



CONSENT CALENDAR  
DATE: March 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin, Councilmember Ben Bartlett (co-sponsor), Mayor Jesse Arreguin (co-sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral – Police Foot/Bike Patrol in West and South Berkeley

### RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the FY 2021-22 Budget Process to establish funding for police foot patrol or bicycle officers to cover West Berkeley as defined in the West Berkeley Plan, which includes portions of Berkeley Police Department Beats 11-16; plus in South Berkeley, cover Berkeley Police Department Beats 9, 10 and 11. In addition, consider the possibility of a deputized Community Service Officer, who can issue citations and make arrests, and explore the inclusion of Specialized Care Unit currently under consideration in the City Manager's Reimagining Public Safety initiative.

### BACKGROUND

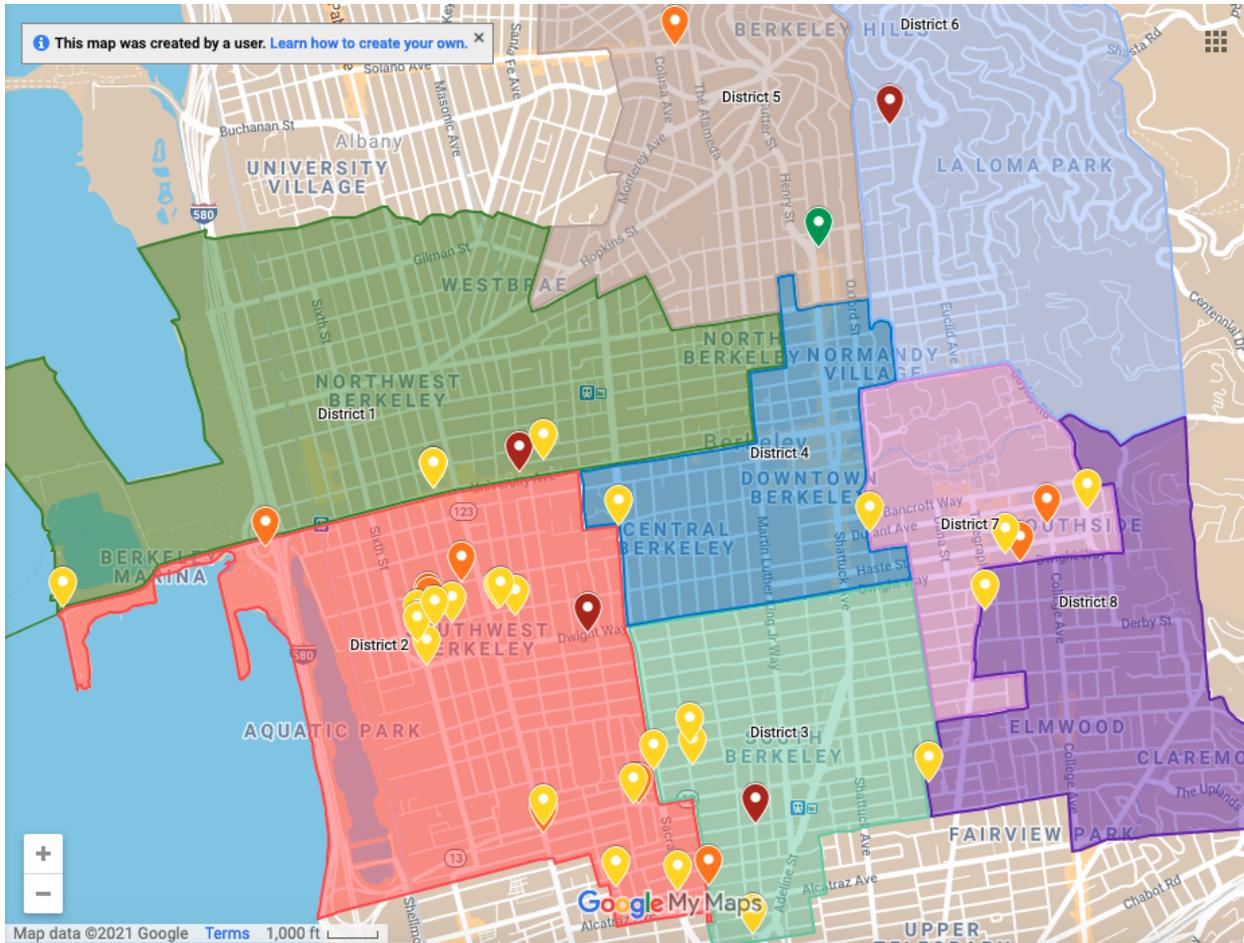
According to the Berkeley Police Department's 2019/2020 Crime Report, Berkeley has seen marked increases in aggravated assault, homicides, auto theft and larceny over the past two years.<sup>1</sup> BPD investigated four homicides in 2020, up from zero the previous year. *Berkeleyside* reports that the increase in shootings during the COVID-19 pandemic in particular is consistent with a nationwide trend.<sup>2</sup> While the overall crime rate remained relatively flat, specific categories of property crimes increased sharply—especially vehicle thefts, which increased by 66% in 2020.

As evidenced by *Berkeleyside* reporter Emilie Raguso's map, most gunfire reported in 2020 was concentrated in South and West Berkeley.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2020/10\\_Oct/Documents/2020-10-13\\_Presentations\\_Item\\_19\\_\\_Pres\\_Police\\_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2020/10_Oct/Documents/2020-10-13_Presentations_Item_19__Pres_Police_pdf.aspx)

<sup>2</sup> Raguso, E. (2020, Oct. 15). Annual crime report sees shootings rise for the third straight year. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/15/2020-berkeley-crime-report-shootings-rise-use-of-force-stop-data>



The 2020 Berkeley gunfire map<sup>3</sup>

In 2010, a successful pilot program operated jointly by University of California Police and BPD took place over the course of six weeks, in which a collaborative UC/BPD beat patrol walked along the Telegraph Avenue corridor. Multiple referrals by the City Council since then were passed unanimously to create a permanent foot patrol in the Telegraph Commercial District.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

A 2016 study from the University of Cambridge found that “vehicle-based” policing is less effective than beat policing. The evidence showed that targeted deployment of two full-time Police Community Support Officers in Peterborough, England “would prevent 86 assaults a year, or incidents of the equivalent crime ‘harm value’, saving potential

<sup>3</sup> Raguso, E. (2020, Oct. 3). The 2020 Berkeley gunfire map. *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2020/10/03/2020-berkeley-gunfire-map>

costs to the public of eight years of imprisonment.”<sup>4</sup> Transitioning sworn police officers from vehicle duty to foot or bike patrols would also have the potential of reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) per capita in the City of Berkeley, lowering greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, which contributes 60% of the city’s total emissions.<sup>5</sup>

Foot and bicycle patrols also have the potential to enhance community trust with BPD as officers will be engaged in visibly non-confrontational contact with the community rather than patrolling in vehicles.

The effectiveness of beat policing could improve morale among BPD officers and help counteract what the department describes as “deepening staffing crisis”<sup>6</sup> by improving policing outcomes and strengthening community bonds for existing officers and new recruits.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Reduction in VMT per capita can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, since 60% of the city’s emissions come from transportation.

### FISCAL IMPACTS

According to a budget referral from Councilmember Harrison (District 4) passed unanimously by the City Council on March 27, 2018:

*Having two beat officers available six hours daily from 4:00 to 10:00 would require 4,452 hours of work annually, or approximately 2 FTE. At a salary for a BPD Officer ranging from \$107,000-\$117,852 and a fringe benefit rate of 97.7%, the total cost would be \$423,331 to \$465,987 annually. Alternatively, these hours could be filled on overtime at an annual cost of \$343,532.*

The geographic scope of this referral would necessitate at least 6 FTE, triple the annual cost of the March 2018 referral, or \$1,269,993-1,397,961.

### CONTACT

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<sup>4</sup> University of Cambridge. (2016, June 14). Policing: Two officers 'on the beat' prevent 86 assaults and save thousands in prison costs. *ScienceDaily*. Retrieved from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/06/160614083845.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/06/160614083845.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City\\_Council/2018/12\\_Doc/2018-12-06\\_WS\\_Item\\_01\\_Climate\\_Action\\_Plan\\_Update\\_pdf.aspx](https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Clerk/City_Council/2018/12_Doc/2018-12-06_WS_Item_01_Climate_Action_Plan_Update_pdf.aspx)

<sup>6</sup> Raguso, E. (2017, Dec. 15). Chief: Berkeley police face ‘a deepening staffing crisis.’ *Berkeleyside*. Retrieved from <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/12/15/chief-berkeley-police-face-deepening-staffing-crisis>

