Office of the City Manager

<u>WORKSESSION</u>
May 18, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: David White, Deputy City Manager

Subject: Systems Alignment Proposal

RECOMMENDATION
Direct the City Manager to bring back a resolution for adoption of the Systems Alignment proposal as described in this document and incorporating direction and input received from City Council during the worksession.

SUMMARY
This report proposes a process to integrate various systems (e.g., budget, Strategic Plan, prioritization of referrals, etc.) to ensure that resources are appropriately allocated, to focus the organization and employees on those priorities established by the City Council and City Manager, and to enhance legislative and budget processes. Ultimately, aligning systems will help ensure our community's values as reflected in the policies of our City Council are implemented completely and efficiently, with increased fiscal prudence, while supporting more meaningful service delivery. In light of the economic and financial impacts of COVID-19 and resource constraints, it is imperative to improve vetting and costing of new projects and legislative initiatives to ensure success. In addition, the purpose of this proposal will align our work with the budget process.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION
While the recommendation of this report would not entail fiscal impacts, if adopted, the proposal would have budgetary effects. Broadly speaking, the proposal is designed to better ensure adequate financial and staffing resources are identified and approved with any adopted significant legislation[1] (Major Item).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
The proposed changes outlined in this memorandum will better guide and inform budget development, clarify tradeoffs by identifying operational impacts, and develop a more effective and time-efficient path to implementation. These changes support a clear and

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[1] New significant legislation is defined, with some explicit exceptions, as "any law, program, or policy that represents a significant change or addition to existing law, program, or policy, or is likely to call for or elicit significant study, analysis, or input from staff, Councilmembers or members of the public". See Council Rules of Procedure, https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/City%20Council%20Rules%20of%20Procedure.pdf.

full realizing of City Council policies, programs, and vision. The major features of the proposal are:

- Changing the order of the legislative process to ensure that Major Items (defined below) passed by Council are funded, as well as folded into staff workplans and staffing capacity,
- Making the City Council Rules of Procedure Appendix B guidelines mandatory,
- Ensuring that Major Items that are adopted by City Council are vetted and clearly identify the resources needed for implementation,
- Consolidating and simplifying reporting and tracking of Major Items, and
- Creating a deadline for each year's Major Items that allows for alignment with prioritization, the Strategic Plan, and the budget process.

Additionally, the proposed Systems Alignment would advance the City's Strategic Plan goal to provide an efficient and financially-health City government.

PROPOSED PROCESS
The proposed process outlined in this memorandum replaces the current system of referrals (short and long term, as well as Commission referrals), directives, and new proposed ordinances, that is, all Major Items, regardless of "type" or origin will be subject to this process.

Step 1: Major Item Determination
The systems alignment proposal outlines a process for Major Items.

Defined in Council Rules of Procedure
Major Items are "new significant legislation" as defined in Appendix D of the City Council Rules of Procedure:

> Except as provided below, "new significant legislation" is defined as any law, program, or policy that represents a significant change or addition to existing law, program, or policy, or is likely to call for or elicit significant study, analysis, or input from staff, Councilmembers or members of the public.

The exceptions to the definition of new significant legislation and process state:

> New significant legislation originating from the Council, Commissions, or Staff related to the City's COVID-19 response[2], including but not limited to health and economic impacts of the pandemic or recovery, or addressing other health and safety concerns, the City Budget process, or other essential or ongoing City processes or business will be allowed to move forward, as well as legislative items that are urgent, time sensitive, smaller, or less impactful.

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[2] If this proposal is adopted, "COVID-19" should be replaced with "declared emergency response" in the exception language.

The Agenda & Rules Committee, in consultation with the City Manager, will make the initial determination of whether something is a Major Item, using the Major Item Determination Checklist (see attachment 1). At any time in the process, if evidence demonstrates that the initial determination of the proposal as a Major Item proves incorrect, then it is no longer subject to this process. Additionally, if any legislation it originally deemed not to be a Major Item, the author or City Manager may appeal to the Agenda and Rules Committee or to the full Council and present evidence to the contrary.

Required Conformance and Consultation
All Major Items must use the agenda guidelines in Appendix B of the Council Rules, which require more detailed background information and analysis. The Agenda and Rules Committee can send the item back to the author if it is not complete and/or does not include all of the information required in Appendix B. The author must make a good faith effort to ensure all the guideline prompts are completed in substance not just in form.

Major Items must include a section noting whether the author has initially consulted with the City Manager or city staff regarding their proposed Major Item and the substance of those conversations, and initial staff input.

Required Submission Date
A Major Item must be submitted in time to appear on the agenda of an Agenda & Rules Committee meeting occurring no later than April 30 of every year. Any item submitted after that deadline, that does not meet an exemption, will be continued to the following year's legislative process.

Major Items will be referred by the Agenda & Rules committee on a rolling basis.

Step 2: Policy Committee Review
A Major Item, once introduced and deemed complete and in conformance by the Agenda and Rules Committee, will be referred to one of City Council's Policy Committees (i.e., Health, Life Enrichment, Equity and Community, Public Safety, etc.), for review, recommendation, and high-level discussion of implementation (i.e., ideas, rough cost estimates, benefits, etc.). Per the *Council Rules of Procedure*,[3] the Policy Committee will review the Major Item and the completed Major Item Determination Checklist to confirm Agenda & Rules initial determination that the Major Item is complete in accordance with Section III.B.2 and aligns with Strategic Plan goals. If the Major Item receives a positive or qualified positive recommendation, then it will go to an Implementation Conference (See step 3, Vetting and Costing).

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[3] https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_City_Council/City%20Council%20Rules%20of%20Procedure%20-%20Feb%2011%202020%20-%20FINAL.pdf

If the Major Item receives a negative or qualified negative recommendation, then it will be returned to the Agenda and Rules Committee to be placed on a City Council Agenda. When heard at a City Council meeting, the author can advocate for the Major Item to be sent to an Implementation Conference. If the Major Item does not receive a vote by the majority of City Council at this step, it becomes inactive for that year's legislative calendar but may be reintroduced for the next year's calendar.

City Council Policy Committees must complete review of all Major Items assigned to them no later than June 30 of each year.

Step 3: Implementation Conference (Vetting and Costing)
At an Implementation Conference, the primary author will meet with the City Manager or designee, City Manager-selected staff subject matter experts, and the City Attorney or designee.

Identifying Fiscal, Operational and Implementation Impacts
The intended outcome of an Implementation Conference is a strong analysis containing all of the considerations and resources necessary to support implementation should Council choose to approve the Major Item.

The Implementation Conference is an informal meeting where the primary author can collaborate with the City Manager, City Attorney, and staff to better define the Major Item and identify more detailed fiscal and operational impacts, as well as implementation considerations. The information discussed during the Implementation Conference will be summarized in the Council Report as part of newly required sections (see attachment 2), in conformance with Appendix B:
- *Initial Consultation*, which
    - o Lists internal and external stakeholders that were consulted, including whether item was concurrently submitted to a Commission for input,
    - o Summarizes and confirms what was learned from consultation,
    - o Confirms legal review addressing any legal or pre-emption issues, ensuring legal form,[4]
- *Implementation, Administration, and Enforcement*, which
    - o Identifies internal and external benefits and impacts, and
    - o Considers equity implications, launch/initiation of Major Item and its ongoing administration, and
- *Fiscal & Operational Impacts*, which
    - o Summarizes any operational impacts,

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[4] While consultation with the City Attorney is mentioned in Appendix B, the legal review and "confirmations" recommended in this proposal is a more specific and robust requirement.

> o Identifies necessary resources, including specific staff resources needed and costs.[5]

As part of the Implementation Conference, staff will provide a high level work plan, indicating major deliverables/milestones and dates. This information can be collected and recorded using the Implementation Conference Worksheet (see attachment 2).

Implementation Conferences will be date certain meetings held in July.

Revising the Major Item
After the Major Item's author revises the original Council Report based on information from the Implementation Conference, the Major Item will be submitted to the Council agenda process. If additional full time equivalent employee(s) (FTE) or fiscal resources are needed, the Major Item must include a referral to the budget process and identify the amount for implementation of the policy or program.

Step 4: Initial Prioritization
At their first meetings in September, Policy Committees must complete the ranking of the Major Items which were referred to them and also completed the Implementation Conference. The Policy Committees will provide these rankings in the form of a recommendation to the City Council. The Policy Committees prioritization will use the Policy Committee Ranking Form (see attachment 3) to standardize consideration of Major Items across Policy Committees. The Policy Committee priority rankings will be submitted to the City Council when the Council is considering items to move forward in the budget and Strategic Plan process.

Step 5: City Council Approval and Final Prioritization
Under this proposal, all Major Items that the City Council considers for approved prioritization must have:
1. Received a City Council Policy Committee review and recommendation,
2. Received a City Council Policy Committee prioritization,
3. Completed the Implementation Conference, and
4. Been placed on the Agenda for a regular of special Council meeting in October for approval and inclusion in the RRV process.

At the designated Council meeting in October, staff will provide the Council with a list of all approved Major Items, including the initial prioritization by Policy Committee. The Council will consider each Major Item for approval. All approved Major Items then will be added to the RRV process (i.e., with other items, referrals, etc) and ranked. The RRV ranking will begin in late October. These rankings will be adopted by Council and

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[5] Appendix B does require a Fiscal Impacts section, but the inclusion of operational impacts and specific noting of required staff resources and costs recommended in this proposal is a more specific and robust requirement.

used to inform the development of the draft budget. Approved and ranked Major Items have multiple opportunities to be approved for funding, when the biennial budget or mid-cycle budget is adopted in June or when the Annual Appropriations Ordinances are adopted in May and November.

If a Major Item *does not receive the endorsement* of City Council at this step, it becomes inactive for that year's legislative calendar and may be reintroduced for the next year's calendar.

City Council must complete its Major Items approval, and RRV process no later than the final meeting in December of each year.[6] This ensures that staff is able to develop the budget starting from and based on Council priorities.

Step 6: Budget & Strategic Plan Process

The Council's rankings are also forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee for consideration as part of budget development. If the proposal is not ultimately funded in the biennial budget, mid-cycle budget or the Annual Appropriations Ordinance (mid-year budget amendment), then it does not move forward that year and will be added to a list of unfunded proposals for the future budget process.
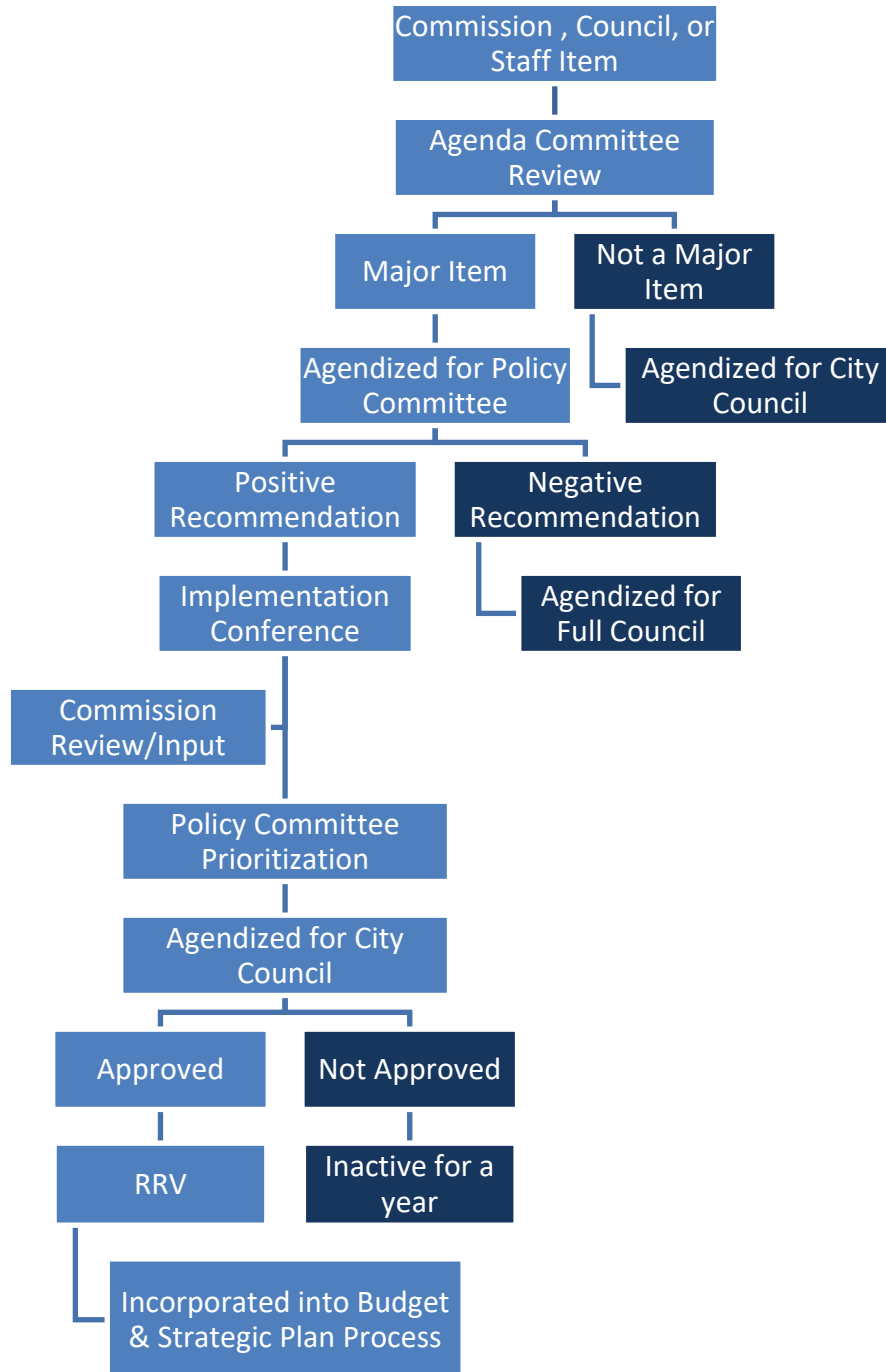
During December and January, city staff will prepare budget proposals that incorporate the ranked City Council Major Items, Strategic Plan, and work plan development. In the late winter/early spring, the City Manager and Budget Office will present the draft budget to Council. This will be followed by department presentations to the Budget and Finance Policy Committee. From late March and through early May, Council and staff will refine the budget. Council will hold budget hearings in May and June, with adoption of the budget by June 30. Although the legislative process (i.e., Policy Committee review, Implementation Conference, Prioritization) is annual, staff recommends the budget process remain biennial. A significant mid-cycle budget update can easily accommodate additions to or changes in priorities arising through the legislative process.

The proposed process is depicted in Figure 1 and the proposed launch calendar in Figure 2.

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[6] Due to noticing requirements, an RRV process completed by November 30 may not appear on a City Council Agenda for adoption until January.

Systems Alignment Proposal

Figure 1, Proposed Process[7]

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                    ┌──────────────────────────┐
                    │  Commission, Council, or  │
                    │        Staff Item         │
                    └──────────────────────────┘
                    ┌──────────────────────────┐
                    │   Agenda Committee        │
                    │        Review             │
                    └──────────────────────────┘
              ┌──────────────┐        ┌──────────────┐
              │  Major Item  │        │ Not a Major  │
              │              │        │    Item      │
              └──────────────┘        └──────────────┘
         ┌────────────────────┐   ┌────────────────────┐
         │ Agendized for Policy│  │ Agendized for City │
         │     Committee       │  │      Council       │
         └────────────────────┘   └────────────────────┘
      ┌──────────────┐      ┌──────────────┐
      │   Positive   │      │   Negative   │
      │ Recommendation│     │Recommendation│
      └──────────────┘      └──────────────┘
      ┌──────────────┐         ┌──────────────┐
      │Implementation│         │ Agendized for│
      │  Conference  │         │ Full Council │
      └──────────────┘         └──────────────┘
 ┌──────────────┐
 │  Commission  │
 │ Review/Input │
 └──────────────┘
      ┌──────────────────┐
      │ Policy Committee │
      │  Prioritization  │
      └──────────────────┘
      ┌──────────────────┐
      │ Agendized for City│
      │     Council       │
      └──────────────────┘
   ┌──────────┐       ┌──────────────┐
   │ Approved │       │ Not Approved │
   └──────────┘       └──────────────┘
   ┌──────────┐       ┌──────────────┐
   │   RRV    │       │Inactive for a│
   └──────────┘       │    year      │
                      └──────────────┘
   ┌───────────────────────┐
   │ Incorporated into Budget│
   │ & Strategic Plan Process│
   └───────────────────────┘
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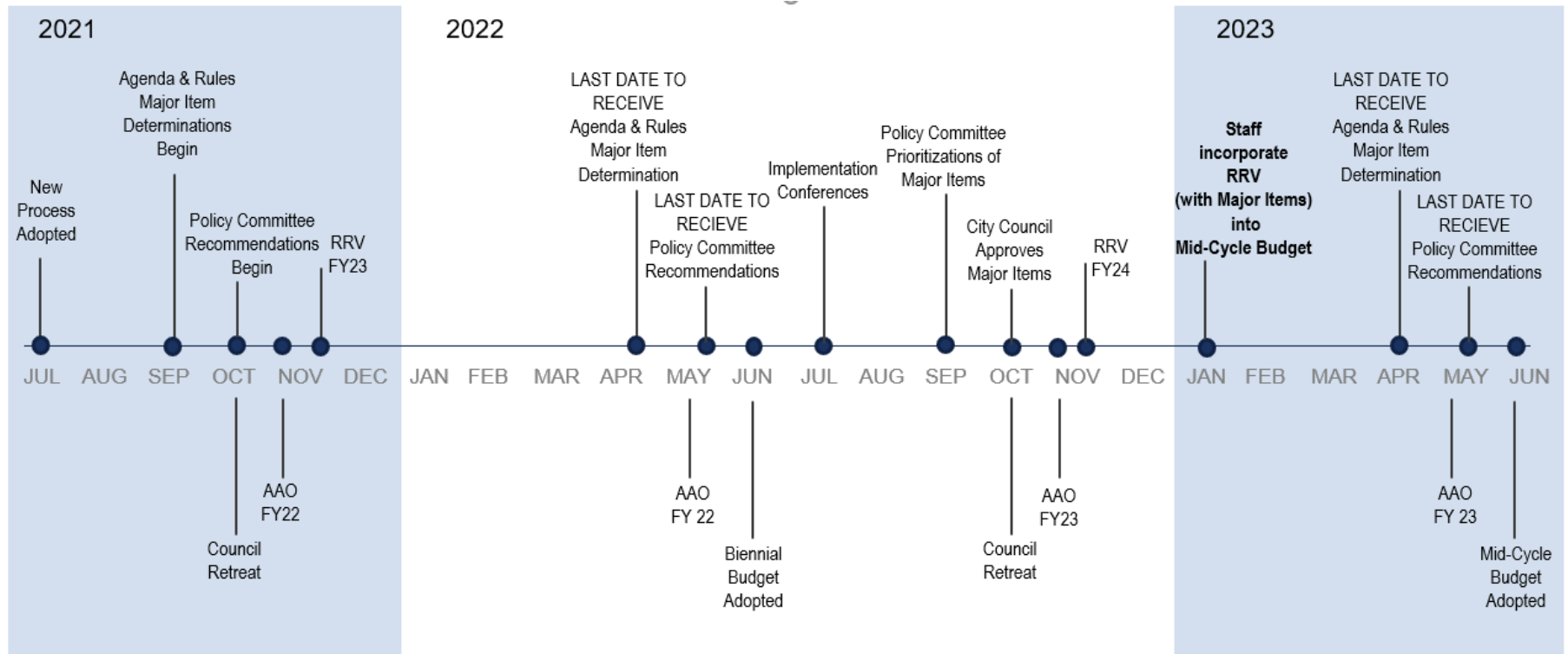
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[7] Major Items that are ordinances will need to be examined on a case-by-case basis. Once adopted, ranked, and, if requiring resources, budgeted, the ordinance will need to be given an effective date and scheduled for first and second readings at Council.

Office of the City Manager

Figure 2, Proposed Launch

2021

New Process Adopted

Agenda & Rules Major Item Determinations Begin

Policy Committee Recommendations Begin

RRV FY23

AAO FY22

Council Retreat

2022

LAST DATE TO RECEIVE Agenda & Rules Major Item Determination

LAST DATE TO RECEIVE Policy Committee Recommendations

Implementation Conferences

Policy Committee Prioritizations of Major Items

City Council Approves Major Items

RRV FY24

AAO FY 22

Biennial Budget Adopted

AAO FY23

Council Retreat

2023

Staff incorporate RRV (with Major Items) into Mid-Cycle Budget

LAST DATE TO RECEIVE Agenda & Rules Major Item Determination

LAST DATE TO RECIEVE Policy Committee Recommendations

AAO FY 23

Mid-Cycle Budget Adopted

JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN

Office of the City Manager

Next Steps
Staff will reach out to legislative aides for input and the City Manager will meet individually with Councilmembers to discuss this proposal. Staff will incorporate Council input from the worksession, and from subsequent input< into a resolution and return to Council with a final Systems Alignment item for adoption by July 2021.

Benefits
The addition of an Implementation Conference will ensure that Major Items considered by Council are properly resourced, improving our City's responsible management of fiscal resources. Analysis from the Implementation Conference will help Council to balance and consider each Major Item within the context of related programs and potential impacts (positive and negative). When considered holistically, new policy implementation can be supportive of existing work and service delivery.

Since the proposed process places the City Council prioritization of Major Items immediately before budget preparation, the Prioritization will guide and inform budget development, including components such as the Strategic Plan and work plans. Fixing the sequencing of the process is a key benefit. Currently, with prioritization occurring in May and June, the budget process is nearing completion when City Council's priorities are finally decided. This leads to inconsistencies between adopted priorities and budgeting for those priorities.

Under the current process, an idea may go into prioritization, proceed to the short term referral list or referred to the budget process. However, the resulting Major Item may not have addressed operational considerations. Adding such items to a department's work at any given time of the year may lead to staff stopping or slowing work on other prioritized projects in order to develop and implement new Major Items. Also, it may be difficult for staff to prioritize their projects: is stopping/slowing of work that is already underway in order to address new items the preference of the full Council?

Also, because consideration of implementation currently occurs after the adoption of a Major Item, features of the adopted language may unintentionally constrain effective implementation, complicating and slowing progress on the Major Item and hindering the effectiveness of the new program or regulation.

With the proposed process, a Major Item does not go through prioritization until there is an opportunity for staff to identify operational considerations. Finally, since implementation only occurs after operational considerations are reported, and funds are

allocated, the resulting Major Item should move more quickly from idea to successful completion.

BACKGROUND
In October 2019, City Council held a half-day worksession to discuss systems realignment and provide direction on potential changes to the city's legislative process. The purpose of the meeting was to develop recommendations for how various systems (e.g., budget, Strategic Plan, RRV, etc) could better work together to ensure that the organization is able to focus on the priorities established by the City Council. The City Manager took direction from that meeting and worked with department directors and the Budget Office to create this proposal.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
By improving efficiency, ensuring adequate resources, and strengthening implementation, this proposal would increase the speed and full adoption of new significant legislation, including sustainability work.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
The City of Berkeley is unique in comparison to many cities. It considers and approves many more policies, often at the cutting edge, than a typical city and especially for a city of its size. This proposal is a hybrid, incorporating city processes while mirroring State and Federal legislative processes which accommodate a larger number of policies and items in a given cycle. The disadvantage of this proposal is that it introduces additional steps, such as the implementation conference. The advantages of this proposal, are:

- Ensuring adopted legislation is adequately resourced, in terms of both staffing and budget;

- Providing adequate context for Council to balance and consider items in relation to potential positive and negative impacts; and

- Strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of policy implementation.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
At the Council retreat in October 2019, a variety of approaches and ideas were discussed and considered. Additionally, the original version of this proposal was substantively revised through the Policy Committee process.

If the Council takes no action on this item, the existing process will continue to result in inadequately resourced adopted legislation and inefficient and complicated implementation.

CONTACT PERSON
David White, Deputy City Manager, 510-981-7012

Attachments:
1: Major Item Determination Checklist
2: Council Report Template and Implementation Conference Worksheet
3: Policy Committee Ranking Form

Major Item Determination Checklist

Item Name:

Item Author:

Is this a Major Item?

Yes No
☐ ☐ Item represents a significant change to existing law, program, or policy.
☐ ☐ Item represents a significant addition to existing law, program, or policy.
☐ ☐ Item is likely to call for or elicit significant study, analysis or input from staff, Councilmembers, or members of the public

Is this eligible for an Exemption?

Yes No
☐ ☐ Item is related the City's COVID-19 response.
☐ ☐ Item is related to the City Budget process.
☐ ☐ Item is related to essential or ongoing City processes or business.
☐ ☐ Item is urgent.
☐ ☐ Item is time-sensitive.
☐ ☐ Item is smaller.
☐ ☐ Item is less impactful.

Agenda Committee Determination:

☐ Major Item ☐ Exempted

Indicate name and date below.

Per Committee Member_____

Per Committee Member_____

Per Committee Member_____

Policy Committee Confirmation:

☐ Determination Confirmed ☐ Sent back to be agendized for full Council consideration

Indicate name and date below.

Per Committee Member_____

Per Committee Member_____

Per Committee Member_____

[First Lastname]
Councilmember District [District No.]

[CONSENT *OR* ACTION]
CALENDAR
[Meeting Date (MM dd, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: [Councilmember (lastname)]

Subject: [Brief Report Title (No underline and not all caps.)]

RECOMMENDATION
Adopt a Resolution…
or Support …
or write a letter to ____ in support of _____…
or other recommendation….

~~FINANCIAL~~ FISCAL & OPERATIONAL IMPACTS ~~IMPLICATIONS~~
This section must include operational impacts, identify any staff resources (full time exempt employee/FTE) required, and financial costs.

IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

This section must describe benefits and impacts to both internal and external stakeholders. It should also consider equity; the launch or initiation of the item; and its ongoing administration once implemented.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS
For items that relate to one of the Strategic Plan goals, include a standard sentence in the Current Situation and Effects or Background section:
[Insert project name] is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to [pick one:]
- provide state-of-the-art, well-maintained infrastructure, amenities, and facilities.
- provide an efficient and financially-health City government.
- foster a dynamic, sustainable, and locally-based economy.
- create affordable housing and housing support service for our most vulnerable community members.
- create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.
- champion and demonstrate social and racial equity.
- be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

- be a customer-focused organization that provides excellent, timely, easily-accessible service and information to the community.
- attract and retain a talented and diverse City government workforce.

BACKGROUND

INITIAL CONSULTATION
This section should list the external and internal stakeholders, indicate whether the item was submitted to a commission for input, and summarize what was learned from consulting with stakeholders.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

CONTACT PERSON
Councilmember [First Lastname] Council District [District No.]   510-981-[XXXX]

Attachments: [Delete if there are NO Attachments]
1: Resolution
        Exhibit A: [Title or Description of Exhibit]
        Exhibit B: [Title or Description of Exhibit]
2: [Title or Description of Attachment]
3: [Title or Description of Attachment]

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

SHORT TITLE OF RESOLUTION HERE

WHEREAS, (Whereas' are necessary when an explanation or legislative history is required); and

WHEREAS, (Insert Additional 'Whereas Clauses' as needed); and

WHEREAS, enter text here; and

WHEREAS, enter text here; and

WHEREAS, (The last "Whereas" paragraph should contain a period (.) .

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that (Action to be taken) - ends in a period (.).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that (for further action if needed; if not delete) - ends in a period (.).

Exhibits **[Delete if there are NO exhibits]**
A: Title of the Exhibit
B: Title of the Exhibit

Implementation Conference Worksheet

Item Name:

Item Author:

AUTHOR SECTION

The author of the item may complete this section to help record required information for the report.

Descriptive title:
Is this for Consent, Action, or Information Calendar?
Recommendation:
Summary statement:
Background (history, circumstances and concerns to be addressed by the item):
Plans, programs, policies and/or laws were taken into consideration:
Actions/alternatives considered:
Internal stakeholders consulted:
Name/date of Commission(s) item submitted to for input:
List of external stakeholders consulted:

Summary of what was learned from consulting stakeholders:
Rationale for recommendation:
Internal Benefits of Implementation:
Internal Impacts of Implementation:
External Benefits of Implementation:
External Impacts of Implementation:
Equity Considerations:
Launch and Implementation Milestones (see staff section)
Environmental Impacts:
Operational Impacts:

Staff Resources Needed:
 	
    Number of FTE/hours:
    Type of staff resource needed:

Costs:
 	
    Amount(s):
    Funding Source:

STAFF SECTION

Staff may complete section to provide required information for the report.

Estimated Launch/implementation Deliverables/Dates:	
Month/Year	*Deliverable*

Estimated Administration Deliverables/Dates:	
Month/Year	*Deliverable*

Legal Consultation:

☐ Confirmed

Name/Date _____

Staff Consultation:

☐ Confirmed

Name(s)/Date(s) _____

Policy Committee Ranking Form

Starting on the right, think about and then indicate whether each consideration is high (H), medium (M) or low (L). Then rank the list of priorities. The highest priority would be "1", the next highest "2" and so on.

Priority 1 is highest	Major Item Name	Major Item Author	Considerations H high M medium L low		
			Staff Resources	Cost	Benefits/ Savings

Policy Committee Determination:

Indicate name and date below.

       Per Committee Member_____

       Per Committee Member_____

       Per Committee Member_____