



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 3, 2018

To: Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín

Subject: City of Berkeley Membership in the U.S. Conference of Mayors

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the allocation of \$9,181 from the available General Fund balance for Fiscal Year 2018 to cover the costs of City of Berkeley membership in the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Conference of Mayors (“Conference”) is a non-partisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Formed in 1932, during the height of the Great Depression, Mayors of major cities across the country convened to urge Congress to provide federal aid for cities, making it the first time the federal government provided direct relief to cities.

Today, the primary roles of the Conference are to:

- Promote the development of an effective national city and metro area focused policy;
- Strengthen federal-city relationships;
- Ensure that federal policy meets urban needs;
- Tools to provide Mayors with leadership and management training to allow them to do their jobs better and make them effective leaders;
- Create a forum in which Mayors can share ideas, information, and best practices.

The Conference holds a Winter Meeting each January in Washington D.C. and an Annual Meeting each June in a different U.S. city. Mayors contribute to the development of national policy by serving on one or more of the conference’s standing committees.

During the Conference’s Annual June Meeting, standing committees recommend official policy positions, and every Mayor is given an opportunity to discuss and vote on each policy position. Policy positions adopted collectively represent the views of the nation’s Mayors and are distributed to the President and Congress.

In addition to the ongoing work of the Conference's standing committees, Mayors are organized into task forces to examine and act on issues that demand special attention such as civic innovation, exports, hunger and homelessness, and brownfields.

Although Berkeley was a member of the Conference in the 1990s, we have not participated in recent years. Having Berkeley become a member of the Conference once again would provide multiple benefits to the City. Members have access to grant and award programs, and an avenue to participate in policy-shaping, creating a platform to move forward local ideas on a national scale. Currently, the Conference is working on multiple issues that are important to the Berkeley community, including immigration, criminal justice, environment, infrastructure, and healthcare.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

On December 5, 2017, Council approved the allocation of \$3.5 million of the \$4.5 million available General Fund Excess Equity (General Fund balance). The \$9,181 will be funded from the available General Fund balance and included in AAO#2, which is scheduled to go to Council in May.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental impacts.

CONTACT PERSON

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