



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

32

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 25, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Wengraf (Author) and Mayor Arreguín (Co-Sponsor),
Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor) and Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral: City of Berkeley Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget process a request for \$6,000 annually to fund the City of Berkeley's Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$6,000

BACKGROUND

For the past 18 years, The City of Berkeley has sponsored a Holocaust Remembrance Day Program. Participation in this important annual program has exceeded expectation, with attendance at in-person events in excess of 200 people (room capacity) for the past several years. The event has historically been funded through private donations, volunteer labor and the generosity of council members who have given from their discretionary accounts. The total contributions have varied from year to year with no predictable certainty about the outcome. This year, the program was viewed virtually through YouTube because the pandemic prevented in person assembly. The popularity of the program was clearly demonstrated by the more than 550 viewers.

This budget recommendation is for annual support of the City of Berkeley's Holocaust Remembrance Day Program. Rather than a one-time budget allocation, a recurring budget item of a modest six thousand dollars annually for the Holocaust Remembrance Day, leveraged by volunteer labor and donations, is needed to safeguard the continuance of the City's program. It is critical that this program continue, as the memory of the systematic genocide of Jews, political prisoners, homosexuals, and the disabled fades from our collective memory. [President Biden's statement](#) honoring International Holocaust Remembrance Day this year articulated the importance, "We must pass the history of the Holocaust on to our grandchildren and their grandchildren in order to keep real the promise of "never again." That is how we prevent future genocides. Remembering the victims, heroes, and lessons of the Holocaust is particularly important today as Holocaust deniers and minimizers are growing louder in our public discourse." The history of the Holocaust needs to be remembered in order to inform the present and future.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In compliance with City's environmental sustainability goals

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160

