



Sophie Hahn
Councilmember District 5

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 2

Meeting Date: July 10, 2018

Item Number: 15

Item Description: Short-term referral to the City Manager to develop the Access to the Arts Ordinance allowing street permits to include artists and musicians interested in leading art shows, art galleries, photography shoots, and related events in public spaces

Submitted by: Councilmember Sophie Hahn

This item seeks to achieve a goal that I strongly support – making it easier for small scale, one-time or period performances and art sales to take place on Berkeley sidewalks. Many European cities allow these kinds of small “pop-up” events and they provide much appreciated entertainment and liveliness to the sidewalk experience, as well as opportunities for extra income for performers and artists. I also appreciate that permits are being required, as there could be circumstances where too many small performances seek to take place in the same location at the same time, where inappropriately large or otherwise impactful events are proposed, or other impacts or concerns that merit management or oversight by the City.

I have several ideas for how to achieve this using the framework proposed, and if the proponents would allow, we can work together to propose something for direct adoption by Council in the fall, thereby avoiding a City Manager referral altogether and likely achieving the Item’s goals more quickly than would otherwise be possible.

A few of the changes I would propose to work on include a revised definition of the type of event being covered; a limited/abbreviated application, derived from the existing application for more impactful events; defining what is meant by “local” artists and performers; adding language to ensure that a group of performers cannot “game” the limitation on one performance per week by submitting applications from each performer for the same week; and other edits and improvements.

For these reasons, I proposed to refer this item to the Agenda Committee for future calendaring, and offer to work with the authors to possibly bring forward changes for direct adoption by Council, rather than create another referral to the City Manager.