



## Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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### CONSENT CALENDAR

May 28th, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett and Mayor Jesse Arreguin  
 Subject: Budget Referral: Funding for Development of a Traffic Circle at the intersection of 62nd Street and King Street

### RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to conduct an analysis of the intersection of 62nd and King Streets to recommend a traffic circle or other traffic calming and public safety measures. Allocate \$50,000.00 to conduct this analysis.

Refer to the budget process to allocate funds to implement the City Manager's recommendations.

### CURRENT SITUATION

The intersection of 62nd and King Streets in South Berkeley has seen a number of violent crimes and accidents in the last few years. This year alone, there have been 2 documented incidents at this intersection. Illegal activities perpetrated include "drive-by" shootings, "side-shows" which include "donuts" and other high-speed racing maneuvers, and speeding through the residential streets.

### BACKGROUND

A 'drive by' shooting occurred on Wednesday, May 1st, 2019 at 6:30pm<sup>1</sup> - this being one of many shootings at the intersection of 62nd and King Streets that have frustrated and endangered residents along these intersecting streets. On January 28th, 2019 - police responded to gunfire at 62nd and King<sup>2</sup>. In 2015 a resident of 62nd St. was shot in the leg by crossfire<sup>3</sup> while crossing the intersection.

This intersection is also the location of many 'sideshows' (e.g., high-speed race maneuvers, such as 'donuts'). One of these sideshows resulted in a car jumping a sidewalk and crashing into a fence in 2018.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/05/01/after-gun-battle-in-south-berkeley-vehicles-struck-but-no-victims-or-arrests>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/01/28/berkeley-police-man-driving-on-suspended-license-arrested-with-stolen-loaded-gun>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2015/03/17/police-investigate-shooting-in-south-berkeley>

Perpetrators choose this intersection for “drive-by” shootings, “side-shows” and other illegal activity because of its easy access to two main roads, and ability to drive through it at high speeds. Families of young children live at this intersection and along these streets - they fear for their safety.

By implementing traffic calming measures, this intersection will be less attractive to those that would break Berkeley’s laws. Therefore implementing traffic calming measures will increase both pedestrian and public safety.

This large, two-way intersection is located in a residential neighborhood, short blocks from major thoroughfares (MLK, Adeline, Stanford, Market, and Alcatraz), and is a short block to the S. Berkeley Farmers Market and other businesses. It is a bicycle boulevard that receives high bicycle traffic by commuters and families.

In 2018, at 62nd and Market - 2 short blocks west of this intersection - a 20-year old resident of this street, was murdered by gun fire<sup>4</sup> while waiting for a bus. Residents are eager for solutions that make 62nd Street unattractive for crime.

As previously noted, there have been at least 3 incidents in the past 4 years that have resulted in either injury, death, or serious accident.

#### REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

In December of 2013, the City Council adopted the Complete Streets Policy which is determined to create “comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel”<sup>5</sup> for all users. This includes pedestrians, persons with disabilities, motorists, bicyclists, users and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families.

The Complete Streets Policy’s resolution is to “provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets.”<sup>6</sup> If the City is dedicated to creating a community of traffic safety that protects all pedestrians from auto-related accidents, the Council should fund a traffic circle at the intersection of 62nd Street and King Street.

#### ACTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Speed bumps and pylons were considered, but a traffic circle was deemed the best option for this intersection.

#### OUTREACH OVERVIEW AND RESULTS

Constituents in District 3 were given a survey in order to determine where street lighting and traffic controls were in need of installation or upgrade to alleviate traffic and other residential issues.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2018/02/05/neighbors-stunned-fatal-shooting-south-berkeley-man>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/completestreetspolicy/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public\\_Works/Level\\_3\\_-\\_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%2012%2011%2012.pdf](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%2012%2011%2012.pdf)

#### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

There are 4 safety-based reasons to implement a traffic circle at 62nd and King.

**1.) To prevent 'drive-by' shootings.** This corner attracts criminal activity and has been the scene of several shootings. This intersection is 'attractive' for such crimes, as it provides easy escape routes, while also allowing the perpetrators to move very quickly through the residential streets. A traffic circle would substantially slow down traffic and make the intersection less attractive for criminal activity.

**2.) To prevent 'sideshows' at this intersection.** The size of this intersection is quite large, and an easy on-off to major thoroughfares. As a result, it has often been used as a place to show off racing maneuvers that have no place in a residential neighborhood.

**3.) To slow traffic flow on King and 62nd Streets.** Although these streets are residential and include bike boulevards, drivers will often use them at high speed to cut through the neighborhood to access the main thoroughfares of MLK, Adeline, Market, and Alcatraz Streets.

**4.) To make clear to pedestrians, bikers, and drivers the right-of-way** of this intersection. Currently, 62nd St is a two-way stop with stop signs, but King has the free flow of traffic, though it seems like it should be a four-way, leading pedestrians and drivers to cross into traffic.

#### IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

The Council will refer to the Department of Public Works' Transportation Division to create a plan for the installation of a traffic circle.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Traffic circle installation (est. \$50,000) and associated staff time.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No adverse effects on the environment. Will help mitigate traffic and create a safer intersection.

#### OUTCOMES AND EVALUATION

It is expected that the traffic circle will reduce the speed of motorists traveling down the bike boulevard, clarify right-of-way, and reduce criminal activity around this intersection.

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