

ACTION CALENDAR January 21, 2014

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Tom Bates

Subject: Temporarily Relocate City Council Chambers to 2020 Bonar Street (West

Campus) Until the Maudelle Shirek Building is Seismically Retrofitted

## RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Manager work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to temporarily relocate City Council, Planning Commission, Rent Board and Zoning Adjustment Board meetings to West Campus located at 2020 Bonar Street until the Maudelle Shirek Building is seismically retrofitted.

## FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

\$280,000-\$350,000 depending on the scope of improvements and accommodations needed at West Campus.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Maudelle Shirek building, also known as 'Old City Hall', was constructed in 1908 and was designated as a historical landmark in 1975. The building is an example of Beaux-Arts Classicism, using decoration derived from Greek and Roman sources in a symmetrical arrangement.

The building is seismically unsafe and in need of rehabilitation. As a result, the City prepared a concept design study and preliminary construction budgets in 2002 for several retrofit and rehabilitation options. After a bond measure to rehabilitate Old City Hall failed to win passage in November of 2002, the City continued work to update the plans and develop alternative funding strategies.

The City Council, Rent Board, and Zoning Adjustment Board continue to meet in the Maudelle Shirek Building despite its seismic danger. The Planning Commission currently meets in the North Berkeley Senior Center but the facility is not configured to televise their meetings on Berkeley Community Media channel 33 as are the other bodies. City Staff have analyzed several alternatives and have submitted reports to the City Council for discussion and review (see Attachment 1 and Attachment 2).

West Campus is a newly renovated seismically safe BUSD building that has the capacity to host City Council, Planning Commission, Rent Board and Zoning Adjustment Board if the proper improvements are made such as dais configuration and media and electronic equipment needed for City-related public meetings.

The City of Berkeley should work with BUSD so that the City Council, Rent Board, Zoning Adjustment Board and the Planning Commission have a seismically safe place to hold public meetings.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Mayor Tom Bates 510-981-7100

Web Links for Additional Information:

1: January 17, 2012-Item 33-Staff Report

http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level 3 - City Council/2012/01Jan/2012-01-17 Item 33 New Location for City Council Meetings.pdf

2: June 26, 2012–Item 42–Staff Report

http://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level 3 - City Council/2012/06Jun/2012-06-26 Item 42 New Location for City Council Meetings.pdf