



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 24, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett, Mayor Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Plaque Honoring William Byron Rumford: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Fund to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, including \$250 from Councilmember Bartlett, to the Together We Can Make It Happen Foundation with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Bartlett, Mayor Arreguin, and any other council members who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

William Byron Rumford grew up in Arizona and eventually graduated from a segregated high school in Phoenix in 1926. After attending Sacramento City College, he moved to the Bay Area and attended UC Berkeley. Later he was accepted into the school of pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco, simultaneously working night shifts as a doorman and valet to put himself through school.

In 1933 Rumford gained employment through the State of California at a time when very few blacks worked for the state. He was later appointed by the Berkeley city mayor to the Emergency Housing Committee following World War II where he fought for integrated housing for wartime laborers. He also helped to organize the Berkeley Interracial committee and was appointed to the Rent Control Board.

A career built on fighting for equity throughout California eventually led Rumford to run for California State Assembly where he enacted crucial pieces of legislation such as the

California Fair Employment Practices Act, and what came to be known as the Rumford Fair Housing Act. As the first black to be elected to a Northern California Assembly office, Rumford made incredibly valuable contributions to our state and our community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding from the discretionary office budget of Councilmember Bartlett and an amount to be determined by each Councilmember.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett, 510-981-7130

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

AUTHORIZE 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 Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation – the Together We Can Make It Happen Foundation – will receive funds; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: the Together We Can Make It Happen Foundation has installed a plaque honoring the noble work of William Byron Rumford; and

WHEREAS, William Byron Rumford was a revolutionary figure from Berkeley, who served as the first black Assembly Member elected to a Northern Californian office and accomplished notable goals towards achieving equity across racial lines; and

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 shall be granted to the Together We Can Make It Happen Foundation.

