



Councilmember Cheryl Davila
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 29, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Davila

Subject: Middle East Children's Alliance 30th Anniversary Celebration & Tribute to co-founder Barbara Lubin: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to approve the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$250 per Councilmember including \$250 from Councilmember Cheryl Davila, to the Middle East Children's Alliance, for their 30th Anniversary Celebration & Tribute to co-founder Barbara Lubin on June 4, 2018 with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Davila and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$250 is available from Councilmember Cheryl Davila's Council Office Budget discretionary account (budget code 010-0224-410).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

None.

BACKGROUND

The Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) is a non-profit organization working for the rights of children in the Middle East by sending humanitarian aid, supporting projects for children and educating North American and international communities about the effects of the US foreign policy on children in the region.

- MECA support children and families in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon through, direct aid, since 1988, they have sent more that \$21 million in aid to children in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon.
- MECA has provided professional and financial support for community groups in the Gaza and the West Bank the help meet the needs of the Palestinian children.

- MECA provides scholarships to universities for the children in the West Bank and Gaza strip.
- MECA provides education and cultural programs here in the United States and abroad to increase awareness and understanding about impacts of US foreign policy on people in the region and the lives of children in the Middle East.

CONTACT PERSON

Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2

510-981-7120

ATTACHMENT:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Councilmember Cheryl Davila has surplus funds in her office expenditure account (budget code 010-0224-410); and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation Middle East Children's Alliance will hold their 30th Anniversary event on June 4, 2018, toward raising funds to provide humanitarian relief to children and families in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria, including refugee camps; and

WHEREAS, the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) is celebrating 30 years of humanitarian relief for children, youth and families in Palestine, Iraq and Lebanon and since 1988 has provided more than \$21 million in direct aid; and

WHEREAS, MECA has provided professional and financial support for community groups in Gaza, the West Bank and refugee camps across the region to help meet the needs of the Palestinian, Iraqi, Lebanese and Syrian children and their families; and

WHEREAS, MECA provides scholarships to universities for youth in the West Bank and Gaza strip; and

WHEREAS, MECA provides education and cultural programs here in the United States and abroad to increase awareness and understanding about impacts of US foreign policy on people in the region and the lives of children in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Lubin is the founder of MECA and has contributed to the rights of children with disabilities in Berkeley and to educational equity for all children and youth in Berkeley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget up to \$250 per office shall be granted to Middle East Children's Alliance for their 30th Anniversary.

