



Cheryl Davila
Councilmember
District 2

ACTION CALENDAR
December 15, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila
Subject: Support Loan Forgiveness to Berkeley Youth Alternatives

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the forgiveness of the City's \$100,000 loan to Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA), and direct the City Manager or her designee to process the loan forgiveness to BYA and release the deed of trust.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

BYA has contacted the City to request forgiveness of the City's \$100,000 loan made to BYA in 1994. The loan was used for rehabilitation and seismic safety of BYA's 33,000 sq. ft. building at 2141 Bonar, which had been constructed in 1912. The purpose of the rehabilitation was to comply with local building standards, as well as with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. As an important addition to other resources from the California Youth Center and Shelter Act of 1990, the City's loan helped BYA to transform its building from a former bread factory to a safe, comprehensive youth and family center.

BYA is in the final stages of securing new capital financing which will support its multiple programs and services. The City's deed of trust from 1994 is the only impediment to closing the financing.

BYA's tentative plans for the new financing include the hiring of or contracting with a Chief Financial Officer, contracting with a Fund Development firm to secure major grants and gifts, installing solar panels to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and improving its data system. In addition, Berkeley Youth Alternatives would like to develop a microenterprise operated by young adults, which generates income for them and enables its organization to self-fund activities as much as possible.

BACKGROUND

Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA) is a community based 501(c) 3 organization established in 1969 as a runaway youth shelter. BYA has since expanded its operations to include support for youth and families, with an emphasis on education, health/well-being, and economic self-sufficiency. BYA provides quality-of-life services such as mental health, case management, academic support, mentoring, health education, sports, fitness, recreation, job training and youth internships.

BYA's holistic services are designed to shift so-called "individuals at-risk" into "individuals with promise" by utilizing a continuum of care approach that emphasizes 3 core areas: Education, Health and Well-Being, and Economic Self-Sufficiency. To do this work, BYA creates teams of diverse professionals from the fields of education, mental health, workforce development, and recreation that work collaboratively to meet the psycho-social, emotional, and economic needs of those most vulnerable in our community.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Loans such as this are sometimes forgiven and the benefits of supporting BYAs future outweigh pursuing it more than 25 years later

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Supporting our youth is itself an act of environmental sustainability.

CONTACT PERSON

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Councilmember District 2
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ATTACHMENT:

1. Resolution

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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY SUPPORTING
LOAN FORGIVENESS TO BERKELEY YOUTH ALTERNATIVES

WHEREAS, BYA has contacted the City to request forgiveness of the City's \$100,000 loan made to BYA in 1994. The loan was used for rehabilitation and seismic safety of BYA's 33,000 sq. ft. building at 2141 Bonar, which had been constructed in 1912. The purpose of the rehabilitation was to comply with local building standards, as well as with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. As an important addition to other resources from the California Youth Center and Shelter Act of 1990, the City's loan helped BYA to transform its building from a former bread factory to a safe, comprehensive youth and family center; and

WHEREAS, BYA is in the final stages of securing new capital financing which will support its multiple programs and services. The City's deed of trust from 1994 is the only impediment to closing the financing; and

WHEREAS, BYA's tentative plans for the new financing include the hiring of or contracting with a Chief Financial Officer, contracting with a Fund Development firm to secure major grants and gifts, installing solar panels to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and improving its data system. In addition, Berkeley Youth Alternatives would like to develop a microenterprise operated by young adults, which generates income for them and enables its organization to self-fund activities as much as possible; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA) is a community based 501(c) 3 organization established in 1969 as a runaway youth shelter. BYA has since expanded its operations to include support for youth and families, with an emphasis on education, health/well-being, and economic self-sufficiency. BYA provides quality-of-life services such as mental health, case management, academic support, mentoring, health education, sports, fitness, recreation, job training and youth internships; and

WHEREAS, BYA's holistic services are designed to shift so-called "individuals at-risk" into "individuals with promise" by utilizing a continuum of care approach that emphasizes 3 core areas: Education, Health and Well-Being, and Economic Self-Sufficiency. To do this work, BYA creates teams of diverse professionals from the fields of education, mental health, workforce development, and recreation that work collaboratively to meet the psycho-social, emotional, and economic needs of those most vulnerable in our community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Berkeley to forgive the City's \$100,000 loan to Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA), and direct the City Manager or her designee to process the loan forgiveness to BYA and release the deed of trust.

