



Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 17, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett  
Subject: The East Bay Center for the Blind: 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 \$500 per councilmember including \$250 from Councilmember Bartlett, to the East Bay Center for the Blind with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council Office Budgets of Councilmember Bartlett and any other councilmembers who would like to contribute.

#### BACKGROUND

The East Bay Center for the Blind (EBCB), located at 2928 Adeline Street in Berkeley, is currently the only independent organization in Alameda County serving the blind and visually impaired community. The Lions Blind Center in Oakland, which was for nearly fifty years the major rehabilitation center for the blind in the East Bay, closed its doors last August. EBCB has been serving the community at this location for thirty years.

By contributing funds to EBCB, the City of Berkeley can play an important role in assisting blind and visually impaired individuals in Berkeley and beyond to live fulfilling lives and contribute to their communities and neighborhoods.

According to the American Foundation for the Blind, every year some 100,000 people throughout the Bay Area experience varying degrees of vision loss. Therefore, it is vital to provide them with counseling, support, independent living skills training, and braille and assistive technology instruction.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In line with the City's environmental goals.

#### 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, Councilmembers Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation – the East Bay Center for the Blind – will receive funds in the amount of \$250 or more; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: the East Bay Center for the Blind raises funds to offer services and social activities to a diverse group of people who are blind or low vision, many of whom are not assisted by other agencies.

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 of up to \$500 per office shall be granted to the East Bay Center for the Blind.