



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor and Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Wengraf (Author), Councilmember Humbert (Co-Sponsor),
Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Budget Referral: City of Berkeley Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 budget process a request for \$7,000 annually to fund the City of Berkeley's Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A total of \$14,000 over two years.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

For the past 21 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). The pandemic-inspired virtual program has brought in between 300 and 750 viewers each of the last four years.

Councilmembers have always given generously to this program from their discretionary accounts. In 2018, with the goal of ensuring continuation of the only non-secular Holocaust Remembrance Day Program in the East Bay Area, Council approved a modest \$6,000 expenditure from its General Fund Budget to support the Annual Program. City funding has since been approved each year a budget referral was brought forward.

This budget request is for a slightly increased amount of \$7,000 each year for the next two years. These funds will be leveraged by volunteer labor and donations, guaranteeing the continuance of the City's program through 2026.

According to ADL data, antisemitic incidents have increased 360 percent in the United States in the aftermath of the October 7, 2023 attack in Israel. It is critical that Berkeley's Holocaust Remembrance Day Program continues annually. The history of the Holocaust needs to be remembered for the purpose of educating and keeping the memory alive for generations to come in order to safeguard the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In compliance with City's environmental sustainability goals.

CONTACT PERSON

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Council District 6

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