



Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2025 – 7:00 pm
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, CA

AGENDA

Mayor Adena Ishii:
Andrea Cassidy

Rashi Kersarwani:
Selim Yasavul

Terry Taplin:
Adam Weisberg

Ben Bartlett:
Carole Marasovic

Igor Tregub:
Deborah Fink

Shoshana O'Keefe:
Nimrod Pitsker Elias

Brent Blackaby:
Robin Mencher

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Luke Taylor

Mark Humbert:
Ilene Lee

BUSD:

Appel- Grace Morizawa

Shanoski- Jeannette McNeil

Chang- Sandy Park- **Vice Chair**

Vasudeo- Majdi Gaith

Babitt- Rev. Dwayne L. Phillips- **Chair**

Clark- Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.
5. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items. Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary.
6. Review and approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting. Discussion and possible action.
7. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
The Chair reports on PJC activities and informal ad hoc subcommittees.

8. Secretary's Report

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation from Brian Hofer, Director of Secure Justice, on data privacy and AI, including relationship to immigration, in our current political climate. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.
2. Medicaid data sharing with the federal government: presentation by Anna Rich, Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice's Healthcare Rights and Access Section, where she represents the State of California in litigation to preserve Californians' access to equitable and affordable healthcare, including in response to threats from the federal administration. Discussion only. Public Comment.
3. Establishing a Sister City Partnership - Berkeley & Gaza City. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.
4. Possible recommendation to Council on the City of Berkeley as a LGBTQ+ sanctuary city including prioritizing gender-neutral bathrooms, amending needed Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) language amendments and possible other accommodations. Discussion only. Public Comment.
5. Possible recommendation regarding continued provided medical care, through local providers, to immigrants without inquiring as to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) status. Discussion and possible action.

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 10:00 AM
To: Brown, Rex <ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Numainville, Mark L. <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Ad-hoc committees meeting in public

Thanks, it's good to have this in writing. Verbal conversations can be confusing.

On Aug 25, 2025, at 9:58 AM, Brown, Rex <ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

There was never a question whether public presence was banned at ad hoc meetings. The question is whether they are Brown Act meetings. I informed you that they were not Brown Act meetings. I told you at the meeting verbally that there was no ban. However, you did follow up with an email inquiring about a ban and I apologize for the delay in responding,. I hope this helps to close that loop.

Best,

Rex

<image001.png>

Rex Brown
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer
Pronouns: He/Him
[City of Berkeley](#)
Cell: 510.542.1861
Office: 510.981.7019
ReBrown@Berkeleyca.gov

In office Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays. Remote working Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Numainville, Mark L. <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: Brown, Rex <ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov>; [REDACTED]
Subject: Ad-hoc committees meeting in public

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mark,

A question came up at a recent commission meeting regarding ad-hoc committee and subcommittee meetings.

It is clear that rules for noticing such meetings changed significantly under the pandemic, and that the revised rules remain in effect.

The question is whether public meetings of such meetings is banned, or is simply not required.

I have read through the commissioners' manual. Your 2021 letter included in the manual states that such bodies are no longer required to provide for public attendance. However, I do not read that as barring the committees from holding meetings that are open to the public.

The intent of the 2021 policy revision is given as "Temporarily suspending the application of State open meeting procedures to ad hoc subcommittees will decrease the amount of staff time required to coordinate and support the functions of City boards and commissions." There should not be any additional strain on staff if ad-hoc committees continue to allow public participation, as staff are not obligated to publicize, or attend, the committee meetings. Please recall that secretaries have never been obligated to attend subcommittee meetings.

To reflexively ban public attendance at ad-hoc meetings just because it is not required would be excessively bureaucratic and would work against the spirit of public participation for which Berkeley is known. It goes beyond the mandate of the city council resolution passed on January 21 2021.

Can you please clarify the current policy on whether ad-hoc committees may hold meetings in public, and if not, cite to the relevant policy?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT



Meeting Access: To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist, at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD), at least three (3) business days before the meeting date.

Communications Disclaimer

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SB 343 Disclaimer

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Old City Hall located at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

*Rex Brown, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704*