



Peace and Justice
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**
Wednesday, August 7, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

AGENDA

Mayor Arreguin:

Rashi Kersarwani:
Allegra Guarino

Terry Taplin:
Veta Jacquelin

Ben Bartlett:
George Lippman

Kate Harrison
Diana Bohn

Sophie Hahn
Nimrod Pitskar Elias

Susan Wengraf:
Robin Mencher

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Luke Taylor

Mark Humbert

BUSD:
Grace Morizawa- Chair
Jeannette McNeil
Sandy Parks

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. Resolution Opposing the Criminalization of Poverty

9. Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan
10. Rescheduling September 9th regular meeting.

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

11. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. July 2024 Draft Minutes
- B. Land Acknowledgement
- C. Resolution Opposing Criminalization of Poverty

 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.

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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

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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
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Peace and Justice Commission
July 1, 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, Bohn, Jacquilin, Taylor, McNeil

Absent:

Excused:

Leave of Absence: Guarino

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 6

Public Comments: 5

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

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 7/01/24.

M/S/C: Lippman, Taylor

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Bohn, Jacquilin

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Guarino

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

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

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Update on Planning Gaza Peace Conversation for Berkeley Residents

No action taken.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

8. Discussion and Possible Action on the Resolution on the Support of Immigrants.

Amendment of resolution with proposed edits, which will then be sent over to secretary to move forward in the process to be included on the City Council agenda.

M/S/C: Jacquelin, McNeil

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

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Guarino

9. Discussion on History of Commission Actions in the Past Years and Potential 2024 Actions.

No action taken, will be moved to a future meeting to finalize.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

10. Discussion and Possible Action on the request to Name a Street after Daniel Ellsberg.

No action taken.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:
Excused:

11. Discussion and Possible Action on Sister City Proposal

No action taken, a resolution has not yet been drafted for review by commission.

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

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

12. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

M/S/C: Jacquelin, Lippman

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin, Taylor, McNeil

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

1 RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY

2
3 WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters
4 relating to the City of Berkeley’s role in issues of human rights, peace, and social justice
5 (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

6
7 WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2024 decision in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* to
8 reverse *Martin v. Boise* threatens to make sleeping outside while being unhoused a
9 crime regardless of the presence of shelter space; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the clearing of encampments has not been demonstrated to impact the
12 long-term unhoused census; instead, it has been shown to increase the level of literal
13 shelter-less (including tent or vehicle) sleeping by up to half¹; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Gov. Gavin Newsom’s Executive Order N-1-24 on July 25, 2024 provides
16 no new funds for the creation of new housing or shelter— despite a shortfall of
17 approximately 110,000 emergency shelter and transitional beds in California —and
18 otherwise provides no direction as to where unhoused people should go once
19 encampment evacuation orders are given²; and

20
21 WHEREAS, houselessness and poverty cannot be solved merely through their
22 criminalization; and

23
24 WHEREAS, the nonprofit organization All Home has developed a Regional Action Plan
25 specific to the Bay Area which would “cut unsheltered homelessness across the Bay
26 Area by 75% over the next five years and reduce the number of new people falling into
27 homelessness by 15%,” by focusing on prevention and building affordable housing,
28 rather than simply clearing encampments;”³ and

29
30 WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley’s endorsement of the All Home Regional Action Plan in
31 2021 promised a holistic, integrated approach to addressing the housing and
32 homelessness crisis, and this plan would be seriously undermined by a shift towards
33 criminalization given its as yet unrealized vision; and

34
35 WHEREAS, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass has criticized Gov. Newsom’s executive
36 order, stating, “Strategies that just move people along from one neighborhood to the
37 next or give citations instead of housing do not work;”⁴ and

38

¹ “Annual Trends Among the Unsheltered in Three Los Angeles Neighborhoods”, Rand,
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA1890-4.html

² “Gavin Newsom orders state agencies to move homeless people out of camps — but to where?,” CalMatters, July
25, 2024, <https://calmatters.org/housing/homelessness/2024/07/newsom-homeless-encampments-order/>

³ “Slashing Bay Area Homelessness Would Cost \$9.5 Billion, Report Says,” KQED, June 25, 2024

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11991834/slashing-bay-area-homelessness-would-cost-9-5-billion-report-says>

⁴ Calmatters

39 WHEREAS, sweeps disrupt the ability of case workers to connect with their clients,
40 further delaying the possibility of connecting unhoused people with vital services
41 including housing; and
42

43 WHEREAS, subjecting people already experiencing the most extreme economic
44 distress to expensive citations can only serve to further compound their destitution; and
45

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the
47 City of Berkeley:
48

- 49 1) Recommit to the updated 2024 All Home Regional Action Plan's (RAP)⁵
50 principles and integrated framework as the only way to address long-term
51 houselessness and prevention in Berkeley and in Alameda County; and
- 52 2) Will redouble its efforts to act in concert with the other municipalities in
53 Alameda County to provide humane, evidence-based pathways to permanent
54 housing solutions while enacting policies known to prevent more of our
55 community from experiencing homelessness despite increasing economic
56 pressures; and
- 57 3) Will refrain from any criminalization or effective prohibition of sleeping
58 unhoused– including citation or arrest for sleeping outside– within the
59 jurisdiction if no shelter is available; and
60

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council will write to Governor
62 Newsom urging that he withdraw Executive Order N-1-24, and instead recommit to
63 engaging with community organizations over comprehensive policy reforms that
64 humanely address the housing crisis in California without encampment sweeps; and
65

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council shall instruct the City Clerk to transmit
67 copies of this resolution including any future amendments thereto that shall be made, to
68 every department, agency and commission and employee of the City of Berkeley.

⁵ https://www.allhomeca.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Regional_Action_Plan_2024.pdf