



Vice Mayor Cheryl Davila
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 24, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Davila

Subject: Request from Caracen for City of Berkeley contributions to relief in response to a series of eruptions of volcanos in Guatemala: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$250 per Councilmember, including \$250 from Councilmember Cheryl Davila, to the Central American Resource Center, CARECEN, for funds to be delivered directly to the affected peasant population of Guatemala suffering this tremendous natural disaster, 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

According to Guatemalan governmental agencies, there have been so far more than 110 people dead and hundreds of missed (although non-official sources number the dead and missed people in the thousands). To make matters worse, the government has been restricting international aid, and confiscating and storing the aid that our own Guatemalan people have been collecting to help the affected. And the Guatemalan army with a record of international human rights violations has been put in charge on the refugee shelters.

The local Berkeley Guatemalan Committee Against Corruption and Impunity in Guatemala, comprised of Berkeley residents from Guatemala, was formed in the area in April/May 2015 due to corruption scandals in Guatemala that ended with the president's and vice president's resignation and imprisonment. The Committee is now in this fundraising campaign in coordination with the Central American Resource Center to accomplish the goal of bringing funds and resource directly to the affected families in order to help address their immediate needs and for the reconstruction of their lives.

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 the Central American Resource Center, CARECEN, local Berkeley Guatemalan Committee Against Corruption and Impunity in Guatemala are collaborating to bring much needed resources and relief to those most impacted by a series of volcanic eruptions in Guatemala (June 3rd to June 10th, 2018); and

WHEREAS, according to Guatemalan governmental agencies, there have been so far more than 110 people dead and hundreds of missed (although non-official sources number the dead and missing people in the thousands); and

WHEREAS, the government has been restricting international aid, and confiscating and storing the aid that our own Guatemalan people have been collecting to help the affected; and

WHEREAS, nearby communities with a population of more than 10,000 people are completely buried with lava, ash and pyroclastic material; and

WHEREAS, in total, according to Prensa Libre newspaper, 1.7 million people have been affected by the disaster; and

WHEREAS, the municipal public purpose of this item is to support Berkeley residents from Guatemala that have family, friends and community impacted by the volcanic eruptions and are concerned about their well-being and recovery.

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 Carecen to provide direct relief to those most impacted by the volcanic eruptions.

