



Office of the Mayor

Tom Bates
Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
November 29, 2005

To: Members of the City Council
From: Mayor Tom Bates
Subject: Budget Referral: Facility Rental Funding for BORP

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council refer to the mid-year budget process this request to authorize \$3,424 this fiscal year and \$3,673 next fiscal year to cover a portion of the increased facility rental costs associated with BORP's disabled recreation programs at James Kenney Park.

BACKGROUND:

For more than a decade, the Berkeley-based Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) has used the gym at James Kenney Park for wheelchair basketball and other indoor sports for people with disabilities from throughout the Bay Area.

Until recently, the City made the gym available to BORP on Saturdays at no charge. As part of an on-going effort to create standard contracts and terms with all community agencies and facility users, and as part of the City's budget balancing measures, the City began charging BORP for the facility rental last year. At that time, BORP was eligible for a half-price discount because they provide services to disabled and low-income Berkeley residents. In total, BORP was billed \$6,474 for the last fiscal year.

As part of this year's budget process, the Recreation Division modified its gym rental fee and discount program, resulting in a reduced discount being available to BORP. This increased the facility rental rate from \$26 an hour to \$39.75 an hour. This increase was not expected by BORP and was not included in their operating budget. After discussions with city staff and BORP, we came up with a proposal to allow BORP to continue paying the original \$26 an hour rate through the 2007 fiscal year. At that time, they will be able to include the increased cost of the facility rental in their community agency funding application and in their overall operating budget.

To accomplish this, the City Council is requested to refer to the budget process \$3,424 this fiscal year (FY2006) and \$3,673 in the next fiscal year (FY2007) as one-time expenditures. This funding will allow BORP to continue its important programs at James Kenney and back-fill the lost revenue to the Recreation Division's budget.

FISCAL IMPACTS: \$7097 in one time funds over two fiscal years.

CONTACT PERSON: Mayor Tom Bates, 981-7100.

Attachments:

1: Information about BORP.

... **About BORP** ...

Three Decades of Success

BORP was founded in 1976 by people with disabilities to create access to the outdoors, to fitness, to sports, and to recreation for a population who'd been left out.

A Critical Moment in Disability History

In the 1970s, there were simply no recreation programs in this state specifically for people with disabilities. BORP initiated a wide variety of sports, outdoor adventure, and family outings programs that were the first of their kind in California.

Building on Early Successes

BORP's programs are flourishing. In 1996, our twentieth anniversary, we served 196 people. In 2002 that number grew to nearly 1,000. Demand for our programs is soaring, and our job is to keep up. Our fundraising efforts have doubled, and redoubled again. BORP's budget in 1996 was approximately \$70,000. Our 2003 budget is \$450,000.

Popular Programs

BORP offers a number of competitive sports programs, as well as outdoor adventures, family outings, and integrated cycling. The programs are described fully elsewhere in this website-just click on one of the links at left.

A Path to Greater Achievement

Recreation is wonderful in and of itself, but we view it as much, much more.

Dire Statistics for Disabled Americans

- 22% of disabled students drop out of high school--more than double the rate of non-disabled students.¹
- Only 12% receive of disabled Americans receive university degrees-roughly half the percentage for non-disabled Americans.²
- About 70% of disabled adult Americans are unemployed, versus 6% of the general population.³

BORP's Kids Do Better

- In the past ten years, 100% graduated from high school.
- 72% went to college.
- Of those who went to college, 100% either graduated or remain in school.
- Approximately 80% are employed.

Credit Where Credit is Due

We feel immense pride in the achievements of our participants. BORP takes credit only insofar as we provided infrastructure. It's up to our participants to take that infrastructure and use it to help make a life.

1 A 2000 poll found that, while 9% of non-disabled high school students fail to graduate, 22% of disabled students drop out. National Organization on Disability/Harris 2000 Survey of non-institutionalized Americans with Disabilities.

2 IBID. 23% of non-disabled Americans graduate from college, while only 12% of disabled Americans do.

3 Statistics vary depending on source data and the definition of disability. National Health Interview Survey of 1994-5 found that 63% of adult Americans with disabilities were then unemployed. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, US Census figures from 2000 indicate that 70% are unemployed. Particularly germane to this discussion are the findings of the U.S. Census Bureau's 1994-5 Survey of Income and Program Participation. Only 78% of working-age wheelchair users and 72.5% of cane, crutch, or walker users were employed.

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