July 18, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager

Subject: Gilman Street Underpass Update

This is to update you on the status of the Gilman Street underpass. This morning city staff from Public Works cleaned the area of about 1,000 pounds of garbage, rotting food, hypodermic needles and other debris that had created a significant harborage for rodents and raised substantial health and safety concerns. The individuals who were staying in the area were given time to collect their belongings before the cleanup started. About 30 cubic yards of items that appeared to be of value and were left behind were stored and are available to be reclaimed at the Transfer Station. Berkeley Police directed traffic to ensure that vehicles could move through the area smoothly while Public Works staff completed the clean-up and disinfected areas that had been contaminated by feces and urine.

As we have described in the past, the area is not a healthy or safe place to stay and conditions had increasingly worsened since the beginning of May. City of Berkeley staff and community agencies contracted by the City have been working with the individuals at the underpass to move them into housing, including providing financial subsidies to support housing costs. Staff will continue to work with those individuals to pursue any housing opportunities that can be identified.

Attachments: Photos of underpass area on July 18, 2014.

cc: William Rogers, Deputy City Manager
    Jane Micallef, Director, Health, Housing & Community Services
    Andrew Clough, Director, Public Works
    Michael Meehan, Police Chief
    Mark Numainville, City Clerk
    Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
    Matthai Chakko, Public Information Officer