



## Councilmember Ben Bartlett

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CONSENT CALENDAR  
 September 10, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
 Subject: Funding Streetlight Near South East Corner of Otis Street

### RECOMMENDATION

That the Council refers to the City Manager to fund construction of a streetlight on the corner of Otis near Ashby.

### CURRENT SITUATION

Currently, there is no street lighting at the corner of Otis and Ashby Ave. This leaves the area dark and unsafe, which has led to an increase in robberies and accidents near this intersection. The residents of Otis street have petitioned and gathered 40 signatures requesting the installation of a streetlight. As of now, there are no funds available to construct stop signs in these neighborhoods. However, in the past, this area was under consideration for the City of Berkeley Streetlight Repair or Retrofit Program, which would have replaced the old dim streetlights with more energy efficient LED lights. In order to promote a safe environment, the Council should refer to the City Manager to fund a street light at this corner.

### BACKGROUND

On April 23, 2019, Lt. David Lindenau found a car with two people sitting in it without license plates. Both were on probation, so the police searched them and their vehicle. The police found burglary tools, heroin, and a taser, along with multiple checkbooks, checks, debit/credit cards, fraudulent identifications, packaging materials, and multiple digital scales.<sup>1</sup> The two suspects were Neddy Castellanos, 44, and Elicia Alvarez, 35. A thorough search of Castellanos and Alvarez found more than 10 instances of identity theft. Castellanos had been previously convicted of identity theft. On May 25, 2019, on Otis and Ashby, a vehicle break-in occurred at 8 a.m.<sup>2</sup> On July 16, 2019, there was another vehicle break-in near Otis Street and Ashby Street.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, on July 22, 2019, police responded to a vehicle break-in on Russell Street and Otis Street.<sup>4</sup> These vehicle break-ins point to the need for a streetlight at Otis and Ashby.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.berkeleyside.com/2019/05/29/berkeley-police-man-dragged-in-elmwood-robbery-tesla-camer-a-helps-solve-burglary-series-more>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.crimemapping.com/Share/90c11ecaf2e64414b2b1131fa17c864b>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.crimemapping.com/Share/85baa0222d294a3385497f18d44d48ff>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.crimemapping.com/Share/776814206a6346f18a471a971c77fa3b>

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

The Council adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2013, which intends to create and sustain street designs and repairs.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

If the Council is truly dedicated to ensuring safety in the neighborhoods for all people, then they should fund the necessary streetlight near the corner of Otis. This could decrease the amount of break-ins and help residents of the neighborhood feel safer. The addition of a streetlight could also decrease accidents at night and ensure the safety of pedestrian crossing at crosswalks.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Estimated cost of \$4500 per light plus staff time for an energy efficient solar powered light.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Berkeley has been transitioning to clean and energy efficient lighting because of their Climate Action Plan, which was initiated in 2013. Thus a new streetlight would run on solar power and contribute to the continued reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Berkeley.

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