



Peace and Justice  
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MEETING**  
**Monday, February 3, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**  
South Berkeley Senior Center  
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

**AGENDA**

**Mayor Adena Ishii**  
Andrea Cassidy

**Rashi Kersarwani:**  
Sarah Bell

**Terry Taplin:**  
Veta Jacquelin

**Ben Bartlett:**  
Carole Marasovic

**Igor Tregub**  
Deborah Fink

**Shoshana O'Keefe:**  
Nimrod Pitskar Elias

**Brent Blackaby:**  
Robin Mencher

**Cecilia Lunaparra:**  
Luke Taylor

**Mark Humbert**  
Ilene Lee

**BUSD:**

**Appel-** Grace Morizawa

**Shanoski-** Jeannette McNeil

**Chang-** Sandy Park

**Vasudeo-** Sheela Jivan

**Babitt-** Dwayne Phillips

**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

1. Chair and Vice-Chair Peace and Justice Commission Election
2. Resolution to Mount Progress Flag in School Board Meeting Room
3. Discussion and Action for the Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan

## SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

4. No communications received.

## 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

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

### 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  
[Ovance-dozier@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:Ovance-dozier@cityofberkeley.info) (email)*



Peace and Justice  
Commission

Peace and Justice Commission  
January 13, 2025

## 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, Taylor, Fink, Phillips, Lee, Cassidy, Jivan, Park, Mencher, Jacquelin, McNeil

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Elias

**Leave of Absence:**

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 6

Public Comments: 2

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

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 11/18/24.

**M/S/C:** Morizawa, Park

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Taylor, Fink, Phillips, Lee, Cassidy, Jivan, Park,

**Noes:**

**Abstain:** Mencher, Phillips, McNeil, Jacquelin

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Elias

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

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

## SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

### 4. Meeting Schedule for 2025

Calendar has been set

**M/S/C:** Lippman, Taylor

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Taylor, Fink, Phillips, Lee, Cassidy, Jivan, Park, Mencher, Jacquelin, McNeil

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Elias

### 5. Sanctuary City Discussion and Action

Commissioner Morizawa will make amendments and forward to secretary to be distributed to Mayor and City Council

**M/S/C:** Lippman, Lee

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Taylor, Fink, Phillips, Lee, Cassidy, Jivan, Park, Mencher, Jacquelin, McNeil

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Elias

### 6. Discussion and Possible Action for the Peace and Justice Work Plan.

No action taken.

**M/S/C:**

**Ayes:**

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

## SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

### 7. No communications received prior to meeting.

## SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

**M/S/C:** Lippman, Morizawa

**Ayes:** Lippman, Morizawa, Taylor, Fink, Phillips, Lee, Cassidy, Jivan, Park,  
Mencher, Jacquelin, McNeil

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Elias

Respectfully Submitted,

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Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission

## 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.*

2025 BAY AREA DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

# CARRYING THE LIGHT FOR JUSTICE

*“Neighbors, not Enemies”*

Together, we stand against mass detention and mass deportation.



WRONG IN 1941, WRONG TODAY.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Michael Ishii**

Executive Director  
Tsuru for Solidarity

CLIFFORD I. UYEDA AWARDEE

**Dr. Satsuki Ina**

PRESENTED BY

**Bay Area DOR Consortium**



**SUN, FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

1:00–3:00 PM

Program at AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres  
followed by Reception at JCCCNC  
San Francisco Japantown

RSVP @ [tinyurl.com/BADOR25](https://tinyurl.com/BADOR25)

## **ACTION POSSIBILITIES IN FEBRUARY 2025**

### **IMMIGRANTS RIGHTS:**

**Participate in a basic training for immigrants rights advocates on “Know Your Rights” (in English).** Saturday, February 8, 11 am - 1 pm, at La Peña Cultural Center. (See the flyer on the opposite side.) Make your own Know Your Rights cards at this link: <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

**Rapid Response Team:** Get trained to be part of a team to serve as witnesses in the case of an ICE raid. (The team will take notes, photos and videos, with a lawyer as part of the team.) The January 30 training is full. [Sign up here to be notified about the next training.](#)

**Join the Bay Resistance network for alerts on immigrants rights events and mobilizations, as well as on Palestine. To join:** Download the *Signal* app and accept an invitation to join from Marla for the “Second Sunday” group. *Your phone # will be shared only within our group.*

### **Sanctuary City Resolutions and Local Ordinances:**

East Bay Sanctuary Covenant would like residents in bay area cities (beyond Oakland and Berkeley) to help to initiate local city resolutions and ordinances to pledge non-cooperation with ICE. Contact: [rebecca@eastbaysanctuary.org](mailto:rebecca@eastbaysanctuary.org)

**Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity (IM4HI)** is looking for volunteers for its Accompaniment Program. Offer community, personal relationship and guidance to local resources for individuals seeking asylum. Join a “welcome team” to accompany individuals. [See their website here.](#)

**Attend the Bay Area Day of Remembrance: Carrying the Light for Justice: Neighbors, Not Enemies,** Sunday, February 16, 1 pm, 1881 Post Street, SF. Rev. Michael Ishii, executive director of Tsuru for Solidarity (TFS), will be the main speaker

### **POSTCARD WRITING AND PHONE BANKING:**

#### **WISCONSIN STATE SUPREME COURT ELECTION: April 1, 2025**

Help protect democracy in a crucial swing states and protect the liberal majority in the State Supreme Court. The rightwing is pouring money into this race. Postcard writing and phone banking will be needed. More info to come!





Peace and Justice Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR  
TBD, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Peace and Justice Commission (P&J)  
Submitted by:  
Subject: Peace and Justice Commission 2024-2025 Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

The Peace and Justice Commission (P&J) is responsible for advising the City Council and the School Board on all matters related to peace and social justice. P&J's scope also includes the creation of community awareness around issues of social justice, holding public hearings and community forums on such issues, development of ways to resolve conflict which do not involve violence and which may be applied on a local level as well as a national level, acting as a liaison between community groups and City government, and advice on the responsible investment of public funds.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The P&J has a broad scope and is guided by the international principles of human rights, which mandate that they are to be observed universally. While the commission may review subjects of interest to other Berkeley commissions, it does so through the lens of social justice and human rights. It will collaborate with other commissions on matters of shared interest, as well as relying on the wisdom of the general Berkeley community.

The Commission regrets that it was unable to complete the fiscal year workplan for 2024-2025 on time. It was constrained by the extended Council consideration of terminating and merging the Commission with Human Welfare and Community Action. The Commission was also severely under-appointed until mid 2024. Finally, it experienced a rush of new appointments, with 12 new members in the last year, which complicated its ability to plan. Consequently, this Workplan covers only the first half of 2025.

At the \_\_, 2025 meeting P&J approved the work plan to send to the City Council as follows: Motion/second to approve the 2024-2025 Workplan. The motion carried x-x-x-x; Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent:

BACKGROUND

The Trump election in November 2024 brings fresh dangers to human rights, civil rights, civil liberties, and democracy in general.

Just as in 2016, many in Berkeley and nationally are discussing the idea of resistance to

Trump’s unfolding attacks. The City has stepped up to the plate to reaffirm its Sanctuary City status, and the state of California is allocating money for legal defense on a number of fronts.

However, the onslaught of autocratic executive orders call into question this country’s commitment to seeking freedom and justice for all. And while Berkeley, the Bay Area, and California may hope to be a beacon for the best of American values, we are also heir to the country’s building blocks of inequality. Trump’s extremism challenges us to examine our own shortcomings. We must ask ourselves, how can we act locally to fortify the struggle for human rights, economic fairness, racial equity, and climate justice in today’s political environment?

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS**

P&J considers effective climate action to be an urgent environmental justice matter. The worst effects of both environmental and climate degradation are felt in communities of color. Low-income people, women, and children are also greatly affected, both globally and domestically.

P&J intends to bring an environmental justice perspective to its work on climate and the environment.

**ONGOING PROJECTS**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>
Nuclear-Free Berkeley	The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act came into force in 1986 (Chapter 12.90.070 Section 030D). The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (NFBA) to oversee and reinforce compliance with the terms of the Act.
Socially Responsible investment and Procurement Policy (SRIPP) and Sustainable Sweatshop-Free Berkeley	The SRIPP Subcommittee of the Peace and Justice Commission was chartered by resolution of the Berkeley City Council on July 16, 2019. Its immediate charge is to develop a proposed policy to “govern the Commission’s advisory role in socially responsible investing and socially responsible procurement.”

**POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION**

P&J is considering research and action on a of number crucial social issues. The commission encourages its members to study and develop recommendations, either as individuals or in subgroups smaller than the commission quorum, on subjects on or off this list. The commission

may create issue-based subcommittees as appropriate.

When an issue area overlaps with the mandate of another City commission, the individual or subgroup is encouraged to work with the commission secretary to contact the other commission, so that the two can share information and discuss collaboration. Commissioners must take care to follow rules given in the current edition of the Commissioners' Manual, Chapter III, Section C.1. At the same time, commissioners are encouraged to seek input from community members and experts, either informally or in presentations to official commission meetings.

The objective of these initiatives is to produce recommendations for action by the city council of the school board, or further study and action by the commission itself. The commission should follow the directions given in the Commissioners' Manual, Chapter VI, Section C, especially Sub-Sections C.7 and C-8.

It will be crucial to name concrete actions that can feasibly be taken, and it is suggested that they reflect a set of short-term, medium-term, and long-term actions.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Future action items that P&J may send to City Council could require staff time to develop, finalize, and/or implement. The process of developing these proposals could entail small amounts of staff overtime or rental of City spaces for community discussion. It is too early to estimate any potential costs.

#### CONTACT PERSON

, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission,