



URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE
ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

Meeting Date: July 28, 2026

**Item Description: Resolution Supporting the Rights of Workers at the Graduate
by Hilton, Berkeley to Form a Union**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:



Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)

Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.



Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)

There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:

The workers at The Graduate by Hilton, Berkeley will be voting on Friday, July 31, 2026 on whether or not they wish to form a union. This election was scheduled after the submission deadline for the July 28, 2026 meeting of the City Council, necessitating this resolution's submission as an Urgency Item. As the City of Berkeley has a long history of supporting the right to organize and collectively bargain, it is important for the City Council to make it clear that all workers should be able to freely join a union if they so chose.



CONSENT CALENDAR

July 28, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Mayor Lunaparra (Author), Mayor Ishii (Co-sponsor),
Councilmember Blackaby (Co-sponsor), Councilmember Tregub (Co-sponsor)

Subject: Urgency Item: Resolution Supporting the Rights of Workers at the Graduate by Hilton, Berkeley to Form a Union

RECOMMENDATION

Pass a Resolution Supporting the Rights of Workers at the Graduate by Hilton, Berkeley to Form a Union

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The workers at The Graduate by Hilton, Berkeley will be voting on Friday, July 31, 2026 on whether or not they wish to form a union. The workers are organizing to join UNITE HERE Local 2 to collectively bargain for living wages, fair workloads, and affordable healthcare. These workers deserve a fair, free union election.

BACKGROUND

The people of Berkeley have a long, proud history of standing up for justice, and the labor movement is a crucial part of that history. Berkeley is a union town, made stronger when workers collectively bargain to improve their working conditions, and the Berkeley City Council should reiterate its long-standing support for the rights of workers to choose for themselves if they want to form a union.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No anticipated fiscal impacts of this recommendation

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No anticipated environmental impacts of this recommendation

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Cecilia Lunaparra, 510-981-7170
Jonah Gottlieb, Chief of Staff

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

SUPPORTING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS AT
THE GRADUATE BY HILTON, BERKELEY TO FORM A UNION

WHEREAS, workers at the Graduate by Hilton, Berkeley are currently organizing to join UNITE HERE Local 2; and

WHEREAS, they are organizing to form a union to collectively bargain for living wages, fair workloads, and affordable healthcare; and

WHEREAS, workers at the Graduate deserve a fair, free union election; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is a union town, made stronger when workers collectively bargain to improve their working conditions; and

WHEREAS, the people of Berkeley have a long, proud history of standing up for justice and the labor movement is a crucial part of that history.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley supports the rights of workers to choose for themselves if they want to form a union; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Berkeley urges hotel management to live up to our shared Berkeley values by respecting the autonomy and dignity of their workers by not interfering in any way with the upcoming election.