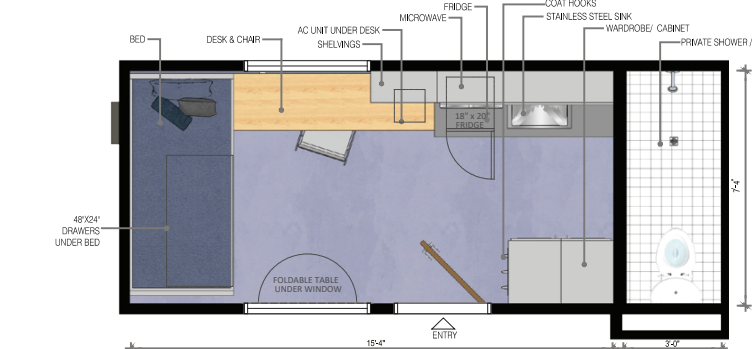
1367 University Ave. entrance



Interior courtyard and community space



Ground floor plan, with offices and community room



Typical studio

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Name & Location: Step-Up Housing, 1367 University Ave. (at Acton)
- Target Population: Homeless, low-income, single adults
- Number of Units: 39 studios, with community room, and mgmt. offices
- Service Provider: BOSS 24/7 presence on-site
- Services: Case management, health/mental health/employment referrals. On-site peer support/socialization and life-skills activities.

GOALS/SERVICES

- Get 39 individuals off the streets and into stable housing
- Provide safe and supportive environment for training & assistance
- Improve participants overall health by connecting them to primary care, mental health resources, substance abuse recovery services and socialization/peer support
- Reduce participant hospitalizations and use of emergency response systems
- Improve participant mental health status and daily functioning
- Support participants in increasing income and managing finances
- Support participants to obtain employment
- Increase meaningful activity and decrease social isolation among participants
- Organize on-site support groups, learning workshops, social activities, community meals and service visits by outside providers
- Manage an on-site food pantry in collaboration with Alameda County Community Food Bank

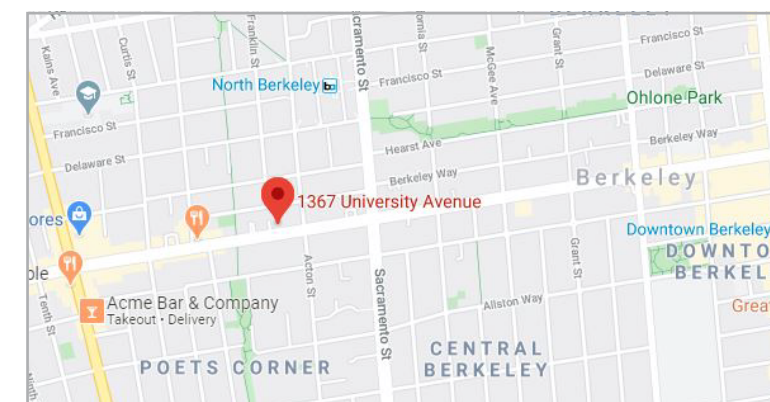
LOCATION

The Step-Up Housing project by BOSS is centrally located, close to stores, offices, and transit. It has a Walkscore of 90/100 ("Walker's Paradise") and a Bikescore of 98 ("Biker's Paradise"). Residents will not need a car for daily errands, and will have easy access to BART and AC Transit.

THE HOUSING

The Step-Up Housing will consist individual studios, community space, outdoor areas, and management offices for BOSS. The project will include:

- 39 individual studios, fully furnished
- Private bath and showers for each studio
- Engineered soundproofing and HVAC for all spaces
- Direct access in each unit to outdoor space
- Private outdoor courtyard and community space
- Community kitchen, laundry, and social space
- Two private offices for support staff and client services
- Permanent on-site property management and support staff (BOSS)
- Secured entrance and 24/7 security
- Modular units. Construction time: 16 weeks



Project Location: 1367 University Ave. Berkeley (at Acton)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Patrick@panoramic.com



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
~~January 24~~February 14, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett & Councilmember Linda Maio & Councilmember Lori Droste

Subject: ~~Referral Direction~~ to City Manager: "Step Up Housing" Initiative ~~– Micro Units to House~~ Supportive Housing for Homeless and Very Low-Income People

RECOMMENDATION

~~Refer Direct to the City Manager~~Ad-Hoc subcommittee to discuss and facilitate implementing the following actions:

1. Identify parcels of City owned land for siting assisted-living buildings.
2. Amend the permitting and approvals process to facilitate the rapid creation of below market housing.
3. Issue requests for proposals through a competitive bidding process for a development of up to 100 units of housing. ~~Expedite the process of inviting proposals through the competitive bidding process and begin the process as soon as possible in an expedited manner. For-profit and non-profit developers can be included in the bidding process. The proposal should demonstrate partnerships with a housing non-profit and a service provider.~~
- ~~4. Assist the selected developer with obtaining zoning approval and a building permit in an expedited manner.~~
- ~~4. Select a housing non-profit to partner with. Identify potential obstacles in creating prefabricated micro-units in a timely fashion. Recommend courses of action to remove those obstacles.~~
5. The housing non-profit ~~partner, in partnership with Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers,~~ will be responsible for managing and operating the building. ~~The tenants will be required~~ Request the non-profit to work with employ a cooperative model in managing the housing non-profit to maintain and operate the building property.
6. Establish criteria for selecting individuals and determining eligibility. These need-based criteria will take into account seniors, people with disabilities, and former Berkeley natives residents who have become homeless.
7. This project shall be ~~considered a public works project and be~~ subject to the terms of athe community workforce agreement with existing prevailing wage requirements.

8. Priority consideration will be given to: (i) Proposals that most quickly provide the maximum number of units for the least amount of cost, and (ii) proposals that include locally sourced materials and construction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

~~Minimal costs and staff~~ Staff time.

BACKGROUND

On January 14, Laura Jadwin, a homeless resident of Berkeley, was found dead of exposure. ~~This was one of several deaths~~ Deaths of homeless individuals ~~in recent weeks are tragic and preventable~~. Our City is experiencing a homelessness and housing affordability crisis. City staff estimates that there are currently between 900 and 1200 homeless people living in Berkeley. Due to high housing costs, numerous low-income members of the Berkeley community are at risk of homelessness. Furthermore, the Trump administration's anticipated funding cuts ~~will~~ may cause the City's homeless population to multiply exponentially. This is a health and safety emergency that has cost lives and degraded standards of living for all residents.

~~Councilmember Bartlett sees~~ We see this crisis as an opportunity for innovation. This item referral seeks to jumpstart innovative financing and development models for assisted and low-income housing that emphasize speed, durability, and cost efficiency.

~~Conventionally built buildings cost the City an average of \$429,400¹ per unit. This high price results from expensive land costs, costs associated with a slow and complex permitting system, and high costs of development and execution. This item~~ This referral will reduce costs by constructing the building above City owned land and by empowering the City to speed up its permitting and approvals process. Additionally, this item seeks to mitigate prohibitively high building costs by encouraging prospective. Prospective developers are encouraged to design present innovative financing and construction solutions which will result in a large number for the rapid creation of homeless individuals housed quickly for scalable assisted living models at reduced costs.

Step Up housing will foster human resiliency, leverage scarce resources, and rationalize the regulatory process. Given the urgency of the homeless crisis, the City must immediately ~~initiate the bidding process and begin exploring~~ identify and implement solutions.

¹ City of Berkeley Affordable Housing Nexus Study
http://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2015/07_Jul/City_Council__07-14-2015__Special_Meeting_Agenda.aspx

The City Council, just like all local governments, has a duty to ensure the welfare of its people. Berkeley's Step Up Housing Initiative will provide a road map for future supportive housing developments that can be replicated in other affected communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item will result in a positive environmental impact on the community. Increasing local access to low-income housing reduces automobile dependence and tailpipe emissions.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett, 510-981-7130

Councilmember Linda Maio, 510-981-7110

Councilmember Lori Droste, 510-981-7180



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 14, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett & Councilmember Linda Maio & Councilmember Lori Droste
Subject: Direction to City Manager: “Step Up Housing” Initiative – Supportive Housing for Homeless and Very Low-Income People

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Ad-Hoc subcommittee to discuss and facilitate implementing the following actions:

1. Identify parcels of City owned land for siting assisted-living buildings.
2. Amend the permitting and approvals process to facilitate the rapid creation of below market housing.
3. Issue requests for proposals through a competitive bidding process for a development of up to 100 units of housing in an expedited manner. For-profit and non-profit developers can be included in the bidding process. The proposal should demonstrate partnerships with a housing non-profit and a service provider.
4. Identify potential obstacles in creating prefabricated micro-units in a timely fashion. Recommend courses of action to remove those obstacles.
5. The housing non-profit, in partnership with Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers, will be responsible for managing and operating the building. Request the non-profit to employ a cooperative model in managing the property.
6. Establish criteria for selecting individuals and determining eligibility. These need-based criteria will take into account seniors, people with disabilities, and former Berkeley residents who have become homeless.
7. This project shall be subject to the terms of the community workforce agreement with existing prevailing wage requirements.
8. Priority consideration will be given to: (i) Proposals that most quickly provide the maximum number of units for the least amount of cost, and (ii) proposals that include locally sourced materials and construction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time.

BACKGROUND

On January 14, Laura Jadwin, a homeless resident of Berkeley, was found dead of exposure. Deaths of homeless individuals are tragic and preventable. Our City is experiencing a homelessness and housing affordability crisis. City staff estimates that there are currently between 900 and 1200 homeless people living in Berkeley. Due to high housing costs, numerous low-income members of the Berkeley community are at risk of homelessness. Furthermore, the Trump administration's anticipated funding cuts may cause the City's homeless population to multiply exponentially. This is a health and safety emergency that has cost lives and degraded standards of living for all residents.

We see this crisis as an opportunity for innovation. This item referral seeks to jumpstart innovative financing and development models for assisted and low-income housing that emphasize speed, durability, and cost efficiency.

This referral will reduce costs by constructing the building above City owned land and by empowering the City to speed up its permitting and approvals process. Additionally, this item seeks to mitigate prohibitively high building costs. Prospective developers are encouraged to present innovative financing and construction solutions for the rapid creation of scalable assisted living models at reduced costs.

Step Up housing will foster human resiliency, leverage scarce resources, and rationalize the regulatory process. Given the urgency of the homeless crisis, the City must immediately identify and implement solutions.

The City Council, just like all local governments, has a duty to ensure the welfare of its people. Berkeley's Step Up Housing Initiative will provide a road map for future supportive housing developments that can be replicated in other affected communities.

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This item will result in a positive environmental impact on the community. Increasing local access to low-income housing reduces automobile dependence and tailpipe emissions.

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