



Office of Councilmember
Maxwell Anderson, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
December 3, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Max Anderson
Subject: City Sponsorship for the First Annual Black History Month Celebration

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving sponsorship for the First Annual Black History Month Celebration hosted by the Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. and request funding by the City Manager.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. was established almost 28 years ago for the purpose of celebrating Juneteenth in Berkeley "To promote greater societal growth and community cohesiveness in the City of Berkeley and surrounding environs through educating and involving people of color in historical, family, economic business, and cultural activities." 2013 has witnessed a culmination of division, mistrust, and social wounds to name a few of the maladies that have stricken the work place, schools and neighborhoods in Berkeley between the ethnic classes. To that end we are seeking to expand our mission by hosting the First Annual Black History Month Celebration on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, in addition to the annual Juneteenth Festival in June that we have produced since 1986. Our vision is to bring people of all races together for a day of dialog and festivities for a shared experience of "healing."

The theme will be: "Harambee: Community Pulling Together" will be a daylong celebration with historical exhibits, vendors, food, entertainment and a town hall panel format of notable community leaders discussing issues pertinent to the Black community in Berkeley and the greater Berkeley community at large.

Black History Month celebrations began on a national basis in 1926 by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson who launched Negro History Week in 1926. Woodson proclaimed that Negro History Week should always occur in the second week of February —between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Since 1976, every American president has proclaimed February as Black History Month. Today, other countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom also devote an entire month to celebrating black history.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The City to fund \$4250 for the First Annual Black History Month Celebration

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Max Anderson (510) 981-7130

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BERKELEY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE FIRST ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. is requesting yearly funds from the City of Berkeley to host the First Annual Black History Month Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. was established almost 28 years ago for the purpose of celebrating Juneteenth in Berkeley, "To promote greater societal growth and community cohesiveness in the City of Berkeley and surrounding environs through educating and involving people of color in historical, family, economic business, and cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, to that end we are seeking to expand our mission by hosting the First Annual Black History Month Celebration Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, in addition to the annual Juneteenth Festival in June that we have produced since 1986. Our vision is to bring people of all races together for a day of dialog and festivities for a shared experience of "*healing*"; and

WHEREAS, the theme for February 2014 will be: "Harambee: Community Pulling Together" will be a daylong celebration with historical exhibits, vendors, food, entertainment and a town hall panel format of notable community leaders discussing issues pertinent to the Black community in Berkeley and the greater Berkeley community at large; and

WHEREAS, this First Annual Black History Month Celebration will take place Saturday, February 8, 2014 at the Berkeley Community Theatre; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month celebrations began on a national basis in 1926 by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson who launched Negro History Week in 1926. Woodson proclaimed that Negro History Week should always occur in the second week of February —between the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Since 1976, every American president has proclaimed February as Black History Month. Today, other countries such as Canada and the United Kingdom also devote an entire month to celebrating black history.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds in the amount of \$4,250 shall be granted to Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. for the First Annual Black History Month Celebration.