



**Jesse Arreguín**  
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR  
September 22, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Jesse Arreguín

Subject: Honoring the Life of Michelle Maykin and Urging People to Register as Bone Marrow Donors

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution honoring the life of Michelle Maykin and encouraging all people to register as bone marrow donors.

BACKGROUND:

On July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Michelle Maykin passed away after a courageous 2 year battle with cancer. A recent UC Berkeley graduate of Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai descent, Maykin was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in February of 2007. Maykin's treatment called for intensive rounds of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant; however, she did not have a bone marrow match.

More than 70 life-threatening diseases can be treated with a bone marrow transplant and there is a particularly acute need for ethnic minority donors - of the nearly 7 million people on the National Marrow Donor Program, only 8 percent are of Asian ancestry.

Michelle Maykin stepped up to the challenge and dedicated herself to helping others by creating Project Michelle, a campaign focused on recruiting people to become potential bone marrow donors. In drives around the country, Project Michelle has registered over 18,000 people on the Be The Match Registry. In the Bay Area, Project Michelle was able to help find 4 matches for patients in need. The more people that are registered, the more likely a life will be saved when others needing a bone marrow transplant may have a match.

Registering only takes 10 minutes and requires no blood, just a simple cotton swab of the mouth. Additionally, if one is an ethnic minority, one can order a free at home test kit. The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) website can be used to find the nearest registry drive at <http://www.marrow.org>.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

NONE.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember, District 4

981-7140

Attachments:

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHELLE MAYKIN AND URGING PEOPLE TO  
REGISTER AS BONE MARROW DONORS

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley mourns the untimely loss of Michelle Maykin, who passed away on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Maykin spent much of her young adulthood in the East Bay—graduating from College Park High School, where she served as ASB president, and later UC Berkeley in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Maykin enjoyed an active life bicycling across the Golden Gate Bridge, rock climbing, excelling in dance and music at Bay Area Thai Temples, including Wat Mongkolratanaram in Berkeley and volunteering at various organizations, including the Juvenile Detention Center in San Jose, OASES at UC Berkeley and Tzu Chi in San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Maykin, who is of Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai descent, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in February of 2007; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Maykin's treatment called for a bone marrow transplant, however, she did not have a bone marrow match; and

WHEREAS, there is a particularly acute need for ethnic minority donors - of the nearly 7 million people on the National Marrow Donor Program, only 8 percent are of Asian ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Michelle Maykin dedicated herself to helping others by creating Project Michelle, a campaign focused on recruiting people to become potential bone marrow donors; and

WHEREAS, in drives around the country, Project Michelle has registered over 18,000 people on the Be The Match Registry, increasing the likelihood that others needing a bone marrow transplant may have a match; and

WHEREAS, Project Michelle was able to help find 4 matches in the Bay Area for patients in need; and

WHEREAS, more than 70 life-threatening diseases can be treated with a bone marrow transplant; and

WHEREAS, registering only takes 10 minutes and requires no blood, just a simple cotton swab of the mouth. Additionally, if one is an ethnic minority, one can order a free at home test kit; and

WHEREAS, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) website can be used to find the nearest registry drive at <http://www.marrow.org>.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby honors the amazing life of Michelle Maykin, whose courageous fight has inspired thousands to register to save lives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley encourages all people to register to become bone marrow donors and encourages all people to organize blood marrow registration drives in their communities.