

Kriss Worthington

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ACTION CALENDAR
 December 19, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmembers Kriss Worthington and Sophie Hahn
 Subject: Expedite the Planning Application Process for Bridge/Berkeley Food and Housing Project to Seek to Meet No Place Like Home and Alameda County A1 Grant Deadlines

RECOMMENDATION

That the City expedite the planning application process, to make this project eligible for No Place Like Home, Alameda County A1, and other regional, state and federal funding streams.

BACKGROUND

Bridge/Berkeley Food and Housing Project is one project that likely qualifies for No Place Like Home and Alameda County A1 funding, if the city takes prompt action.

This is a unique opportunity to address the growing homelessness crisis. If the City of Berkeley delays taking action, project applicants will likely have to wait another year before they can compete for No Place Like Home and Alameda county A1 again and additional projects in other jurisdictions are likely to emerge and reduce chances of money coming to Berkeley.

The Berkeley Way Project, will address the need for housing for the homeless and extremely low income through 32 shelter beds, 12 transitional beds for veterans, 53 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless, and 89 units of affordable housing, a total of 143 units of permanent affordable housing. This project provides much-needed affordable housing and creates a centralized homeless services center to address the short-term and long-term needs of this population.

The project was created by BRIDGE and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project, two established and well-respected community partners who have years of experience working with the homeless population. Berkeley has never seen a project like this before -- not just in terms of scale, but also the comprehensive facility -- putting both permanent and temporary affordable housing, as well as transitional 6-month affordable housing, all together in one complex. Taken together, the comprehensive BRIDGE and the Berkeley Food and Housing Project will create the single largest combination of number of beds and units of affordable housing.

The project has already identified potential funding sources at the federal, state, private, and local levels, and will achieve a LEED Gold or equivalent sustainable building rate.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Forward commitment of millions of dollars from incoming HTF and U1

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Consistent with Berkeley's environmental sustainability goals

CONTACT PERSON

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