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## **EMERGENCY ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL**

**Meeting Date:** June 9, 2020  
**Item Description:** Black Lives Matter & Ohlone Territory Statement  
**Submitted By:** Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmembers Ben Bartlett, Cheryl Davila and Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsors)

This item is submitted as an Immediate Action Item pursuant to Section III.D.4.b of the Berkeley Council Rules of Procedure.

The item requires immediate action, and the need to take action arose after the publishing of the Agenda for this meeting.

The painting of Black Lives Matter (and also Ohlone) on iconic Berkeley streets must be done immediately to be an effective addition to the Black Live Matters movement, which is currently active and building momentum in Berkeley and throughout the United States.

We only learned of the naming of Black Lives Matter Plaza, and the painting of the street in Washington, DC, on June 5, after the agenda was posted for the June 9 Council Special Meeting.



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CONSENT CALENDAR

June 9, 2020

**To:** Honorable Members of the City Council  
**From:** Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmembers Ben Bartlett, Cheryl Davila and Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsors)  
**Subject:** Black Lives Matter and Ohlone Recognition

RECOMMENDATION

1. In solidarity with the Mayor of Washington, D.C. and the Black Lives Matter movement, direct the City Manager to immediately paint the words "Black Lives Matter" on Martin Luther King Jr Way in front of Old City Hall, between Center Street and Allston Way, with the text to be read from the eastern sidewalk of Martin Luther King Jr Way.
2. In recognition of the fact that Berkeley is situated on Ohlone territory, paint the words "Ohlone Territory" on Milvia Street in between Center Street and Allston Way, with the text read from the west sidewalk of Milvia Street.
3. The City Manager is encouraged to work with local artists to render the paintings. In addition, the City Manager should take care not to interfere with other street markings that are necessary for safety of pedestrians, bikes, or vehicles, or otherwise necessary.

BACKGROUND:

In response to public demonstrations demanding police reform after the illegal killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by Minneapolis police, Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, D.C. renamed a street in front of the White House to "Black Lives Matter Plaza," and directed that "Black Lives Matter" be painted on the asphalt in large yellow letters, as a message to President Trump and to honor the peaceful demonstrators.

This item would similarly create public art in an iconic location in Berkeley to express support of the Black Lives Matter movement, to honor Berkeley's own peace demonstrators, and to communicate solidarity with the Mayor of Washington, D.C. In addition, to build on our City's proud history of recognition, inclusiveness and diversity, the item would honor the Ohlone, Indigenous peoples who inhabited the Bay Area long before Berkeley was incorporated.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Cost of paint and staff time to paint and/or manage volunteer painters, and to temporarily implement street closures during application/drying of paint.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Vice Mayor Sophie Hahn, Council District 5, 510-682-5905 (Cell)

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Tweet by Mayor Muriel Bowser:  
#BlackLivesMatter <https://twitter.com/MurielBowser/status/1268916115809488896>