To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín and Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Subject: Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter: 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 $1,000 per Councilmember including $1,000 from Mayor Arreguin to the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter for sponsorship of the 2019 David Brower Dinner, a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible non-profit corporation. Funds would be relinquished to the City’s General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Mayor Arreguin and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

The Sierra Club San Francisco (SF) Bay Chapter, a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible non-profit corporation is seeking funds to support ongoing work to protect our environment and fight the growing climate emergency.

The Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is hosting their annual David Brower Dinner on September 21, 2019 at the Delancey Street Town Hall in San Francisco. The theme of this year’s event is “Explore, Enjoy and Protect” the Bay Area environment.

At the Brower Dinner, the Sierra Club is honoring a number of community leaders, and is recognizing the Berkeley Oxford Elementary School Room 22 with their Youth Award. This class made headlines for converting their classroom to a zero-waste class. Recently their teacher Jackie Omania was honored by the U.S. EPA for her work to promote environmental literacy and action. These students were taught the consequences of waste on our environment and were inspired by their teacher to practice zero waste in their classroom, ultimately resulting in reducing their entire waste to a mason jar. These students also turned the knowledge they gained into political action, advocating for the passage of Berkeley’s groundbreaking Single Use Disposable Foodware Ordinance. Their leadership on this environmental issue reflects a growing trend of younger generations stepping forward to address climate change.

The Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is requesting that the Mayor and Council sponsor the 2019 David Brower Dinner at the Partner Level ($1,000). This contribution would support the Club’s ongoing environmental work and would contribute to the cost of
tickets for the students from Oxford Elementary so they attend the event to receive their award.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
No General Fund impact; $1,000 is available from Mayor Arreguín’s Council Office Budget discretionary account.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
Approval of this relinquishment will support the ongoing work of the Sierra Club to protect our environment and fight the growing threat of climate change and also the students of Berkeley Oxford Elementary School, Room 22. Funds raised at the annual David Brower Dinner fund the Club’s staff and advocacy agenda for environmental and coastline protection, fighting climate change, promoting renewable energy and decarbonization, and climate resiliency.

CONTACT PERSON
Mayor Jesse Arreguín 510-981-7100

Attachments:
1: Resolution
2: Email from Sierra Club
RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR THE SIERRA CLUB SF BAY CHAPTER

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter, the regional chapter of the national Sierra Club, is a non-profit tax-exempt corporation focused on environmental protection and advocacy in the broader Bay Area region; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is seeking funding to support their ongoing work to protect our environment and fight the growing climate emergency; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club SF Bay Chapter is hosting their 2019 David Brower Dinner on Saturday, September 21, 2019; and

WHEREAS, funds raised at the annual David Brower Dinner support the Club’s staff and advocacy agenda for environmental and coastline protection, fighting climate change, promoting renewable energy and decarbonization, and climate resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club is honoring a number of community leaders, and is recognizing the Berkeley Oxford Elementary School Room 22 with their Youth Award. This class made headlines for converting their class room to a “zero-waste class”; and

WHEREAS, these students were taught the consequences of waste on our environment and were inspired by their teacher to practice zero waste in their classroom, ultimately resulting in reducing their entire waste to a mason jar; and

WHEREAS, these students also turned the knowledge they gained into political action, advocating for the passage of Berkeley’s groundbreaking Single Use Disposable Foodware Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, approval of this relinquishment will support the ongoing work of the Sierra Club to protect our environment and fight the growing threat of climate change, and advance the goals and policies of the Berkeley Climate Action Plan, Climate Emergency Declaration, and Fossil Fuel Free Berkeley Resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from discretionary funds up to $1,000 per office shall be granted to the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter for sponsorship of the 2019 David Brower Dinner.
Greetings,

I am writing to follow up on my call a moment ago. As I mentioned, the S.F. Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club is requesting that all Berkeley City Council-members, the Mayor, and Vice-Mayor sponsor our annual David Brower Dinner at the Partner level or higher and donate your extra seats to Oxford Elementary Room 22.

Oxford Elementary Room 22 is being honored at this year's Dinner for their Heirs to Our Oceans Club. As you know, the class initiated projects to protect oceans from plastic waste.

Of course the Berkeley City council made a bold choice in adopting the ordinance to significantly reduce plastic waste. This ordinance was supported by Oxford Elementary students who had already implemented a Zero Waste program in their school which they touted as proof that the City of Berkeley could implement similar policies.

I am particularly excited about the youth in this year's program because we are seeing youth take a leadership role in environmental advocacy around the world. They are truly fighting for their future. In light of the litigation *Juliana v. United States* as well as the advocacy of youth such as Greta Thunberg, the role of youth is essential for the fight to protect the environment and public health for future generations.

Our goal this year is to have enough members of the Berkeley City Council to sponsor and donate tickets so that we can have at least 10 seats allocated to the students and faculty of Oxford Elementary. This will allow us to provide them a full table where they can sit together when they receive their award.

We believe that it would be a great gesture for you to help make this happen and encourage your colleagues to do the same. This will be a wonderful gesture supporting the students while also reaffirming your commitment to protect the environment and public health.

You can find the sponsorship levels here:


You can find out more about the David Brower Dinner here:

https://www.sierraclub.org/san-francisco-bay/davidbrowerdinner2019

I look forward to your sponsorship.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

Steven DeCaprio
[he/him]
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