

# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

January 28, 2026

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson  
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet  
District 3 – Vacant  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Vacant  
District 6 – Greg Murphy\*  
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste  
District 8 – Theo Gordon\*\*

## AGENDA

### Preliminary Matters

Call to Order

Public Present

Approval of the Agenda

*Discussion –*

*Agenda approved as amended by Acclamation or Vote?*

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*Public speakers:*

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular Agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

3. **Action:** Minutes of December 3, 2025  
**Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the December 3, 2025, Regular Meeting.  
**Written Material:** December 3, 2025 Draft Minutes
4. **Discussion:** Potential City of Berkeley Bond Measure (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** Receive Feedback  
**Written Material:** PowerPoint Handout  
**Presentation:** 2026 Potential Bond Measure PowerPoint
5. **Discussion:** Berkeley Outreach Update (Staff)  
**Recommendation:** No Recommendation  
**Written Material:** Berkeley Ready Update Handout  
**Presentation:** PowerPoint
6. **Discussion/Action:** Policy and Procedure for Determining Compliance with Street Width Requirements of California Fire Code (Murphy)  
**Recommendation:** Establish If Written Policy and Procedure Exist That Address How Compliance, or Non-Conformance, of Unobstructed Street Widths, As Defined in CA Fire Code Is Determined.  
  
If No Such Document Exists, Then Recommend That Relevant Staff Create One  
**Written Material:** Draft Report to Council  
**Presentation:** None
7. **Discussion:** Update On City of Berkeley's Vision Zero Advisory Committee  
**Recommendation:** Discuss Committee Update and Provide Any Feedback to be Relayed to the Committee  
**Written Material:** Committee Notes
8. **Work Group Reports**  
Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:
- Plan & Budget Oversight
  - Neighborhood Fire Resiliency
  - Safe Passages
  - Community Outreach
  - Street Trauma Prevention Program

**Written Materials:  
Presentation:**

9. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- 

**Adjournment**

*This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Keith May, [kmay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:kmay@berkeleyca.gov) 510-981-5508.*

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*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 Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.*

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. 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 business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

~~~~~  
I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Keith May* 1/20/2026

## DFSC Staff Report

January 28, 2026

1. Measure FF Monthly Report
  - a. Budget Overview –
  - b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November  
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February  
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May  
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October
    - i. Program Review
      - **WUI Interns** – The Interns provide Berkeley Fire Department with a trained, mobile and mission-specific workforce that is principally assigned to monitor vegetative hazardous fuel on or near structures, collect data, and identify reduction activities
        - **Updates:** The interns have noted that a lot of homeowners are moving towards Zone Zero compliance.
      - **Wildfire Prevention / Mitigation – Vegetation Management Inspections** –
        - **Updates:** No new Updates.
2. Measure GG Monthly Report
  - a. Budget Overview – No new update
  - b. Quarter 1 (July, August, September) report due in November  
Quarter 2 (October, November, December) report due in February  
Quarter 3 (January, February, March) report due in May  
Quarter 4 (April, May, June) End of Year Report due in October
3. Fire Facilities Master Plan (FMP): Berkeley Fire Department stations are undersized, in poor condition and in need of remodels or replacement. The Department initiated a long-term replacement planning process to better understand infrastructure needs. This process will provide the City leaders of today and tomorrow with actionable information ahead of future infrastructure bond measures. (*Measure FF has funded the study only*)
  - a. **Update:** Presentation to be held by City Staff tonight on the Agenda.
4. Department Activities
  - a. **Wildland-Urban Interface:** The WUI division approved their first Wildfire Alternate Means and Measure Requests. An example would a resident wants to keep a small Japanese Maple tree near their home and is able to keep a non-combustible zone

around the tree. They would also need to maintain the tree so that it is not threatened by embers.

- b. **Fire Mechanic:** Job offer extended with a start date of early January.
- c. **Deputy Fire Marshal Promotional Exam:** Hired our new Deputy Fire Marshal, Shannon Shaffer-Killey, from within the Fire Prevention Division.
- d. **Fire Marshal:** Recruitment is being developed.
- e. **114<sup>th</sup> Firefighter Academy:** 15 of 15 final offers have been made and accepted.

#### 5. Call Volume Report

| <b>Fire Department Report by California Incident Type</b>                                                                                                                                                   |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>November</b> | <b>December</b> |
| <b>Fires – including Encampment Fires</b><br>(structures, mobile properties, vegetation, rubbish, equipment, cooking, chimney,                                                                              | 37              | 30              |
| <b>Explosion - no fire</b><br>(overpressure ruptures, explosions)                                                                                                                                           | 0               | 1               |
| <b>Rescue &amp; EMS</b> (medical assist, vehicle accident)                                                                                                                                                  | 983             | 783             |
| <b>Hazardous Condition - no fire</b><br>(combustible spills/leaks, chemical release, radioactive condition, electrical wiring problem, biological hazard, potential accident w/ building/aircraft/vehicles) | 64              | 75              |
| <b>Service Calls</b> (person in distress, water issue, smoke/odor problem, animal issue, public assist, cover assignment/standby)                                                                           | 101             | 108             |

|                                                                                                 |              |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Good Intent</b> (canceled en-route, wrong location, nothing found, steam mistaken for smoke) | 110          | 89           |
| <b>False Alarm Calls</b> (malicious, malfunction, unintentional, biohazard scare)               | 221          | 240          |
| <b>Severe WX</b> (lightening, wind storms)                                                      | 0            | 2            |
| <b>Special Incidents</b> (citizen complaints)                                                   | 0            | 0            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                    | <b>1,516</b> | <b>1,088</b> |
| <b>Apparatus Count</b>                                                                          |              |              |
|                                                                                                 | <b>2,892</b> | <b>3,121</b> |

**DFSC Action Tracker**

| Date of DFSC Action     | Description                                                                                                                                                       | Status                                |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>October 29, 2025</b> | Direct staff to modify and revise the Draft Update to the Bike Plan dated July 29, 2025, to take into consideration recommendations from the DFSC noted in Report | Pulled from 1/27/2026 Agenda, On Hold |

# DISASTER AND FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

## REGULAR MEETING

December 3, 2025

7:00 PM

Fire Department Division of Training Classroom – 997 Cedar Street

Mayor's Appointee- Andy Katz

District 1 – Michael Wilson  
District 2 – Weldon Bradstreet  
District 3 – Todd Darling  
District 4 – Robert Kinosian

District 5 – Shirley Dean  
District 6 – Greg Murphy\*  
District 7 – Taj Herzer-Baptiste  
District 8 – Theo Gordon\*\*

## AGENDA

### Preliminary Matters

**Call to Order:** 7:06pm  
**Present:** Katz, Wilson, Bradstreet, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon  
**Absent:** Darling, Kinosian, Dean  
**LOA:** n/a

**Public Present** 1

### Approval of the Agenda

*Agenda approved by Acclamation*

### Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

*Public speakers: 1*

1. Chairperson's Report
2. Fire Department Staff Report

**REGULAR AGENDA MATTERS** *All Regular Agenda Matters are for discussion and possible action.*

- 3. Action/Discussion:** Minutes of October 29, 2025
- Recommendation:** Approve the draft minutes of the October 29, 2025 Regular meeting.
- Written Material:** DFSC 10/29/25 Draft Regular Meeting Minutes
- Motion to Approve: Gordon
- Second: Wilson
- Vote:
- Ayes: Katz, Wilson, Bradstreet, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon
- Nays: 0
- Abstain: 0

- 4. Action/Discussion:** Create 2026 DFSC Meeting Calendar (Staff)
- Recommendation:** Confirm 2026 DFSC Meeting Dates
- Written Material:** COB Religious Holiday Schedule

0 public comments.

Motion to Approve: *Herzer-Baptiste*

Second: *Bradstreet*

Vote: Ayes: *Katz, Wilson, Bradstreet, Murphy, Herzer-Baptiste, Gordon*

Nays: 0

Abstain:0

**5. Work Group Reports**

Receive reporting on recent activities by the following work groups:

- Plan & Budget Oversight
  - Nothing to report
- Neighborhood Fire Resiliency
  - Started discussion about developing awards and certification programs for Zone 0 compliance. Holding off additional work until after the holidays.
- Safe Passages
  - Met with Emergency Manager Lana. Identified ways to support – getting understanding from community members of how they are getting evacuation information and challenges they have. Discussion about how we could access county, State, federal funds for disaster response for use during extreme fire weather.

- Discussion among the commissioners about priorities for the workgroup, with questions about the evacuation study and leaving early for extreme fire weather.
- Discussion about how extreme fire weather is actionable.
- Community Outreach
  - Discussion about warnings, advisories and orders for safe passages group overlap when sitting down with Jamie.
- Street Trauma Prevention Program
  - Commissioner Wilson met with City Manager and Deputy City Manager along with rep from Walk Bike Berkeley and Transportation and Infrastructure Commission re: the DFSC memo on the Bike Plan. Commissioners reviewed the City Manager section of the DFSC memo on the Bike Plan.
  - Councilmember Humbert working with Arreguin to add Berkeley to automated speed camera program. Localities blocked from doing this unless State allows it. Suggest the workgroup draft a letter for the Commission to review.

#### 6. Future Agenda Items and Next Steps

- Street Widths – Street Safety and Public Events
- WUI EMBER Program Update
- STPP Presentation and Workgroup Questions
- Measure GG outreach with OES and Public Health
- Gilman Fire Headquarters Update
- Partner agency emergency response procedures
- 911 Communications Center Status, CentralSquare Contract

### Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Gordon

Second: Bradstreet

Approved by acclamation at 8:12pm.

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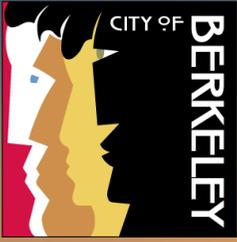
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SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Keith May* 12/9/2025

DRAFT



# CITY OF BERKELEY

## 2026 Potential Bond Measure

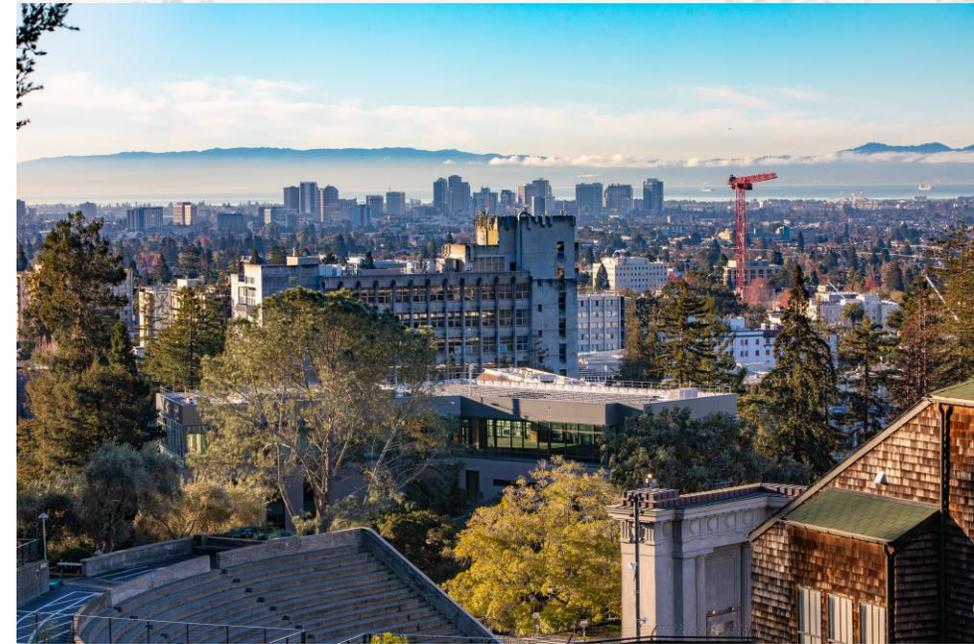


## **Berkeley's Infrastructure: Needs and Community Priorities**

The goal is to **receive feedback on the City's proposed infrastructure project list** for a potential \$300M GO Bond.

- **Berkeley's Infrastructure Needs**
- **Past Investments & Current Conditions**
- **Draft Project Portfolio**
- **Community Input & Discussion**

# Agenda



*Above Image: Berkeley & East Bay Cityscape.*

*When infrastructure fails, the impacts don't stay in one place.*

## **Berkeley relies on interconnected systems:**

- Streets and sidewalks connect daily life
- Community spaces support health and belonging
- Public safety facilities protect lives
- Waterfront and climate infrastructure protects neighborhoods

***A citywide approach helps prevent closures, service loss, and higher costs.***

# Infrastructure Need



## What We Maintain:

- 215 miles of streets;
- 53 miles of bicycle infrastructure;
- 50 acres of Marina harbor;
- 54 parks;
- 95 buildings;
- 63 play areas;
- 38 public restrooms;
- 4 community centers;
- 3 resident camps; and
- 2 pools

*Much of this infrastructure is **75+** years old.*

## Current estimates:

- **\$1.65–\$2B** in unfunded infrastructure and deferred maintenance citywide.

# Infrastructure Portfolio



*Above Image: City of Berkeley Capital Projects Team*

# How Does the City Fund Infrastructure?

## Permanent / Ongoing

### General Fund

- ~\$2.4M per year
- ~\$9.9M for Streets

## One-Time / Volatile

### One-Time Revenues

- Property Transfer Tax (>\$16M)
- Interest Income ( $\frac{1}{3}$  above \$6M)

## Restricted by Use

### Restricted Revenues

- Streets
- Sewer
- Stormwater
- Streetlights
- Marina

## Voter-Approved

### Local Measures

- Parcel Taxes (Parks, Measure FF – 2020 & 2024)
- Bonds (Measures M & TI)

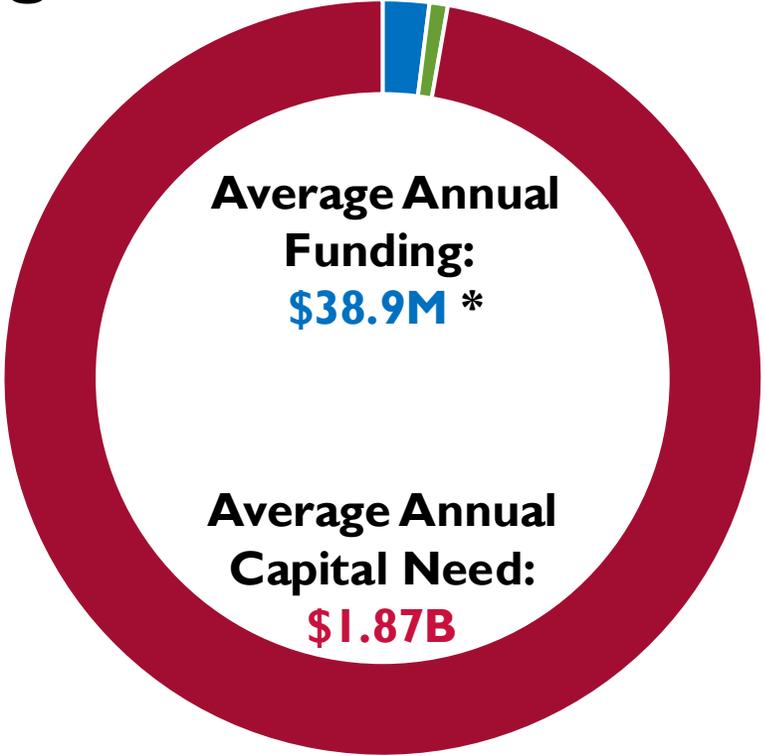
## External

### Grants

- Federal
- State
- Private

Annual funding is **not enough** to address infrastructure and deferred maintenance. Reliance on **one-time, restricted, and voter-approved sources** makes long-term planning difficult.

**Current funding covers just ~2% of need, leaving a 98% structural shortfall.**



# Infrastructure Funding Gaps



\* 38.9M total does not include estimated Measure FF Funds. Available Funding is calculated from General Fund, One-Time, Restricted Revenues.

	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Available Funding</b>	\$40,998,776.00	\$37,727,476.00	\$36,664,976.00
<b>Anticipated FF Funds</b>	\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00	\$15,000,000.00
<b>Capital &amp; Maint. Need</b>	\$1,831,954,652.58	\$1,868,593,745.63	\$1,905,965,620.54

*Above Image: City of Berkeley Repair Project*



# When Infrastructure Investment Is Delayed



## Asset Impacts



Infrastructure wears down faster



Safety and access risks increase



Service disruptions are more common



## Cost Impacts



Construction costs continue to rise



Funding supports fewer projects



Delays lead to higher long-term costs

**Delaying investment leads to *greater risks* and *higher long-term costs***

# Past Investments (Measure T I Highlights)



*Berkeley Rose Garden*



*Willard Clubhouse*



*Telegraph Public Restroom*



*Sidewalk Improvements*



*North Berkeley Senior Center*



*Marina Roadway*



*Adult Mental Health Center*



*Park Improvements  
e.g. San Pablo Park*

# Potential *Future* Project Investments



*Crosswalk Improvements to Major Intersections*



*Repair and Improvements to Veterans Building*



*Repair and Improvements to Marina Docks Timber*



*Improvements to Playgrounds e.g. Glendale La Loma Park*



*More ADA Parking Spaces e.g. Strawberry Creek Park*



*Repair and Improvements to Maudelle Shirek (Old City Hall)*



*Repair and Improvements to Berkeley Waterfront Bay Trail*



*Repair and Improvements to Public Safety Facilities*

**Capital investments support *people*, *programs*, and *services* — not just buildings.**

## ***Expanded & Reliable Services***

- New and improved programs
- Spaces that support reliable services

## ***Improved Safety***

- Seismic and facility improvements
- Safer buildings and emergency readiness

## ***Improved Access & Capacity***

- ADA upgrades and modernized spaces
- Facilities serve more people

## ***Environmental Sustainability & Resilience***

- Green and stormwater improvements
- Energy-efficient systems and lower long-term costs

# Infrastructure ROI



**Above Images:** Maudelle Shirek Building current state (top) & Interior Rendering with repair and expansion (bottom)

# Methodology

- Criteria-based evaluation prioritizing:
  - **Public health & safety**
  - **Infrastructure resilience**
  - **Community use & equity**
  - **Geographic balance**
  - **Deliverability & readiness**
  - **External funding opportunities**
- Project portfolio aligns with the broader principles reflected in Vision 2050.
- Applied within a **\$100M per-category cap** (\$300M total).

## Project Portfolio



**Above Images:** Veterans Building Current State (top) & Interior Rendering with repair and programming possibilities (bottom)

## Community Facilities & Quality of Life

Parks, playgrounds, restrooms, aquatics, dog parks, cultural centers and waterfront improvements.

## Public Safety

Fire station modernization and critical upgrades to essential emergency-response facilities.

## Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility

Core systems and facilities that require seismic upgrades or repairs – Civic Center (i.e., Maudelle Shirek Building) improvements, ADA, 50/50 program sidewalk projects.

# Project Themes



# Lead Projects

## ➤ Modernization of high-use community hubs

- Frances Albrier Community Center
- King Pool & Locker Room
- Harrison Field
- Live Oak Courts & Lighting
- San Pablo Sports Field
- Citywide Dog Parks – 4-6 Sites
- Park Upgrades:
  - *Codornices Park • Glendale La Loma Park • Harrison Park • Cedar Rose Park • Cesar Chavez Park*

# Community Facilities



**Above Images:** Glendale La Loma Park older play equipment and sand surfacing (bottom) alongside San Pablo Park with recent playground and safety improvements (top).

# Lead Projects

- **Neighborhood parks, open space, waterfront access, and climate resilience**
  - Adeline Corridor Open Space
  - Aquatic Park – *Dreamland Area Improvements*
  - Cesar Chavez Park – *Pathway*
  - Marina Docks – *Timber Pile Replacement*
  - Sea Level Rise – *Bay Trail/Marina Blvd*
  - Sea Level Rise – *University Ave Bike Park*
  - South Cove Seawall Replacement
  - University Ave / Seawall Dr / Bay Trail / Plaza

## Quality of Life



**Above Images:** Bay Trail showing pavement damage (bottom left) alongside sections that have received recent improvements (top right).

# Lead Projects

- **911 Dispatch Center:** 2100 MLK Jr. Way
  - *Expansion and modernization*
- **Fire Station 4:** 1900 Marin Ave
  - *Full replacement, expansion*
- **Fire Station 6:** 999 Cedar Street
  - *Remodel, potential move to new Fire HQ*
- **Fire Training Center:** 997 Cedar Street
  - *Relocate and modernize training center*

## Public Safety



**Above Images:** Water damage from roof leaks at PSB (top left) and failing HVAC at Fire Station 5 (bottom right).

## Lead Projects

- **Seismic upgrades of three buildings to advance the vision of Civic Center Project**
  - Maudelle Shirek Building (2134 MLK Jr.)
  - Veterans Memorial Building (1931 Center)
  - MLK Jr. Civic Center Annex (1947 Center)
- **Modernization of high use civic facilities**
  - MLK Jr. Civic Center Building (2180 Milvia)
  - Public Safety Center (2100 MLK Jr.)
  - Berkeley Animal Shelter (1 Bolivar Dr.)

## Critical Infrastructure



*Above Images: Exterior facades of deferred maintenance at Maudelle Shirek (Old City Hall) Building.*

# Lead Projects

- **Citywide ADA accessibility improvements**
  - Remove sidewalk trip hazards
  - Fix crosswalk mobility barriers
  - Upgrade non-compliant curb ramps
- **Fund 50/50 Program Sidewalk Projects**
  - Repair lifted and damaged sidewalks
  - Prevent future hazards

## Accessibility



*Above Images: Examples of changes in level (elevations) on sidewalks that require improvements*

# We're asking for input on:



## Input & Discussion

**Your feedback helps inform priorities and next steps.**



# Berkeley Ready 2025 Recap Looking ahead 2026

Jamie Albrecht, Emergency Services Coordinator

Rebecca Catlett, Senior Health Services Program Specialist



# Agenda

- Introductions
- How we serve the community
- Ways we have inspired this year
- Ways we have incentivized
- Ways we want to empower: Looking ahead to 2026
- Upcoming Events and Ways to Get Information
- Questions

# Introductions

Jamie Albrecht

Emergency Services Coordinator

Office of Emergency Services

[Jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov)



Rebecca Catlett

Senior Health Services Program Specialist

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

[Rcatlett@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:Rcatlett@berkeleyca.gov)





# How we serve the community

- Prepare the City organization to equitably serve the community through emergencies and disasters.
- Coordinate the City's disaster response and recovery so that we can continue to serve community members.
- Inspire, incentivize, and empower community members to reduce their disaster risks
- Be disaster experts and connect people to accurate information



## Ways we've inspired and been inspired by community members this year

- New curriculum of action-oriented Berkeley Ready trainings, delivered across the City and virtually
- CERT classes offered consistently and a set schedule
- Creative events for reaching new audiences
- Partnering with trusted community institutions

# Berkeley Ready Trainings



## 6 CRITICAL STEPS TO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>~1 Hour</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>MEET THREE NEW NEIGHBORS</b></p> <hr style="border: 1px solid red;"/> <hr style="border: 1px solid red;"/> <hr style="border: 1px solid red;"/>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>10 Minutes</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="http://protect.genasys.com">protect.genasys.com</a></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <a href="http://ACAlert.org">ACAlert.org</a></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>~30 Minutes</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>STORE WATER AND POWER</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 9 gallons of water</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> One charged back up power source</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>~5-10 Minutes</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>Gathering point:</b></p> <hr style="border: 1px solid red;"/> <p><b>Evacuation location:</b></p> <hr style="border: 1px solid red;"/>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>~3 Hours</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>STRAP STUFF DOWN</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Anchor bookshelves and heavy furniture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Move heavy items to floor or low shelves</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span>~30 Minutes</span> <span style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">FREE</span> </div> <p><b>MANAGE UTILITIES</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visit <a href="http://pge.com">pge.com</a> for guidance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Locate gas and electric shut off</p>

**City of Berkeley**  
Office of Emergency Services

Who can see your viewing activity? ×

### Goals of this workshop

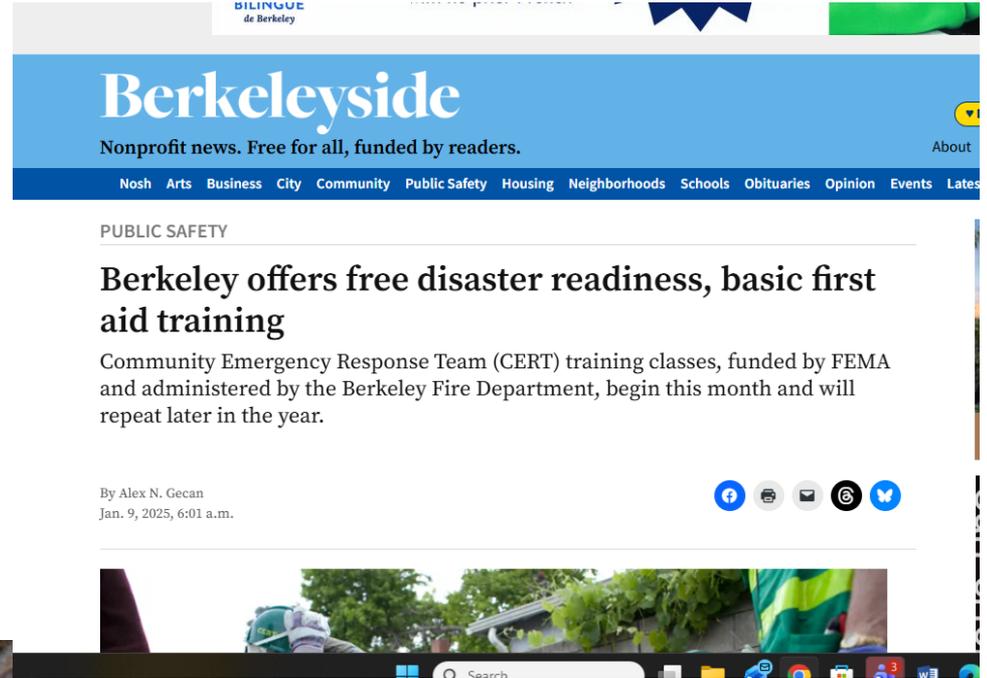
- Understand fire weather and risk in Berkeley
- Interact with one another and build connections
- Start your Household Fire Weather Plan

Doing different things in their neighborhoods. You'll be surprised a lot of these conversations that can be really, really valuable to connect with people who are also in your position.

00:05:34 / 00:57:48
Speed
🔊
⌂

# CERT Classes

- 30 classes
- 300 participants
- 10 completed whole 7-unit curriculum



# Creative new event: Family Emergency Preparedness Workshop

- Designed for families with children in attendance
- Families received:
  - Knowledge of the City's alert & warning tools
  - Family emergency planning documents
  - Evacuation decision-making practice
  - Emergency preparedness supplies, including a starter go-bag
- 65 unique families, diverse in age, race, income and zip code.
- Partnership with Berkeley Libraries.
- 84% of families reported they felt more prepared for emergencies after taking this training and 92% would recommend the event to a friend or colleague.





# Creative new event highlight

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS TRIVIA NIGHT**

**SEP 18 7PM**

**STARRY PLOUGH**

3101 Shattuck Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94705



# Partnerships

- Over 15 neighborhood groups hosted us, reaching over 300 people
- Over 12 apartment buildings hosted us, including Harriet Tubman, Oregon Park, and several SHRA buildings across Berkeley, reaching over 200 people
- Community Resilience Centers hosted us numerous times to reach over 700 community members.
- Community Advisory Committee on drafts of the Safety Disaster Preparedness Element of the General Plan
- Over 4400 individuals were reached through our efforts

## Incentives we've given this year

- Over 60 Emergency Go Bags for families with children who did not have emergency supplies
- Over 600 supplies to low-income participants in apartment buildings, including flashlights, mini first aid kits, radios, power banks, earthquake putty, document holders, and water jugs.
- Over 3400 at community tabling events for signing up for AC Alert, or having a discussion with staff about a preparedness topic



# Looking Ahead 2026

## Ways we want to empower the community

## Goals for 2026

- Growing our collective capacity to do more outreach through volunteers
- Help strengthen neighborhood connections
- Expand network of Community Based Organizations we work with
- Continue to improve disaster education and outreach so that it reaches more people, including by gathering community feedback
- Identify ways to measure and report populations served and tangible readiness actions completed
- Identify pathways to move away from small giveaways to items that incentivize neighborhood meet ups, so our work has larger impact



# Volunteer Programs

## OES

- Starting with lists of people who have taken classes and come to events
- Positions including helping with trainings, or CERT, being a neighborhood organizer.
- Volunteers to also contribute to outreach design and approaches, translations, etc.
- Form to express interest:

## PHEP

- Partner with the Berkeley Medical Reserve Corps, based out of UC Berkeley. PHEP serves as administrators with Alameda County.
- Exercise with the Berkeley Medical Reserve Corps and provide training annually through a mass vaccination exercise scenario.
- PHEP serves as an administrator for the Disaster Health Volunteers system in our jurisdiction. This system maintains the capability to credential health volunteers and request health volunteers across the State via mutual aid.

## Neighbor to Neighbor

- 2 AmeriCorps Fellows serving in Berkeley OES from October 2024-August 2025, full time
- Goals: increase social connection between neighbors
- Reasoning: Knowing 6 neighbors is tied to better health and disaster response
- AmeriCorps N2N Fellows:
  - Create neighborhood programs
  - Recruit, develop, manage volunteers
  - Increase professional skills



**AmeriCorps**

# Neighbor Program

- Bringing together neighborhood leaders to forge connections, troubleshoot, and grow the capacity and regularity of neighborhood groups
- Offers: training, socializing, and structure for neighborhoods to follow.
- Investigating pathways to incentivize new leaders and neighborhoods to join us

# Community Organization Network

The Community Resilience Center pilot started in 2016 and maintains relationships with 10 organizations:

- Congregation Netivot Shalom
  - McGee Baptist Church
  - Berkeley Humane
  - Multicultural Institute
  - La Peña
  - Ed Roberts Campus
  - Easy Does It
  - Ecology Center
  - Berkeley Youth Alternatives
  - YMCA Head Start
- Berkeley Ready hopes to expand our network of Community Organizations in addition to the CRC framework to reach more organizations and the people that they serve in 2026.

## Measuring success

- Collect enhanced data on activities, including what populations are being served from our outreach and what preparedness measures are being achieved.
- Share data in an annual report and collect feedback from community partners, the commission, and the public.
- Identify improvement opportunities through better measurement of our work





# Upcoming Events and Ways to Get Information



# Upcoming Events

- Berkeley Family Wellness Center Disaster Preparedness Fair
- CERT Schedule
  - Classes are full, with exception of Light Search and Rescue in April (has pre-reqs)
  - Will be another round that starts in May
- Neighborhood Leader Trainings



# Resources and Ways to Get Information

- Berkeley Ready Newsletter (over 4000 subscribers)
- Eventbrite Page (where we post classes)  
[berkeleyready.eventbrite.com/](https://berkeleyready.eventbrite.com/)
- Handouts and flyers
  - Household Fire Weather Planning Tool
  - Six Critical Steps Checklist
  - Evacuation Checklists (in progress)
- New preparedness content on the City website
- City Newsletter

## Berkeley Ready Newsletter



<https://bit.ly/BerkeleyReadyNews>



# Contact Us

Jamie Albrecht

Emergency Services Coordinator

Office of Emergency Services

[Jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:Jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov) | 510.981.5514

Rebecca Catlett

Senior Health Services Program Specialist

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

[Rcatlett@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:Rcatlett@berkeleyca.gov) | 510.981.5303



Office of the City Manager

[CONSENT OR ACTION]  
CALENDAR

[Meeting Date (Month Day, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission  
Submitted by: Greg Murphy, Chair  
Subject: Policy and Procedure for determining compliance with street width requirements of California Fire Code

**RECOMMENDATION**

BFD Staff, and other relevant City staff, provide the commission with the policy and procedures by which the 2022 California Fire code, Title 24, Part 9 / Chapter 5 / Section 503/ 503.2 and 503.4 is interpreted, enforced, or allowed to be in non-conformance.

**SUMMARY**

Recent communications to the DFSC have pointed out that certain special events were originally denied an event permit due to non-compliance with CA Fire code. Additionally, there has been discussion within the DFSC about proposed traffic calming measures that conflict with section 503.2 and 503.4 of the CA Fire Code that regulates street width to allow fire apparatus access.

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

None

**CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

There does not seem to be an established policy and procedure to determine if the code requires compliance, or if an exception can be provided by the Fire Official as allowed in by code<sup>1</sup>; or if there is such policy and procedure, that it is not clearly communicated.

**BACKGROUND**

DFSC received communications from the public in November of 2025 that complained about certain special events that were informed that the fire code regulating unobstructed street widths would be enforced<sup>2</sup>. Since then, the commission has been informed that subsequent negotiations with the event producers seem to have resolved those specific issues. Additionally, the commission has received communications from the public concerning aggressive enforcement of street width regulations at the expense of proposed pedestrian and bicyclist safety measures<sup>3</sup>. In these cases, it is clear that the policy and procedures that determines if a non-conformance is allowed is not

understood by the person writing the communication. Certain groups, including other city commissions, have either believed or accused the city of having ulterior motives which result in arbitrary enforcement of the code.

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

1. Have the relevant city officials attend a regular DFSC meeting to discuss this issue. They should be prepared to address:
  - a. If there is a written policy and set of procedures by which determinations are made to enforce or allow non-conforming unobstructed street width regulations.
  - b. Who makes determination to enforce or allow non-conformance?
  - c. What are the criteria that factors in these determinations?
  - d. What is the process by which a determination is made – review of permit application? Inspection of current conditions? Other?
2. If such a policy and procedure document does not exist, have one created. It could be modeled on the document created by the Richmond Fire Department<sup>4</sup>.

### **RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

At present there seems to be confusion from the public as to how these types of determinations are made, causing frustration and at times a belief that these determinations are made in a capricious or arbitrary manner. A clear policy and procedure that addresses how these determinations are made would make applications for events, traffic calming, building construction and other processes clearer and more efficient. It would also dispel doubt to the motivations or motives of city officials making these decisions.

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED**

None.

### **CONTACT PERSON**

Keith May, Deputy Fire Chief, 510-981-5508

<sup>1</sup> 2022 California Fire code, Title 24, Part 9 / Chapter 5 / Section 503/ 503.2.2 and 503.4.1

<sup>2</sup> Oct. 25, 2025, memos to City Special Events Dept. from Gerlad Baptiste re: Berkeley Juneteenth Association, and Nov. 3, 2025, email to City Council re: Telegraph Ave. Holiday Street Fair, and Dec. 3 communication to DFSC from Alfred Twu re: various local street width allowances

<sup>3</sup> August 19, 2025, communication to the commission from Rachel Bradley

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/DocumentCenter/View/47728/Fire-Apparatus-Access-Roads>

The Vision Zero Advisory Committee met on January 8th with representatives from the transportation division as well as several commissions including Transportation and Infrastructure, Aging, Planning, and Disaster and Fire Safety. A member from the youth commission is also on the committee but was not able to attend. The goal of the committee is to provide input on the City's 2026 Vision Zero Action Plan Update which is a narrow effort to modernize our high-level 2020 plan to a fully implementable 2026 plan, and ensure Berkeley remains grant-competitive.

The team is working with a consultant to:

1. Action Plan Update: Refreshing the High Injury Streets map with current crash and equity data, aligning with Safe System principles, and creating an Implementation Roadmap.
2. Quick Build Program: Developing a toolkit of design standards and screening tools to move projects from "design" to "ground" in months rather than years using rapid-response materials.

During the meeting, the members provided the following feedback to staff:

- Interest in simplifying designs and avoiding over-customization to ensure faster implementation.
- Questions regarding the Fire Department's role in the review process and ensuring it doesn't hinder project speed.
- A request to ensure micromobility devices (e-scooters, e-bikes, etc.) are a part of the new Action Plan.
- Inquiry into whether the 2028 goal for zero fatalities will remain the target
- Interest in advocating for speed enforcement cameras and other technology-based solutions.
- A commitment to ensuring meeting times are coordinated so the Youth Commission can participate fully in future sessions.

Going forward, the Vision Zero staff would like the following feedback:

- 2020 Plan Review: What are your commission's thoughts on the existing [2020 Plan](#)?
- What is missing from the 2020 plan that we should address in the 2026 Update that is relevant to your commission.
- Unlike the 2020 plan, which looked at broad corridors, we are now identifying specific half-mile segments, so that we can better prioritize our work.
- We are refreshing all crash maps with updated data and benchmarking 10 leading cities for best practices, as well as looking at best practices from NACTO and Vision Zero Network. Most importantly, we are building a "Quick Build" Toolkit to move projects from design to the street in months, not years.

As an FYI I wanted to share a couple of articles and speed graph on potential for death. Please feel free to share them with your commissions for background.

- [Thinking & Acting Differently for Vision Zero: Applying the Health Impact Pyramid to Roadway Safety](#)
- [Reflecting on What Works to Advance Vision Zero](#)
- [Top 10 Vision Zero Plan Elements That Inspire Us](#)
- [Top 10 Ways to Reinforce Local Vision Zero Commitments](#)

**From:** grace <gracetelegraphfair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2025 4:30 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair special events

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Hello members of Council

My name is Grace, and I am the coordinator of the Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair, a beloved Berkeley tradition now in its 42nd year. This is a legacy event and the one of the oldest in Berkeley. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the newly enforced regulations that appear to make it impossible for this long-standing event to continue in its historic location.

If these new rules remain in place, the Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair a fixture of Berkeley's cultural and artistic history will effectively lose its home. This new motion is proposing to permanently remove Telegraph Avenue and Adeline Street as locations for special events, which would erase the very spaces that have hosted Berkeley's most iconic and community-centered celebrations for decades. I have already worked in good faith with the City by relocating the fair to Adeline to comply with previous requests and regulations only to now be told that we are being pushed out once again. I am hoping to understand what new location the City might propose, as it's difficult to imagine that this decades-old event, which has brought so much joy and community connection, would simply cease to exist.

For over four decades, this fair has supported local artisans, musicians, and small businesses, giving them a platform to share their work and strengthen their connection to the Berkeley community. It has served as an incubator for creative entrepreneurs and a vital contributor to the city's holiday economy.

To now face the loss of my business because of these new City rules is devastating. The City of Berkeley is taking away my livelihood the very work that I have built from the ground up with honesty, dedication, and full compliance with every regulation ever required. I have followed every rule, and even created additional safety and organizational measures to ensure these events uphold Berkeley's values and community spirit. Yet despite all of that, the City is proposing to eliminate not just my business, but the lifeline for hundreds of small local artists, vendors, and craftspeople who depend on this event to make a living.

This is how I feed my children, and how many others in our community feed theirs. As the lowest earning demographic in the most expensive places to live. The City's decision would not only dismantle my livelihood but would also strip away the opportunity for countless small businesses to earn income during a critical time of year. To take this away after decades of service and collaboration with the City would unravel not just my family's stability, but a vital piece of Berkeley's creative and economic fabric.

I respectfully urge the City to work with me in identifying a new, viable location where this cherished event can continue to thrive. I propose relocating the event further south on Telegraph Avenue, between Parker Street and Stuart Street, which provides ample space for emergency vehicles and allows for a logical reroute of traffic and bus service. This solution would preserve the event's historical integrity while addressing the City's public safety concerns. I would be more than happy to collaborate with City

staff to find a solution that honors both safety and Berkeley's long-standing support for local art and culture.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I truly believe that, together, we can preserve the spirit of this event and ensure that the Telegraph Avenue Holiday Street Fair continues to serve the people of Berkeley for generations to come.

Grace Teasdale

510-672-4590

[Gracetelegraphfair@gmail.com](mailto:Gracetelegraphfair@gmail.com)

[Telegraphfair.com](http://Telegraphfair.com)

**Durr, Jasmine**

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**From:** gerald baptiste <gdbapt1@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 25, 2025 12:57 PM  
**To:** Berkeley Mayor's Office; Kesarwani, Rashi; Taplin, Terry; Bartlett, Ben; Tregub, Igor; O'Keefe, Shoshana; Blackaby, Brent; Lunaparra, Cecilia; Humbert, Mark; City Clerk; Allen, Shallon L.; Radu, Peter; Delores Nochi Cooper; Noladej; GERALD BAPTISTE; Lucky R. Thomas; Andre Campbell; orlandow@gmail.com; All Council  
**Subject:** One BJAI members questions

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**City of Berkeley**  
 Special Events Department  
 2180 Milvia Street  
 Berkeley, CA 94704

**Attn:** Ms. Shallon Allen

**From:** Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI)  
**Date:** October 24, 2025

Immediate Clarification, Evidence, and Remedial Action Required — Juneteenth Event Policies, Fees, and Entertainment Zone Classification

**Dear Ms. Allen,**

On October 8, 2025, I received your email regarding the City of Berkeley's notice to Special Events Organizers. This letter serves as a formal business request for immediate clarification and remedial action concerning Juneteenth event policies, fees, relocation suggestions and Entertainment Zone classifications.

For over five decades, Berkeley's Juneteenth has stood as a living testament to Black endurance, imagination, and community sovereignty. This is not a "special event." It is a civic inheritance — born from struggle, raised by faith, and sustained by generations of neighbors who turned history's pain into music, markets, and motion.

The recent City Information Report regarding Entertainment Zones, event fees, and street closure restrictions does more than regulate; it redefines the City's control of public space by mandating where culture is permitted to inhale, exhale, and breathe. We are not begging; we are enlightening — as only history can deliver. Juneteenth is not merely tolerated by the City; it is part of Berkeley's soul.

As the moon shimmered over Adeline's corridor, glinting like light off an ocean mirror, our streets carried drummers, scholars, grandmothers, and children whose laughter made asphalt sacred. To confine this legacy within administrative boxes is to forget that freedom itself began as a gathering — outdoors, unsanctioned, and holy.

Our questions are not resistance; they are responsibility. The Black community of South Berkeley seeks clarity, transparency, and partnership, not to obstruct progress, but to ensure progress does not erase the very people who built the stage.

While we honor the City’s stated concern for safety, compliance, and urban density, we must also recognize what lies beneath the surface: a bureaucratic tide threatening to wash away the cultural geography of South Berkeley. Technical memos may appear neutral, but their impacts are personal, generational, and geographic. When fire codes and fee structures become instruments of cultural displacement, we must ask: whose safety, and whose city, are truly being protected?

The challenge is not merely logistical; it is moral, cultural, and historical. Berkeley must decide whether it will continue to make room for the people and stories that gave it conscience. Please do not get lost in the forest for the trees. We are concerned equally about all five subjects below. We also have plenty of other questions, but are patient for your answers before moving on to our next round of questions.

## **Core Challenge – Preservation, Regulation, and Accountability**

### **1. Fire Code and Public Safety**

Juneteenth has been safely managed for over four decades through volunteer marshals, block coordinators, and City collaboration. The City’s current directives treat this tradition as a new, unvetted commercial spectacle, without supporting incident data or risk assessment.

#### **Key Questions:**

- What studies, data collection, or public forums did the City perform to conclude that the new California Fire Code applies to the Ashby–Alcatraz corridor for the Juneteenth Festival?
- Our research shows that California Fire Code requirements for fire apparatus access (26-ft minimum width where adjacent buildings exceed 30 ft) apply primarily to taller buildings concentrated in specific segments. Can the City provide its study, which concludes that this scenario exist on the BJA festival footprint?
- Have alternative, collaborative safety measures been fully explored? Our analysis indicates:
  - The Adeline corridor north of Ashby to Fairview has medium likelihood of triggering Fire Code requirements (mixed 2–4 story buildings).
  - The Fairview to Alcatraz stretch consists mostly of 1–3 story structures; Fire Code requirements may not apply uniformly.
  - The Alcatraz approach/transition area is primarily low-rise, with low likelihood of triggering Fire Code requirements.
- Please provide the City’s “block-to-block” methodology or study determining whether Ashby–Alcatraz corridor streets fail to meet fire-lane width requirements.

### **2. Fee Structures and Community Equity**

Imposed fees mirror commercial entertainment licensing, burdening heritage-based organizers with limited resources and threatening financial viability.

#### **Key Questions:**

- Have sliding-scale fees or exemptions for heritage events been evaluated?
- Can the City justify fees exceeding standard administrative costs for non-commercial gatherings?

### **3. Entertainment Zone Classification**

Redesignating Juneteenth as an Entertainment Zone event risks displacing it from South Berkeley, severing centuries of cultural geography.

#### **Key Questions:**

- What criteria determined zone boundaries, and how were community voices incorporated?
- Why were South Berkeley residents and businesses excluded from input and discussion despite historical precedent?

#### **4. Transparency and Procedural Clarity**

Compressed timelines and opaque communication impede meaningful dialogue and violate standard municipal practices for culturally significant events.

##### **Key Questions:**

- What mechanisms exist for proactive, two-way communication with heritage organizers?
- How does the City ensure processes respect historical continuity?

#### **5. Strategic Considerations – Cultural Sovereignty**

Juneteenth is a living curriculum of civic literacy, art, and intergenerational knowledge. Relocation or constraining rules threaten Berkeley’s moral and cultural architecture.

##### **Key Questions:**

- How can Berkeley affirm its commitment to racial equity while upholding City codes?
- Can the City co-create a model balancing safety, fiscal responsibility, and cultural preservation?

#### **Comparative Evidence and Noted Absences**

- **Peer Practices:** Cities with comparable Juneteenth observances (Oakland, Houston, San Antonio, Washington, D.C.) successfully combine safety, site continuity, and sliding-scale or heritage fee exemptions. What compensation has the City calculated as compensation for displacing BJA?
- **Gaps in Berkeley:** There is no known equity impact analysis, nor any transparent boundary methodology for Entertainment Zones, no record of sliding-scale fees, and no documented alternative safety strategy evaluation that has been delivered to BJA to review, study or dispute. Will the city provide these records to BJA?

BJA expects the City to provide supporting documentation or correct these characterizations with precise citations to City records.

#### **Specific Demands – Immediate and Binding**

##### **A. Immediate Administrative Actions (within 10 business days; acknowledgment within 3):**

1. Written acknowledgment of receipt and designation of City official(s) for engagement.
2. Immediate suspension of any enforcement, relocation, or reclassification action pending review.

##### **B. Documentation & Justification (deliverables within 30 calendar days):**

1. Full copies of risk assessments, incident reports, and professional safety analyses.
2. Complete methodology, criteria, maps, and records of stakeholder input for Entertainment Zone boundaries.
3. Fiscal rationale, equity analysis, and legal opinions supporting current fee schedules.
4. Documentation of alternative safety measures and reasons for their rejection.
5. Legal opinions or code interpretations supporting any proposed relocation or reclassification.

**C. Remedy Proposals (deliverables within 30 calendar days):**

1. Fee exemption, sliding-scale, or credit mechanism for recognized heritage events.
2. Co-designed site-specific safety plan preserving historical locations.
3. Scheduled in-person stakeholder convening no later than 45 calendar days from receipt of this letter.

**Consequences of Non-Response**

BJAI seeks partnership and resolution. However, failure to meet the above requests will compel public disclosure, administrative appeals, formal equity complaints, and legal remedies. BJA will vigorously defend the community's civic inheritance.

**Closing – Standards Berkeley Owes Its Citizens**

Berkeley's commitment to equity, inclusion, and operational integrity requires transparent, evidence-based decision-making and deference to long-standing community practice. Reclassification, relocation, or commercial-fee imposition without rigorous justification is unacceptable.

We demand the requested documentation and proposed remedies within the timelines above and remain ready to co-construct practical solutions protecting the operational integrity and cultural continuity of Berkeley's Juneteenth. We last met with the City of Berkeley for an exit interview and have requested three (3) times for AI copies of that meeting. No one has responded from the City since July 3, 2025. Please forward a copy of that meeting to us.

**Respectfully,**

Gerald Baptiste, Jr.  
Board Director  
Berkeley Juneteenth Association, Inc. (BJAI)

**CC:** Mayor; City Manager; Race & Equity Officer; Councilmembers Bartlett & Taplin; Cultural Affairs Division; City Attorney

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To include in 12/3 DFSC packet - Fwd: follow-up from 10/29 DFSC - ETS

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From Liza Lutzker <liza.lutzker@gmail.com>

Date Wed 11/26/2025 7:11 AM

To May, Keith <KMay@berkeleyca.gov>

Cc Sprague, David A. <DSprague@berkeleyca.gov>; Lana, Sarah <slana@berkeleyca.gov>; Michael Perry WILSON <mpwilson@berkeley.edu>; Wilson, Michael@DIR <MWilson@dir.ca.gov>; Theo Gordon <theodore.a.gordon@gmail.com>; Taj Herzer-Baptiste <tajtacoma2020@gmail.com>; gsmjfcs@gmail.com <gsmjfcs@gmail.com>

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Hi Chief May,

Can you please include this full email including this introductory text (no need to include attachments) in the upcoming DFSC packet? It is an email I sent to Sarah Lana with others cc'ed just over 3 weeks ago but I have received no response or even acknowledgement of its receipt.

I would like the DFSC commissioners to have a somewhat deeper understanding of some of the most concerning methodological issues with the ETS, that there are some real solutions to try to address those issues at no cost to the city, and that there are offers of technical and administrative help to do so that the Department has not yet expressed an interest in engaging with.

Thank you,  
Liza

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Liza Lutzker** <[liza.lutzker@gmail.com](mailto:liza.lutzker@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Nov 4, 2025 at 8:57 PM

Subject: follow-up from 10/29 DFSC - ETS

To: <[slana@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:slana@berkeleyca.gov)>

Cc: Sprague, David A. <[dsprague@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:dsprague@cityofberkeley.info)>, <[KMay@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:KMay@berkeleyca.gov)>, <[gsmjfcs@gmail.com](mailto:gsmjfcs@gmail.com)>, Theo Gordon <[theodore.a.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:theodore.a.gordon@gmail.com)>, Taj Herzer-Baptiste <[tajtacoma2020@gmail.com](mailto:tajtacoma2020@gmail.com)>, Amiri, Wahid <[wamiri@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:wamiri@berkeleyca.gov)>, Helmbrecht, Mark <[MHelmbrecht@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:MHelmbrecht@berkeleyca.gov)>, Anderson, Eric <[EAnderson@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:EAnderson@berkeleyca.gov)>

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for taking the time to engage with me on Wednesday about concerns around the ETS. I know that it is something BFD and you have been working on for a long time and I know it must be difficult to hear criticisms of it, especially when you all feel like the work is complete. However, as I mentioned during our conversation, I think that the consultant really let you all down in this process by allowing it to move forward using a convenience sample and I actually think that they should be on the hook for

fixing it to the greatest extent possible, without extra costs incurred to you all. I would be more than willing to go to bat for this approach in collaboration with you all and/or to work with a councilmember to think through a resolution.

I want to reiterate very clearly here that I have no particular desired outcome here other than to actually get the best possible answer to how things would unfold in terms of evacuation in Berkeley. I'm a (volunteer) advocate, yes, but first and foremost I am a scientist - I'm looking for the truth here and I am deeply concerned that the model inputs on resident behaviors derived from the survey mean that the model results could be highly inaccurate. Again, just to be very clear, my concern about the number of people without cars being so far off in the survey results is not just about how many people need to evacuate by means other than a car - my real concern is that this huge discrepancy is a symptom of the larger issue with the survey, which is that it captured a very non-representative slice of the Berkeley population. [Here is a good link](#) (not oversimplified but not overly technical) describing the issues with the kind of sampling used in this survey (convenience sampling) and when you do and don't want to use that kind of approach ("Convenience sampling is not practical when any data used in your research needs to be definitive, representative, and unbiased.").

And I know that you all feel that you got geographic representativeness by hills and flats regions in the survey, but there is a ton of heterogeneity within those groups in terms of the individuals who live there and how they are likely to behave. Let me give two quick examples of the issue here, focused on how the group who accessed and responded to the survey are not representative but instead are much more likely to be those who:

- Have greater access to receiving information about surveys and other announcements from the city. This may bias survey results toward people who are already well prepared and will be able to receive evacuation orders more easily, so oversampling these people may have led to shorter estimated evacuation times than would be experienced for the overall population.
- Have more free time to reply to the survey received. This may bias survey results toward people who are retired and older, so oversampling these people may result in a group with more special mobility needs who will take longer to mobilize for an evacuation and may have led to longer estimated evacuation times than would be experienced for the overall population.

These are just two examples of the issues that arise because of the selection bias that arises from non-representative samples (those who received and filled out the survey are significantly different from those who did not fill out the survey). As you can see, these two examples would bias the results in opposite directions. There are numerous other possible issues - these are just two that came easily to my mind. The overall issue is that the survey results simply cannot be relied upon as is, and further using survey results to populate model parameters will simply exacerbate these biases

Here are three examples of recent(ish) surveys that used representative sampling and weighting techniques (using individual level demographics), and so their findings are expected to be broadly representative of the entire population in the City:

- Bicycle preferences survey run out of PW for 2017 Bike Plan (see page 22, section 4.6 of [this document](#))
- BerkDOT survey run out of PW as part of the Re-Imagining Public Safety process ([see this presentation](#))

- Results from this privately funded survey about bicycling opinions and preferences ([here is the methodology](#) and here is a [summary of results](#))

I do not think that BFD can practically start over and redo the entire survey, as desirable as that would be. However, I do think that you could ask for the consultants to use census data on the survey results to weight responses using variables such as zip code, # of people in the household, presence of K-12 children in the household, # vehicles in the household, travel modes used by commuters in the household, etc. This should not be terribly difficult, and then model results could be rerun with weighted survey results. This would give you a much more accurate set of results than what you currently have. Again, I am more than willing to help here. I would really like to see BFD (and taxpayers) get the best possible information for this critical city issue.

Obviously, this also is concerning to me in terms of how it relates to planning for bike safety and other safety projects. You said that nowhere in the bike plan does it say that the results of evacuation studies would be used to hold up a bike safety project, but on page 105, it says "As a result of this analysis, design alternatives that would significantly impair the delivery of emergency services or community evacuation, as outlined in the City of Berkeley Evacuation Time Study and subsequent sensitivity studies, may not be recommended unless there is no other viable solution to critical traffic safety issues." My concern is that there is not any definition of what constitutes "significant" and I do not think that the current ETS model can give you an accurate enough quantitative assessment of impacts on evacuation to reliably make this sort of decision. Again, I would love to help to try to get Berkeley to the point where we can get an accurate estimate of evacuation time delays (or improvements) that might result from streetscape changes.

Last, but not least, I'm sharing with you two pieces of information related to our side discussion around enforcement vs. other interventions to improve safety of folks on our roads:

- [This seminal paper](#) that has really transformed how traffic safety professionals are doing their work. Its main thesis, and what Vision Zero cities around the country are now recognizing, is that not all traffic safety interventions are equivalent in terms of their efficacy, and that things like education and (non-automated) enforcement are likely to have much less impact on safety than things like physical infrastructure and signal changes. I expect this framework to underlie the upcoming revisions to Berkeley Vision Zero Action Plan.
- Regarding Walk Bike Berkeley's support for enforcement, as I stated when we spoke, we were [the](#) organization pushing the city to have our lobbyists get Berkeley to be one of the pilot cities allowed to use automated enforcement (the only clearly effective and lasting form of enforcement). This started with [AB 550 in 2021/2022](#) (failed in legislature) and again with [AB 645 in 2023/2024](#) (passed). Unfortunately, we were unable to get onto the list due to backroom dealings in Sacramento that I'm not privy to. We will be very supportive of automated enforcement beginning in Berkeley as soon as allowable (unfortunately, not likely to happen until 2030 or so, when this pilot ends). We already [tried again this year](#), but to no avail.

Thanks for listening. I would like to be a partner here, genuinely. You are doing critical work for the city and my hope and desire is for it to be as well-informed and useful as possible. Please let me know if you'd like to schedule any follow-up to suggest a path forward.

Thank you,  
[Liza Lutzker](#)