To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Councilmembers Hahn, Harrison, and Maio

Subject: Ohlone Park Bench Plaque in Memoriam

RECOMMENDATION
Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed $500, to pay for the fabrication and installation of a brass plaque honoring Martha Nicoloff, with funds relinquished to the City’s general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council office budget including $100 from Mayor Arreguin, and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

Direct the City Manager to install a brass plaque on the existing northwesternmost bench in the City of Berkeley’s Ohlone Park dog park (Attachment A). The plaque will serve as a memorial to Martha Nicoloff in honor of her decades of service to, and activism for, Berkeley open space and neighborhoods and shall read:

Martha Nicoloff (1929-2016)
Dedicated neighborhood, Ohlone Park
and open space activist

BACKGROUND
On April 26, 2007, the Parks & Recreation Commission approved a revised policy whereby park bench donations will be allowed at sites recommended by staff; and, also, established reasonable criteria for granting memorials. On July 22, 2008, Council adopted Resolution No. 61,148-N.S. approving a revised bench donation policy and establishing a process and conditions for granting bench donations, both anonymous and memorial types.

Resolution No. 66,831–N.S., Expanded City Parks Donation Policy, became effective on October 28, 2014. This resolution established policy that would allow more citizens to make monetary donations to the City’s parks for commemorative or other charitable purposes at levels that are more affordable.

Pursuant to established policy, a bench memorial must be in recognition of someone who had a record of service to the City’s parks or has made an outstanding contribution to the Berkeley community. The honoree must be deceased for at least one year.
On June 24, 2016, Martha Nicoloff passed away quietly in her home. She lived simply and loved the small homes of the Berkeley flatlands where she lived spending years advocating with a fierce dedication to preserve Berkeley neighborhoods.


In the late 1960s Martha became involved with saving People’s Park Annex (now called Ohlone Park). With the change in design of BART through Berkeley, from an “elevated” to an “underground” train, there was a plan to rebuild housing along the blocks of empty land that had previously been planned for the elevated tracks. Instead, neighborhood residents started planting trees and creating a park. Martha organized regular neighborhood demonstrations to retain the land as a park for the neighbors.

She became the president of the neighborhood organization, wrote many articles and created political cartoons about the effort to keep the park and strongly believed that the City needed to provide an appropriate amount of open space to accommodate the growing number of housing units being built for the expanding Berkeley population. After several years of constant vigilance and neighborhood involvement, the land was purchased by the City and Ohlone Park was born. Martha’s husband, Alex Nicoloff, coined the name “Ohlone” after the Ohlone Indians who had inhabited the area.

In partnership with Ken Hughes, Martha co-authored the City’s Neighborhood Preservation ordinance. This ordinance was designed to give the immediate community a voice in project approval prior to construction and helped preserve Berkeley’s landscape and residential neighborhoods. The ordinance passed in 1973 and, among many things, ensured the preservation of our neighborhoods and established the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Until her death, Martha continued to be active in Berkeley politics, held CNA (Council of Neighborhood Associations) meetings in her home and continued to draw political cartoons and submit commentary to local publications.

Throughout all of her neighborhood advocacy, Martha continued to paint watercolors, raised her two daughters, and collaborate with her husband to create prismatic sculptures. Her last political act was to go in a wheelchair with her granddaughter to see Hillary Clinton speak in San Francisco, during her campaign for President.

http://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/04/21/opinion-reflections-growing-political-mom-berkeley/

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
A total of $500 from Councilmembers discretionary budgets

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**
No impact

**CONTACT PERSON**
Jesse Arreguin, Mayor 510-981-7100

**ATTACHMENTS:**
Attachment A: Photo of bench
Attachment B: Photo of Proclamation for Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance
Attachment C: Resolution
Attachment A: Photo of Bench
Attachment B:
Photo of Proclamation for Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance

City of Berkeley

Proclamation

Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance Day

Whereas, five years ago in April of 1973 Berkeley's voters adopted the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance as a result of a great deal of hard work by unpaid citizen volunteers, and during the intervening five years the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance has accomplished its purpose by protecting Berkeley's neighborhoods from harmful denotations and intrusions and,

Whereas the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance and its original supporters are being honored by a birthday celebration on May 7, 1978 at 2:00 pm at Epic West, 3640 College Avenue in Berkeley,

Be it therefore resolved that the Berkeley City Council officially commends the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance and its sponsors for their efforts on Berkeley's behalf; wishes them continued success in protecting Berkeley's neighborhoods and housing stock, and declares Sunday, May 7, 1978 as Berkeley Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance Day.

On behalf of the sponsors, received by

Martha Nicols/ Ken Hughes

Co-authors of the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance.
RESOLUTION NO. #,###N.S.
AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS TO PROVIDE A HONORARIUM TO MARTHA NICOLOFF ON OHLONE PARK BENCH

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2007, the Parks & Recreation Commission approved a revised policy whereby park bench donations will be allowed at sites recommended by staff; and, also, established reasonable criteria for granting memorials; and

WHEREAS, On July 22, 2008, Council adopted Resolution No. 61,148-N.S. approving a revised bench donation policy and establishing a process and conditions for granting bench donations, both anonymous and memorial types; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 66,831–N.S., Expanded City Parks Donation Policy, became effective on October 28, 2014, establishing a policy that would allow more citizens to make monetary donations to the City’s parks for commemorative or other charitable purposes at levels that are more affordable; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to established policy, a bench memorial must be in recognition of someone who had a record of service to the City’s parks or has made an outstanding contribution to the Berkeley community and has been deceased for at least one year; and

WHEREAS, On June 24, 2016, Martha Nicoloff passed away quietly in her home after spending years advocating with a fierce dedication to preserve Berkeley neighborhoods and parks; and

WHEREAS, Staff has approved the location of the bench and text to be applied to the brass plaque; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor of $100 and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget for a total of $500 to pay for the cost of the brass plaque and installation thereof.