

**FY 2020-2021 Budget Recommendations and
Message from the Chair of the Budget and Finance Council Subcommittee
Supplemental to May 28, 2019 Budget Hearing #2**

As the Chair of this Committee, I'm proud to present the initial budget recommendations for FY 2020-2021. Drawing on community feedback, staff presentations, and the City Manager and Budget Manager's recommendations, these recommendations strengthen pedestrian and bicycle safety, make significant investments in city infrastructure, support cultural events that are key to Berkeley's identity, further our climate action goals, and prioritize solutions to housing and homelessness.

Guiding Principles

Funding Amounts

The City Manager recommended that approximately \$3.2 million dollars should be allocated from the General Fund in FY2020-FY2021 for a total of \$6.4million. The Budget Committee felt that it was important to not exceed the City Manager and Budget Manager's funding recommendations in order to remain fiscally prudent and provide Council with flexibility during the budget hearings in June.

	FY2020	FY2021
City Manager's General Fund allocations	\$3,283,957*	\$3,138,150*
City Manager's General Fund allocations to fund operational needs	\$2,790,427	\$2,683,222
Remaining General Fund allocations for Council's discretionary usage	<u>\$493,530</u>	<u>\$454,928</u>

*These totals do not include funding that is required by law and/or already budgeted.

The City Manager also recommended that approximately \$24.5 million dollars from special funds are allocated to operational needs and basic city services. The Budget Committee agreed with the recommendations that the City Manager outlined but recommended that the Zero Waste Fund funds the Food and Beverage Industry Support Associate Management Analyst position. The Budget Committee also recognized that adding a Deputy City Attorney is critical to the functioning of the City Attorney's office and needed to be considered as an operational need, not a Council request.

Council Requests

The City Manager and Budget Manager requested a deadline of May 14th (Budget Hearing #1) for Council budget referrals. The total list of council budget referrals is available in the [May 14, 2019 Council budget item](#). Due to the budget committee and agenda committee deadlines, we did not consider any budget referrals after that date.

In previous budget cycles, Mayor Arreguín has made a concerted effort to provide funding for each councilmember’s specific budget referral request. Using his efforts as a guiding principle, the Budget and Finance Committee allocated funding toward at least one of every councilmember’s budget requests, although most council referrals were not fully funded due to limited financial resources.

Strengthening Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety in support of Vision Zero

In 2018, Council made a commitment to become a Vision Zero city, eliminating fatalities and serious injuries associated with road traffic. The entire Berkeley City Council rated this the City’s #1 priority in 2018. The City Manager has recommended recurring funding for a Vision Zero Senior Planner to oversee pedestrian safety and specific project implementation for FY2020 and FY2021. This staff member would oversee development and implementation of the Vision Zero Program to focus on and reduce the number of fatal and severe traffic collisions in Berkeley to zero by 2028. This staff member would oversee coordination among multiple city departments and other agencies to collect data about past crashes to identify high injury corridors and principle causes, so that we can develop, prioritize, and implement programs and projects to reduce the severity and number of collisions on the high injury network, particularly those involving pedestrians or cyclists or others who are most prone to severe injury in traffic collisions.

The Transportation Department continues to have a backlog of *funded* projects and priorities from 2017-2018 yet limited staffing to even address funded budget referrals and projects. To address the queue of projects, this budget includes four additional staff positions in our Transportation Department. These new positions, combined with concerted recruitment to fill existing positions, will allow for quicker traffic calming implementation. We still recognize and support the funding specific traffic calming requests but given the queue of existing traffic calming requests, no new work would commence before the general fund excess equity deliberations in November. Consequently, we recommend that specific budget referrals are evaluated and prioritized in November 2019. In order to *implement* traffic calming measures, the City of Berkeley needs to hire new staff and fill vacant positions.

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Transportation	Add 1.0 FTE Admin Assistant	126,878	139,178
Transportation	Add 1.0 FTE Associate Traffic Engineer	221,132	227,922
Transportation	Add 1.0 FTE Civil Engineer	205,431	210,242
Transportation	Add 1.0 FTE Traffic Engineer Inspector	161,973	165,212
Council RRV Top Priority #1 - Vision Zero	1 Senior Planner	197,830	204,228

Investments in Infrastructure

This budget includes significant funding to improve our City sidewalks and address our backlog of requests for repairs. The Public Works Department expects to address the backlog of requests within the next five years.

The Berkeley Marina is in need of critical repair. With over \$100 million in unfunded needs, this budget allocation forestalls Marina Fund insolvency until FY 2022. This funding will address immediate electrical and safety issues on our docks.

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Public Works	50/50 Sidewalk (Backlog)	500,000	500,000
Parks, Recreation and Waterfront- Marina	Waterfront Immediate Capital Needs	1,505,000	1,945,000

Addressing Housing and Homelessness

Berkeley voters generously supported [Measure P](#), which is projected to generate \$6-8 million dollars annually to help our homeless population in Berkeley. Additionally, Berkeley residents voted to support \$135 million in housing bonds for affordable homes. Operationally, the City allocates nearly [\\$17 million](#) to homeless services every year. This includes housing vouchers, mental health outreach teams, and many other programs to assist homeless individuals. Each of the following funding allocations serves a specific purpose in furthering the City’s strategic plan goals to create affordable housing and housing support services for our most vulnerable community members.

After examining community agency funding requests and recommended allocations from the Housing Advisory Commission, we learned that Rebuilding Together currently receives \$122,854 from the City of Berkeley to provide needed services to help keep Berkeley residents housed. The Housing Advisory Commission recommended \$156,050 to fund Rebuilding Together for FY2020. Consequently, we felt that \$491,400 for both fiscal years was beyond the amount that the agency requested and comprised almost all of the discretionary allocations available to City Council. Therefore, we recommend that Rebuilding Together continues to receive their current funding amount and work with city staff to ensure that they can continue to serve our community. We recommend any FY2021 should be tied to a performance evaluation. This discovery provides Council with an additional \$368,546 to allocate toward other important funding requests. As a result, we recommended partially funding the missing middle report. Over [219 community members registered their support](#) for this item to address the dire housing crisis. We allocated the remaining amount to public safety (see below)

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Council item - Missing Middle (Kesarwani, Bartlett, Robinson, Droste)	Missing Middle Report	100,000	0
Council item - Rebuilding Together (Harrison, Wengraf, Arreguin)	Community Agency	122,854	Pending evaluation

Disaster and Fire Safety Preparation

These new budget recommendations support the City’s strategic plan goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city. In [2018](#), nationwide there were 27 active shooter incidents, including four within the state of California. It is our job as a City to ensure that our first responders are adequately equipped and prepared should an active shooter situation arise in our community.

Within the last three years, California experienced the [most deadly](#) fires in our history. A combination of drought, climate change, and new construction in the wildland urban interface has made fire safety more paramount than ever. By allocating funding specifically for wildfire safety, BFD can employ vegetation management strategies and address access and egress in the hills fire zone, both of which improve residents’ abilities to evacuate in case of an emergency.

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Fire	Training and equipment to provide life saving care during mass casualty events including active shooter incidents	80,000	100,000
Multiple Council Items - Fire Safety (Wengraf, Hahn, Harrison, Bartlett, Droste)	Fire safety, vegetation management, education, prevention and overall disaster preparedness	0	233,000

Keeping Cultural Events in Berkeley

Arts and culture are key part of Berkeley’s identity. The following community events play a critical role in our City’s identity.

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Parks, Recreation and Waterfront	Kite Festival	27,500	0
Parks, Recreation and Waterfront	4th of July	75,000	0
Council item - UC Theater (Arreguín, Davila)	Concert to Career Education Program	15,000	0
Council item - Bay Area Book Festival (Harrison, Wengraf, Davila, Arreguín)	Bay Area Book Festival	25,000	0

Meeting Berkeley’s Climate Action Goals

Our Single Use Disposable Foodware Reduction Ordinance will greatly reduce the amount of disposable foodware, and associated waste, within Berkeley. It furthers our strategic plan goal of being a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

Department	Description	FY 2020 Amt.	FY 2021 Amt.
Council Item and Office of Economic Development - Single Use Disposable Foodware Reduction Ordinance (Hahn, Arreguín)	Single Use Disposable Foodware Reduction Ordinance	80,294	82,226

Other Items to Consider

The Budget and Finance Committee also discussed its desire to fund a variety of other budget referrals that exceeded the ~\$490,000 available for discretionary allocation, including a gun buy back program, further fire prevention and vegetation management strategies, and fully funding Council referrals. For FY2020, the Budget Committee recommended allocations \$33,140 under the City Manager’s recommendations to allow City Council some flexibility in allocating additional funding.

Thank you to Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Cheryl Davila for their valuable input and participation in the multiple budget and finance committee conversations. We look forward to a productive and thoughtful conversation.

—Councilmember Lori Droste, Budget and Finance Committee Chair

Differences from City Manager's Recommendations

Department	Description	Budget Committee FY 2020 Amt.	Budget Committee FY 2021 Amt.	City Mgr Budget FY 2020 Amt.	City Mgr Budget FY 2021 Amt.	Rationale
Council item - Rebuilding Together	Community Agency	122,854	Pending evaluation	245,700	245,700	The City currently allocates \$122,854 to Rebuilding Together. We recommend deferring FY2021 funding until November when Council allocates unassigned General Fund Excess Equity and can evaluate the success of the program.
Fire	Training and equipment to provide life saving care during mass casualty events including active shooter incidents	80,000	100,000	0	0	This is a new allocation. Without protective equipment, BFD is unable to safely enter active shooter situations to provide medical assistance to those injured. This funding will cover the costs of vests that stand up to gunfire from rifles, enabling BFD to provide timely & potentially life saving care.
Council Item - Fire Safety	Fire safety, education, prevention and overall disaster preparedness	0	233,000	0	0	This is a new allocation. Accessible evacuation/escape routes are critical to public safety.
Council item - Missing Middle	Missing Middle Report	100,000	0	0	0	This is a new allocation. Partially funding this request will result in a citywide evaluation of opportunities to increase housing options.
Council Item and Office of Economic Development - Single Use Disposable Foodware Reduction Ordinance	Single Use Disposable Foodware Reduction Ordinance	80,294 (now taken from Zero Waste fund)	82,226 (now taken from Zero Waste fund)	80,294 from General Fund	82,226 from General Fund	Funding would come from the City's Zero Waste fund instead of General Fund. Funding levels remain the same.
Council item - UC Theater	Concert to Career Education Program	15,000	0	30,000	0	By partially funding this program, Berkeley is able to spread resources to other important cultural events.
Council item - Bay Area Book Festival	Bay Area Book Festival	25,000	0	0	0	This is a new allocation. The BABF has been a cherished event in the community since 2015.
Council item - lobbyist registration ordinance	Software costs for Lobbyist Registration System	0	0	20,000	5,000	We recommend deferring this item until November when Council allocates unassigned General Fund Excess Equity.