

Peace and Justice  
Commission

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 8, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

South Berkeley Senior Center

2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

### AGENDA

**Mayor Arreguin:**

**Rashi Kersarwani:**  
Sagar Pilania

**Terry Taplin:**  
Veta Jacquelin

**Ben Bartlett:**  
George Lippman

**Kate Harrison**  
Diana Bohn

**Sophie Hahn**  
Nimrod Pitskar Elias

**Susan Wengraf:**  
Robin Mencher

**Rigel Robinson:**

**Mark Humbert**

**BUSD:**  
Grace Morizawa- Chair

### SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)
5. Review and approval of meeting minutes
6. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
7. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

### SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8. Update on the Peace and Justice Merger
9. Discussion on Fossil Fuels and Possible Action
10. Discussion and Update on from the Gaza Peace Roundtable Subgroup.


## SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

11. No communications received.

## SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

### Attachments:

- A. March 2024 Draft Minutes
- B. Land Acknowledgement
- C. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech

 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

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission  
City of Berkeley  
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Berkeley, CA 94704  
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## **Land Acknowledgement Statement**

*The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.*



Peace and Justice  
Commission

**Peace and Justice Commission  
March 4, 2024**

**Draft MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with Grace Morizawa (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary.

**SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

**1. Roll Call**

**Present:** Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

**Leave of Absence:**

**2. Announcements**

None

**3. Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 0

Public Comments: 0

**4. Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 2/05/24.

**M/S/C:** Jacquelin, Elias

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

**5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report (No Action Taken):**

**6. Secretary's Report (No Action Taken)**

**SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**7. Discussion and Update on the Peace and Justice Merger and Possible Action**  
No action taken.

**M/S/C:**  
**Ayes:**  
**Noes:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Absent:**  
**Excused:**

**8. Discussion and Update on the Gaza Peace Roundtable Subgroup**  
No action taken.

**M/S/C:**  
**Ayes:**  
**Noes:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Absent:**  
**Excused:**

**9. Discussion and Update on the November Roundtable Regarding Fukushima**  
**Waste Water**  
No action taken.

**M/S/C:**  
**Ayes:**  
**Noes:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Absent:**  
**Excused:**

**SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS**

**10. No communications received prior to meeting.**

**SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

**M/S/C:** Bohn, Guarino

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

**Noes:**  
**Abstain:**  
**Absent:**  
**Excused:**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission



Grace Morizawa <gracehisaye@gmail.com>

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**Re: April 4 reading - resending with missing link (sorry about that!)**

1 message

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Jacqueline Cabasso <wslf@earthlink.net>

Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 2:49 PM

To: "wslf-board@googlegroups.com" <wslf-board@googlegroups.com>, Grace Morizawa <gracehisaye@gmail.com>

**“Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”**

**Public Participatory Reading**

**Thursday, April 4, 2024; 12 noon – 1 pm+**

**Oscar Grant Plaza, Oakland**



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holding poster for 1968 Poor People's Campaign

**Dear Oaklandish-area friends and colleagues,**

I'm writing on behalf of the California Poor People's Campaign and Western States Legal Foundation to invite and encourage you to join this year's public participatory reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic speech, "**Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence**." The reading will take place on Thursday April 4, in the amphitheater in front of Oakland City Hall (Oscar Grant Plaza), from 12 noon – 1 pm+. (Conveniently located

right at the 12th St. Oakland City Center BART Station.) *Many of you have participated in these readings in previous years, and I hope you'll feel inspired to do so again!*

**Please let me know if you plan to join us Tuesday, April 4, if you'd like to read a section of the speech, and if your organization would like to endorse the event by [completing this form](#).**

This year's readings are again part of the Poor People's Campaign initiative to build support for the [Third Reconstruction Agenda to Heal the Nation: End Poverty and Low Wages From the Bottom Up](#).

An updated "tool kit" for the 2024 readings has been posted by PPC National Mobilizing Partner, United for Peace & Justice, at [Organize a Public Reading of Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" Speech in your Community - United For Peace and Justice](#). In the tool kit, you'll find the text of the speech, divided into 16 sections, in English. You'll also find an updated introduction for 2024 that connects the speech to the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war.

If you can't make it in-person on April 4, there will be a statewide online reading at 6:30 pm. [Register here](#).

### **Background:**

On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his tragic assassination, in his prophetic speech, "[Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#)," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared: "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values.... we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

[The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) has picked up Dr. King's unfinished work weaving the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic



poverty, environmental devastation, militarism and the war economy and a distorted moral narrative of Christian nationalism that blames poor people for their own poverty, into one “moral fusion” campaign.

Please join us on April 4! Let me know if you have any questions or can volunteer to help.

***Forward together!*** – Jackie Cabasso

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"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation, [655-13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612](#), (510)839-5877, [www.wslfweb.org](http://www.wslfweb.org)