



Cheryl Davila  
Councilmember  
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
February 23, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila (Author)

Subject: Create and Support an Adopt an Unhoused community program.

#### RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a resolution to create and support neighborhood volunteers and community groups adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, located along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and other areas throughout the City.
2. Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to present to the City Council in 90 days: how to implement the program modeled after the City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program, identify a community based organization to oversee the volunteers, know what is needed to adequately implement these efforts, including different organizational structure options.

#### POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMENDATION

On January 25, 2021, the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity and Community Committee sent the item to Council with a qualified positive recommendation to take the following action:  
Refer to the City Manager to consider inclusion of homeless encampments in the existing "Adopt a Spot" referral to the Public Works Commission and Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Commission once the "Adopt a Spot" program has been established. Vote: All Ayes.

#### BACKGROUND

On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the [Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count](#). A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and the disabled.

The City of Berkeley spent close to \$20 million on providing homeless services. About \$6.5 million came from its general fund, about \$9.5 million came from regional, state, and federal funds and \$3.9 million were one-time funds from the state's Homeless Emergency Aid Program.

The City of Oakland currently has a Adopt a Spot program, where it allows volunteers and/or community groups to adopt a park, creek, shoreline, storm drain, street, trail, median or other public space you'd like to clean, green, or beautify on an ongoing basis. Participants adopt a public space and make a commitment to regularly clean and maintain the spot for no less than one year. The program allows volunteers to organize Community Cleanups and beautification events, joining with your neighbors and community. Volunteers have adopted hundreds of sites

around Oakland. The City of Oakland support for this program is through Tool loans, Debris pick-up, and Technical assistance.

In addition, the City of Oakland has an Adopt a Drain program, where hundreds of volunteers across Oakland have adopted storm drains to help their neighborhoods prepare for rainstorms. It doesn't take much to keep a storm drain clear. A little volunteer effort goes a long way in helping Public Works maintain over 12,000 storm drains to reduce flooding and prevent pollution of our waterways. When you sign up to Adopt a Drain, you become eligible to borrow City tools and supplies, and you will receive the City's rain alert notifications.

Thus, the City of Berkeley can learn from the City of Oakland and implement a similar program to help our unhoused community, i.e. adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, and/or street intersections especially along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and others areas throughout the City.

Friends of Adeline, a diverse group of South Berkeley residents working in partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, and others to affect change has consistently supported the Here/There encampment when it was first formed. Friends of Adeline's member, Beloved, now deceased, Margy Wilkinson was able to get a port-a-potty and hand-washing station to be delivered at the encampment. Friends of Adeline supporting the Here/There encampment is a model of Adopting the Unhoused community, as well as the concepts of the City of Oakland's Adopt a Spot Program.

In order to get through the current crises we all face COVID-19, Shelter in Place (SIP), wildfires, smoke, etc), we need to allow, coordinate, enable and recognize volunteers from our neighborhoods and community groups to adopt our unhoused community. It truly does take a village.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

TBD, however, funds can possibly be identified with Measure O and P.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Allowing communities to have tools to prevent and stop fires furthers protects other communities and the environment.

#### CONTACT PERSONS

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Sanjita Pamidimukkala  
Eshal Sandhu  
District 2 Interns

#### REFERENCES:

1. <http://www.oaklandadoptaspot.org>
2. <https://www.oaklandca.gov/services/sign-up-for-adopt-a-drain>
3. <https://thestreetspirit.org/2019/03/01/south-berkeley-here-there-encampment-celebrates-two-years/>

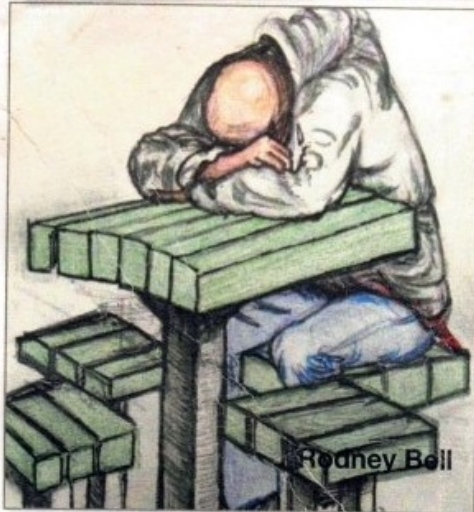
#### ATTACHMENTS:

1. Adopt a Homeless Senior Neighborhood Project Flyer
2. City of Oakland Adopt a Spot and Adopt a Drain Maps

3. Resolution

Attachment 1: Adopt a Homeless Senior Neighborhood Project

## ADOPT A HOMELESS SENIOR NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT



### Adopt a Homeless Senior Project

was started in 2018 with the ideas of 12 Berkeley neighbors who wanted to make a difference in our homeless community. We learned that over 1/2 of our homeless population were seniors and that over 85% of those seniors were homeless in the areas they were once housed. We agreed to support St. Mary's Center ([stmaryscenter.org](http://stmaryscenter.org)), a stellar (and secular) non-profit organization that provides a wide array of services to help get homeless seniors into housing. We would love other local neighborhoods to join us in our fund-raising efforts.

Contact: [barbara@barbarareiner.com](mailto:barbara@barbarareiner.com)

### THE ALAMEDA COUNTY

#### 2019 EVERYONE COUNTS HOMELESS POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & SURVEY

#### PRIMARY CAUSES OF HOMELESS:

13% Lost Job; 12% Mental Health; 10% Substance Use;  
9% Eviction/Foreclosure; 9% Rent Increase; 8% Incarceration

#### WHERE MOST HOMELESS ARE LIVING:

34% Tent; 23% Car/Van; 22% RV; 20% Street/Outside;  
1% Abandoned Building

#### PERCENTAGE OF HOMELESS POPULATION

WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF  
ALAMEDA COUNTY PRIOR TO  
BECOMING HOMELESS:

78%

#### THE GERONTOLOGIST (FEBRUARY 2016)


#### BAY AREA AGE GROUP

#### WITH HIGHEST % OF

#### HOMELESSNESS:

50+

Attachment 2: Oakland Adopt a Spot and Adopt a Drain Maps



## Adopt a Drain

Part of Oakland Adopt a Spot

Volunteer to keep a drain clear and report any problems!

Email address

I haven't signed up yet  
 I've already signed up

Name (visible to others)

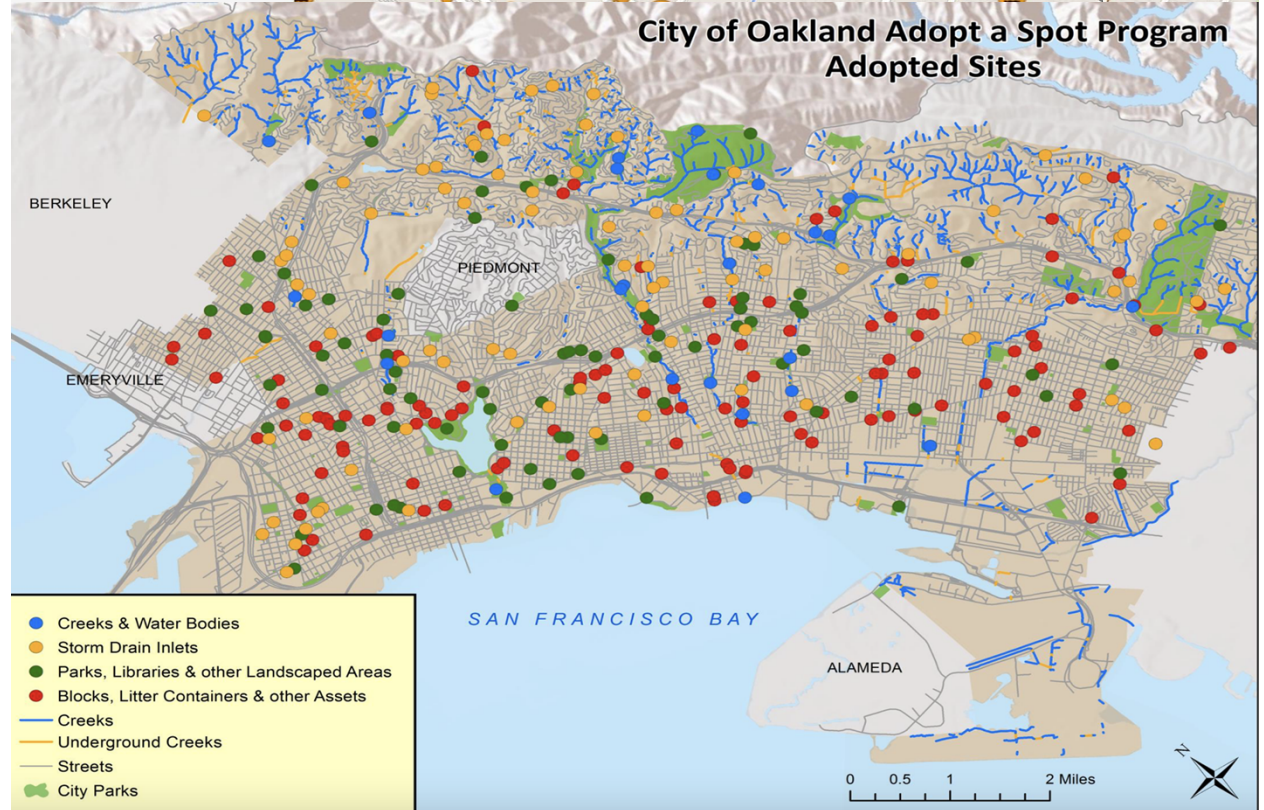
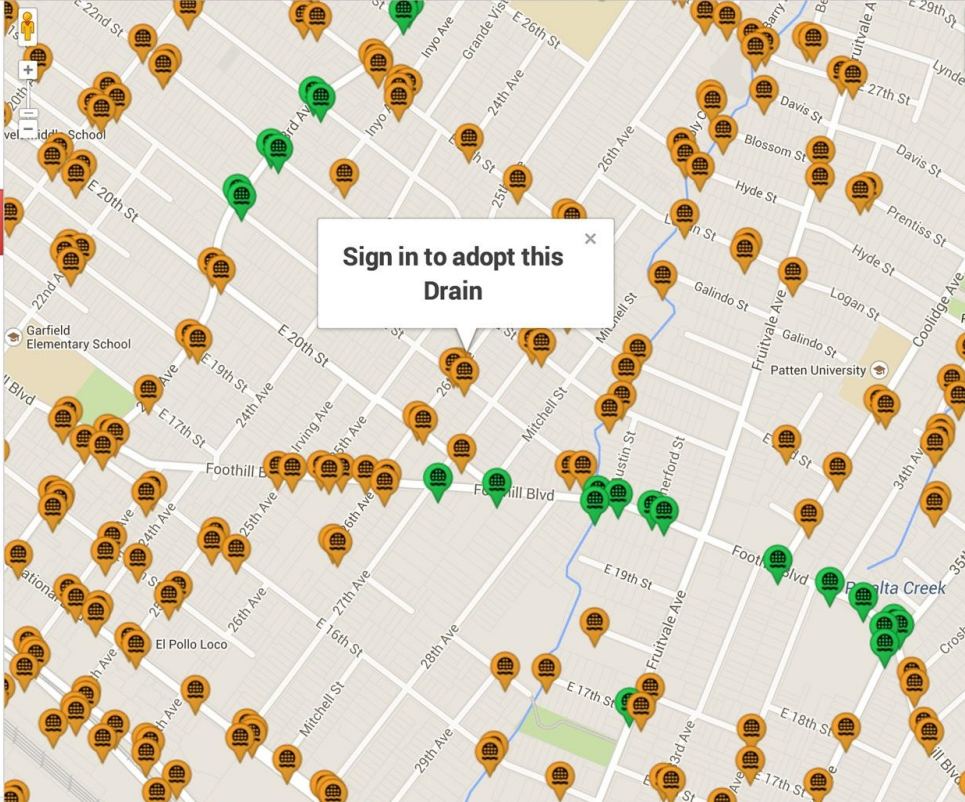
Organization (visible to others)

Home phone number

Mobile phone number

Choose a password

By signing up you agree to the [Terms of Service & Volunteer Guidelines](#)



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

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA,  
SUPPORTING THE CREATION AND SUPPORT AN ADOPT AN UNHOUSED COMMUNITY  
PROGRAM

WHEREAS, On any given night, more than 1,000 Berkeley residents do not have shelter (i.e. living outdoors in tents, on sidewalks, or in vehicles) according to the [Alameda County 2019 Point-In-Time Count](#). A growing number of residents are housing insecure and at risk of becoming homeless. A majority of unhoused Berkeley residents are people of color, seniors, and the disabled; and

WHEREAS, The City of Berkeley spent close to \$20 million on providing homeless services. About \$6.5 million came from its general fund, about \$9.5 million came from regional, state, and federal funds and \$3.9 million were one-time funds from the state's Homeless Emergency Aid Program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Oakland currently has a Adopt a Spot program, where it allows volunteers and/or community groups to adopt a park, creek, shoreline, storm drain, street, trail, median or other public space you'd like to clean, green, or beautify on an ongoing basis. Participants adopt a public space and make a commitment to regularly clean and maintain the spot for no less than one year. The program allows volunteers to organize Community Cleanups and beautification events, joining with your neighbors and community. Volunteers have adopted hundreds of sites around Oakland. The City of Oakland support for this program is through Tool loans, Debris pick-up, and Technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the City of Oakland has an Adopt a Drain program, where hundreds of volunteers across Oakland have adopted storm drains to help their neighborhoods prepare for rainstorms. It doesn't take much to keep a storm drain clear. A little volunteer effort goes a long way in helping Public Works maintain over 12,000 storm drains to reduce flooding and prevent pollution of our waterways. When you sign up to Adopt a Drain, you become eligible to borrow City tools and supplies, and you will receive the City's rain alert notifications; and

WHEREAS, Thus, the City of Berkeley can learn from the City of Oakland and implement a similar program to help our unhoused community, i.e. adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, and/or street intersections especially along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and others areas throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Friends of Adeline, a diverse group of South Berkeley residents working in partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, and others to affect change has consistently supported the Here/There encampment when it was first formed. Friends of Adeline's member, Beloved, now deceased, Margy Wilkinson was able to get a port-a-potty and hand-washing station to be delivered at the encampment. Friends of Adeline supporting the Here/There encampment is a model of Adopting the Unhoused community, as well as the concepts of the City of Oakland's Adopt a Spot Program; and

WHEREAS, In order to get through the current crises we all face COVID-19, Shelter in Place (SIP), wildfires, smoke, etc), we need to allow, coordinate, enable and recognize volunteers from our neighborhoods and community groups to adopt our unhoused community. It truly does take a village; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Berkeley, hereby support the creation and support an Adopt an Unhoused community program, as well as provide support to neighborhood volunteers and community groups adopting an encampment, street campers, RV / Vehicle community, located along University Avenue/ Shattuck Avenue / Adeline corridor/ San Pablo Avenue and other areas throughout the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Short term referral to the City Manager and/or designee(s) to present to the City Council in 90 days: how to implement the program modeled after the City of Oakland Adopt a Spot Program, identify a community based organization to oversee the volunteers, know what is needed to adequately implement these efforts, including different organizational structure options.

