

CONSENT CALENDAR

11-29-05

Date:

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Dona Spring

Subject: Referral to the Midyear Budget Process

RECOMMENDATION: Referred to the midyear budget process a request for funding Habitot for \$10,000.

BACKGROUND: please see the attached letter from Habitot regarding their needs for additional money. In this fiscal year 05-06, this organizations funding from the City was reduced from \$22,000 to \$9,000 -- much more than a 10% cut in funding that other community groups were given. Even if funding were restored \$10,000, this organization would've been cut 15% from the amount given in the prior fiscal year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: NONE

CONTACT PERSON: Councilmember Dona Spring 981-7140



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1265 Solano Ave
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Phone:

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November 2, 2005

Dona Spring
City Council Member, District 4
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Dona,

I thought you would be interested to see Habitot's October visitation tally, a typical month that points out **high use by Berkeley residents -- from all zip codes!**

Our experience is that Habitot is a critical force for bringing families together, and in helping young children develop important school readiness skills. High demand for our programs shows we are needed -- our free admission days are packed, and members visit on average 30 times a year -- some using Habitot instead of preschool, which they can't afford.

Yet this year, we are facing the most severe financial shortfall in our seven-year history.

I hope the City Council will re-consider granting funds to us this year so that we can continue to offer our our award-winning and much utilized programs.

It would be greatly appreciated if the City of Berkeley could restore the \$13,000 withdrawn from us in January, and grant us an additional \$20,000 in operating support through the end of the year. Funds would be used to benefit Berkeley families and would support our class scholarships and subsidized memberships for local families for which we have long waiting lists.

We've worked hard to maintain and even reduce our expenses over the past three years, through staffing cutbacks and scaling back on programs, but most of our expense is rent, utilities and insurance over which we have little control. Normally, we would receive charitable donations that would help make up the gap between our reasonably priced admissions and memberships and our costs.

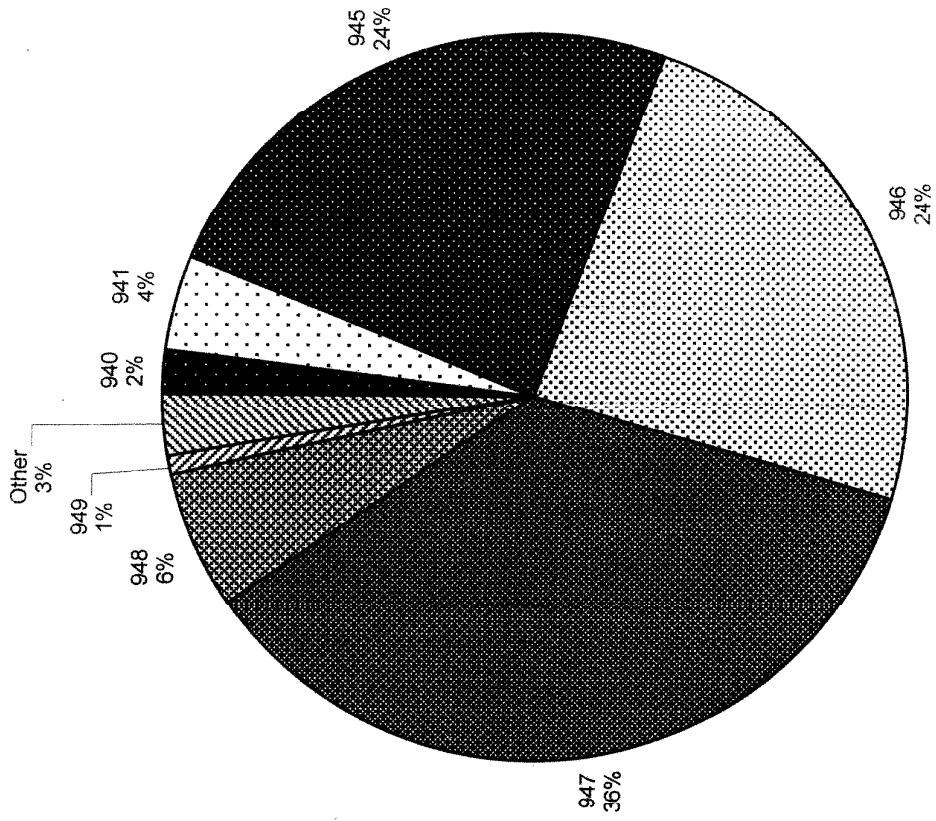
But this year, with all that is going on in the world, charity is being redirected, putting Habitot at grave risk. Berkeley families are counting on you. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gina Moreland".

Gina Moreland
Executive Director

October 2005 Visitation - All Visitors



	Families	People		Families	People		Families	People
94553	6	16	94619	13	38	951	3	7
94555	3	11	94621	2	6	95136	1	2
94556	10	23	94687	1	2	95138	2	5
94558	1	2	947	548	1405	952	2	6
94560	1	3	94701	1	3	95206	1	2
94563	6	15	94702	86	226	95219	1	4
94564	10	30	94703	122	299	953	1	2
94565	5	12	94704	29	72	95377	1	2
94566	5	14	94705	53	129	954	5	15
94568	6	17	94706	62	180	95401	1	4
94577	19	56	94707	56	137	95405	1	3
94578	4	9	94708	51	133	95409	2	5
94579	3	11	94708-123	1	3	95476	1	3
94580	2	8	94709	48	123	956	5	19
94582	2	8	94710	23	59	95616	2	7
94583	7	18	94720	14	36	95620	1	7
94587	4	14	94730	2	5	95661	1	2
94588	3	8	948	88	237	95687	1	3
94590	1	2	94801	4	8	971	1	2
94591	4	11	94803	16	41	97107	1	2
94595	1	2	94804	36	98	974	1	2
94596	4	9	94805	20	53	97409	1	2
94597	6	15	94806	11	35	981	2	8
94598	2	6	94807	1	2	98107	1	4
946	354	933	949	14	34	98117	1	4
94601	21	50	94901	5	10			
94602	39	106	94906	1	3			
94603	2	4	94925	1	2			
94605	21	69	94941	1	3			
94606	10	25	94949	1	3			
94607	5	11	94954	1	4			
94608	28	64	94960	1	2			
94609	41	105	94965	3	7			
94610	43	118	950	2	7			
94611	79	202	95030	1	2			
94612	4	12	95050	1	5			
94618	45	121						