



CITY COUNCIL

**Darryl Moore**  
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 2, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Darryl Moore  
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin  
Councilmember Gordon Wozniak  
Councilmember Max Anderson

Subject: Refer \$24,702 to the FY 2010/2011 Budget Process for Funding of the Berkeley Boosters' Life Skills Development Summer Leadership Camps

RECOMMENDATION:

Refer the following to the budget process: A request for \$24,702 to the FY 2010/2011 Budget Process for Funding of the Berkeley Boosters' Life Skills Development Summer Leadership Camps.

BACKGROUND:

The Berkeley Boosters/Police Activities League is a non-profit organization that works with the Berkeley Police Department to promote positive alternatives for Berkeley's children.

Their program was founded on the concept that proactive mentoring from concerned adult role models is the most effective method for preventing juvenile crime and helping direct young lives in positive directions. They serve as an important link between police officers and the young people in our community and bring Cops and Kids together in a wide variety of activities. By working side by side with officers and other young people from diverse backgrounds, many disadvantaged children learn, both physically and mentally, that they can succeed in ways previously unthought of. The Berkeley Boosters/Police Activities League is doing particularly important work in today's environment, considering the recent upsurge in youth violence among South and West Berkeley youth and the strong sentiment that a lack of positive alternatives for youth being a major factor in this trend. The Berkeley Boosters are uniquely situated in that they collaborate with the Berkeley Police Department and have police officers volunteer to participate in their programs, acting as role models for our youth.

One of the Berkeley Boosters' summer programs, Life Skills Development Summer Leadership Camps, is specifically targeted at juvenile crime prevention. The majority of participants (87%) come from South or West Berkeley and 57.5% of Booster families that reside in Berkeley report at poverty level and below.

Berkeley Booster Summer Camp Fees are up to 70% less than other Recreational Service agencies in Berkeley. All youth are accepted, regardless of their ability to pay for summer sessions.

In review of the Berkeley Boosters' Summer Camp participant figures for the past three (3) years, the number of scholarships have ranged from a low of 27% scholarships awarded to our youth, to a high of 52% scholarships awarded just last summer 2008. There is a great concern that due to the difficult current economic conditions, numbers will swell beyond the Boosters' ability to subsidize the number of applicants without outside assistance.

With a City policy of supporting youth's healthy alternatives to undesirable or destructive behavior and the City's focus on community-oriented policing, this is a perfect opportunity to leverage City dollars in moving both of these goals forward.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$24,702

CONTACT PERSON:

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Attachments: Testimonials from participants and supporters

## **Berkeley Boosters Association, Police Activities League**

### **2009 Comments from Parents and Kids:**

1/9/09                    "I have greatly enjoyed hearing from my grandson, Shail Sierra, about all the good activities and outings he has enjoyed this year. I'm enclosing a check to help you along with all the good things you do."  
----- Ann K. Reiss (grandmother)

3/1/09                    "My children have taken part in Boosters activities for the past 3 years. Activities included everything from white water rafting, tree planting in the Redwood Forests, sailing, weekly day trips, to mention a few. As a single mother, I would never be able to provide my kids with all of this, nor the emotional support given to my children by all the counselors. I am personally grateful to the Boosters, but more specifically, for the staff, like parents, they're consistent, dedicated, and motivating. The girls and I have survived a 10 year custody battle which left us emotionally scarred for life. The Boosters have been an integral part of our healing process."  
----- Kido (single parent)

8/17/08                    "Today was a fun day. We learned about how to get our backpacks together for camping. The staff are great, including Fele and more. I make lots of new friends and staff. We all laugh together. We have fun hiking. I never been hiking before. I lost 6 lbs. I like the Boosters."  
----- A. Olivares (youth- Summer Camps)

8/17/08                    "What I like about camp is that I got to meet new people in camp and to do a lot of new things, and learn more information about nature. If the Boosters staff had not got me to come on this summer camp, I would not have met the great new people, so I want to thank them. Camp makes me get away from all my problems."  
----- A. Joseph (Summer Camp)

8/17/08                    "This is my first year at camp & I like it a lot. I meet new friends, new people period. And staff and volunteers treat me like I'm there own, and I love it here. I like Boosters camp because we go exciting places, and I hope to be here for a long time.  
----- C. Coleman (Summer Camp)

7/14/08                    "Today my attitude started off bad and ended off really fun. I can not wait for tomorrow so we can have more fun. I would also like to play some more games tomorrow. Cesar (Staff) taught us how to fix a flat tire and how to pump it up. Then I learned how to fix a bike chain and check the air pressure. Cesar taught us how to fix our brakes. Now I can't wait to go on the bike trip."  
----- L. Harcrombe (Summer Camp)

## **2009 Comments From Community Leaders & Members:**

11/20/08                "I have always supported the Berkeley Boosters Police Activities League with my own personal contributions. They are a worthy organization that deserves financial support from public and private sources."

----- Douglas Hambleton, Chief of Police

11/21/08                "The BBA/PAL and Willard Phoenix Rising After School continue to work in collaboration to support the safety, academic, and emotional growth of the students participating in the Berkeley LEARNS After School Programs."

----- Ralon Zotigh, Coordinator Phoenix Rising

12/1/08                "It is with great pleasure that I write this letter in support of the BBA/PAL. This organization has shown their commitment to the children of Berkeley by providing after school programming that emphasizes outdoor education while encouraging them to take control of their lives and become leaders of tomorrow. As a school educator, it is a joy to work with other stakeholders in the community who are vested in helping to ensure that all children can achieve and become productive members of society. In addition, the Boosters also emphasize community service and giving back to others. These are values that are important in helping to mold the leaders of tomorrow."

----- Kathy Hatzke, Rosa Parks Environmental Science Magnet School

11/28/08                "The BBA/PAL and King Visionaries A.S.I.P. have worked together for the past 9 years. BBA continues to provide great outdoor activity in collaboration with KING Visionaries ASIP to support our youth development model. The students here at King who participate in BBA/PAL really look forward to the activities such as bike riding, canoeing, rock climbing and hiking. Berkeley Learns KING truly supports Berkeley Boosters and we wish that we could have them here everyday."

----- John Leaks, King Visionaries Coordinator