

Peace and
Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, February 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703

REVISED AGENDA

Mayor Adena Ishii:
Andrea Cassidy

Rashi Kersarwani:
Selim Yasavul

Terry Taplin:
Adam Weisberg

Ben Bartlett:
Carole Marasovic

Igor Tregub:
Deborah Fink

Shoshana O'Keefe:
Nimrod Pitsker Elias

Brent Blackaby:
Robin Mencher

Cecilia Lunaparra:
Luke Taylor

Mark Humbert:
Ilene Lee

BUSD:

Appel- Grace Morizawa

Shanoski- Jeannette McNeil

Chang- Babak Sani

Vasudeo- Vacant

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

Clark- Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.
5. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items. Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary.
6. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
 - The Chair reports on PJC activities and informal ad hoc subcommittees
 - Report back on Immigration from the Mayor's Sanctuary task Force (Cassidy, Marosovic and Morizawa)

7. Secretary's Report

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. A Conversation with Irma Gallego Chavez on her LGBTQIA experience in Mexico and immigrant experience emigrating from Mexico to the United States under political asylum grounds. Client, East Bay Sanctuary Convent. Discussion.
 - a. "Sleeping Dragon Waking Up" - Irma Gallego Chavez: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnCR2bmfskk>
 - b. Diego's video: <https://sanctuaryvoices.org/diego/>
 - c. Jay's Story: <https://sanctuaryvoices.org/jay/>
2. Presentation with Q and A on Privacy and Surveillance in the Current Immigration Era, Brian Hofer, Executive Director, Secure Justice. Discussion.
 - a. Brian Hofer's bio: <https://secure-justice.org/hofer-bio>
 - b. Secure Justice: <https://secure-justice.org/team>
3. Select commissioner(s) to present at council on March 10th (and Council Committee if the item is referred to Committee)
 - a. Alien Enemies Act: refer to the City Manager to refer to the appropriate department or division to develop an educational event, whether a panel of speakers, a film, a play or some combination of these, for the Berkeley community so that the broader community can be made aware of the impact of the Alien Enemies Act and its impact on Berkeley community members during World War II. Such event shall be free of charge and well-promoted.
 - b. Re-Affirming Commitment to Free Speech: Adopt this recommendation re-affirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to Free Speech and Assembly and its opposition to the detainment and deportation of immigrants without due process, violating their constitutionally protected speech.
4. ICE Killings in Minneapolis. Discussion. (See attached item)
5. Approve a revised letter to Council recommending LGBTQIA persons receive needed services under County Measure W to incorporate use of Proposition 1 (BHSA) to meet LGBTQIA needs.
6. Chair and Vice Chair Elections.
7. Rejecting militarization in Iran. Discussion.
 - a. A look at the US military assets heading to the Middle East: <https://apnews.com/article/us-military-middle-east-iran-protests-b7a56659d708f2f11f66a18135f44c40>
 - b. War, diplomacy, or revolt: What comes next in Iran?: <https://www.cnn.com/2026/01/16/middleeast/iran-protests-what-comes-next-latam-intl>

8. Discuss potential dates for one additional meeting to utilize the 10th meeting option for the Commission due to the cancellation of the January meeting. Action is acceptable if a date is proposed.

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications submitted to the Peace and Justice Commission are on file in the City Manager's Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the Secretary at or ttervalon@berkeleyca.gov

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

SECTION E. ATTACHMENTS

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.*



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

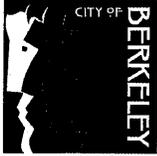
*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in 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 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

Tasha Tervalon
Peace and
Justice
Commission
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia
Street, 5th Floor
Berkeley, CA
94704



URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE
ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

Meeting Date: Jan 27, 2026

Item Description: Decrying violent actions by ICE and calling on Congress to ensure guardrails

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)
Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)
There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.

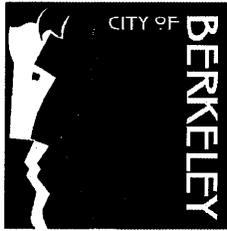
Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:

Two citizens were killed by Federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents this month, Renee Good on January 7, 2026, and Alex Pretti on January 24, 2026. Both murders took place after the submission deadline for Council reports.

Violence from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) has been escalating, and Congress is scheduled to vote on increased ICE funding this week.

This item calls on Congress to not provide additional funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") without including meaningful and significant guardrails to rein in the agency and how it operates in communities. It also calls on Congress to end Border Patrol deployments and end ICE and CBP's lawless surges in cities across the country.



Brent Blackaby
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 27, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Blackaby (Author), Mayor Ishii (Co-Author), Councilmember Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Decrying violent actions by ICE and calling on Congress to ensure guardrails

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution decrying the recent violent actions of DHS, CBP and ICE in Minneapolis calling on Congress to ensure any funding bill for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security includes meaningful and significant guardrails and expressing support for specific guardrails. Send copies to Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, and the rest of the California Congressional Delegation, Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, MN Governor Tim Walz, MN Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, MN Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, the Minneapolis and St. Paul City Councils, Senator Jesse Arreguín, and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Trump Administration's assault on communities in the name of immigration enforcement is eroding our constitutional rights and endangering residents. Immigration authorities are using increasingly dangerous tactics, such as engaging in unprovoked violence, pointing guns at civilians, and deploying chemical weapons.

In multiple cities, agents from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) have violently arrested civilians, including U.S. citizens, and deployed chemical weapons without warning in residential areas, harming school children and even local law enforcement. From September 2025 through January 2026, immigration agents have shot at least nine individuals, including four who died as a result: Renee Good, a mother of three in Minneapolis; Alex Pretti, a VA ICU nurse in Minneapolis; Keith Porter, Jr., a father of two in Los Angeles; and Silverio Villegas González, a father of two, in Chicago.

This item calls on Congress to not provide funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") without meaningful and significant guardrails to rein in the agency and

how it operates in communities in order to end Border Patrol deployments and end ICE and CBP lawless surges in cities across the country.

The Council calls on Congress to implement a plan to restructure DHS to bring more accountability to this sprawling agency, to ensure that the Department's essential national security and public safety functions, including cyber security and emergency management, can be separated from immigration enforcement, to abolish ICE, and to completely rebuild immigration enforcement agencies from the ground up to stop the culture of lawlessness and ensure guardrails and accountability.

The item calls on DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to resign, and failing that, for Congress to initiate immediate impeachment proceedings; calls for the immediate firing of US Customs & Border Control Commander-At-Large Gregory Bovino; and calls for the immediate firing of Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller.

The Council calls on the officers responsible for the deaths of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Keith Porter, Jr., and Silverio Villegas González, as well as the kidnappings of at least 9 children, to be held fully responsible for their actions by the judicial system in Minnesota, California, and Illinois and by the U.S. Department of Justice.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No environmental impacts from this specific resolution.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Brent Blackaby Council District 6 510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DEMANDING AN END TO ICE AND CBP SURGES IN MINNEAPOLIS AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IMMEDIATE DHS LEADERSHIP CHANGES, AND NECESSARY GUARDRAILS FOR ANY FUTURE FUNDING BILL FOR DHS

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's assault on communities in the name of immigration enforcement is eroding our constitutional rights and endangering residents; and

WHEREAS, immigration authorities are using increasingly dangerous tactics, such as engaging in unprovoked violence, pointing guns at civilians, and deploying chemical weapons; and

WHEREAS, in multiple cities, agents from ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) and CBP (Customs and Border Protection) have violently arrested civilians, including U.S. citizens, and deployed chemical weapons without warning in residential areas, harming school children and even local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, from September 2025 through January 2026, immigration agents have shot at least ten individuals, including four who died as a result: Renee Good, a mother of three in Minneapolis; Alex Pretti, a VA ICU nurse in Minneapolis; Keith Porter, Jr., a father of two in Los Angeles; and Silverio Villegas González, a father of two, in Chicago; and

WHEREAS, ICE and immigration agents have detained at least nine children in Minnesota this month, including at least one toddler, a cruel and inhumane misuse of force; and

WHEREAS, conditions in immigration detention facilities are rapidly deteriorating with facilities dangerously overcrowded and detained individuals and advocates reporting medical neglect, substandard food, inadequate access to clean water, and overuse of solitary confinement; and

WHEREAS, about ninety percent of people being detained are in for-profit facilities, which have a long record of cutting corners on essential services to reap profits; and

WHEREAS, since President Trump took office on January 20, 2025, an unprecedented thirty-seven people have died in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is also known as ICE, including several deaths that may have been preventable; and

WHEREAS, the immigration system is a civil system not a criminal system and immigration detention is intended to be a non-punitive system, as stated on ICE's own website.

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

A. The Council stands with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, and all the people of Minnesota who are peacefully protesting the lawless surge of ICE and CBP agents in their state, which is undermining public safety, harming and killing local residents, and taking an immense economic and psychological toll on residents.

B. The Council calls for an immediate end to ICE and CBP's lawless Operation Metro Surge in Minneapolis, and demands that no future ICE or CBP surges be initiated in any city across the country, as these surges are undermining public safety.

C. The Council calls on DHS Secretary Kristi Noem to resign, and failing that, for Congress to initiate immediate impeachment proceedings; calls for the immediate firing of US Customs & Border Control Commander-At-Large Gregory Bovino; and calls for the immediate firing of Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller.

D. The Council calls on the officers responsible for the deaths of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Keith Porter, Jr., and Silverio Villegas González, as well as the kidnappings of at least 9 children, to be held fully responsible for their actions by the judicial system in Minnesota, California, and Illinois and by the U.S. Department of Justice.

E. The Council expresses support for guardrails to be included in any funding bill for DHS that would:

1. End lawlessness enforcement including by requiring DHS to get a warrant, to stop using masked agents for immigration enforcement actions, and prohibiting enforcement at sensitive locations.
2. End detention abuses by ending the use of private, for-profit detention prisons, prohibiting funding for facilities that threaten the health, safety, or due process rights of detained people, and restoring access to bond hearings.
3. Rein in DHS by ensuring independent investigations into lawlessness and violence perpetrated by immigration agents and meaningful consequences for agents engaging in unprovoked violence and violations of individual's Constitutional rights.

F. The Council calls on the United States Congress not to provide any funding for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") without these guardrails to rein in the agency and how it operates in local communities, and not before Secretary Kristi Noem, Commander Gregory Bovino, and Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller leave office.

G. The Council calls on Congress to implement a plan to restructure DHS to bring more accountability to this sprawling agency, to ensure that the Department's essential national security and public safety functions, including cyber security and emergency management, can be separated from immigration enforcement, to abolish ICE, and to completely rebuild immigration enforcement agencies from the ground up to stop the culture of lawlessness and ensure guardrails and accountability.

H. The Council also calls on Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta to prepare for any future ICE or CBP action in California, including additional training for CHP and National Guard troops to protect peaceful protestors, or to prepare legal action to halt any future threatened federal funding cuts to Sanctuary City jurisdictions including Berkeley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk will send copies of this resolution to Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Adam Schiff, Congresswoman Lateefah Simon, and the rest of the California Congressional Delegation, Governor Gavin Newsom, Attorney General Rob Bonta, MN Governor Tim Walz, MN Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, MN Attorney General Keith Ellison, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, St. Paul Mayor Kaohly Her, the Minneapolis and St. Paul City Councils, Senator Jesse Arreguín, and Assemblymember Buffy Wicks.

Brian Hofer

Former Chair, City of Oakland Privacy Advisory Commission (2016-2025)
Executive Director and Founder, Secure Justice



Brian Hofer, Executive Director of Secure Justice and the former Chair of the City of Oakland's Privacy Advisory Commission, is at the forefront of the battle to safeguard privacy and civil liberties in California. Brian has led the charge for surveillance reform at the municipal level in more than 100 jurisdictions across the country, helping to establish oversight committees and crafting groundbreaking ordinances.

Notable achievements include the nation's first municipal facial recognition ban and ban on predictive policing analytics, helping to create multiple privacy commissions, authoring the nation's first sanctuary contracting ordinance, and pioneering initiatives to restrict the use of invasive surveillance technology. Brian's expertise has earned him recognition across the country, including the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Pioneer Award.

A sought-after speaker and consultant, Brian shares his insights at prestigious conferences and universities, and he regularly testifies before government bodies at the state and local level, amplifying the importance of digital rights. Through Secure Justice, he continues to advocate for a future where privacy and civil liberties are protected for all.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBTQ) People



Every year, EBSC provides legal assistance & psychological support to 400+ LGBTQ people fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries.

- » Helped 2,400+ LGBTQ people receive asylum
- » Over 85% success rate for asylum
- » Free or low-cost psychological evaluations
- » Community-building, arts, & storytelling workshops

- » 71 countries criminalize same-sexuality
- » 17 countries have laws that limit LGBTQ freedom of expression
- » 14 countries punish homosexuality with a life sentence in prison
- » 11 countries punish homosexuality with the death sentence. [Image here.](#)
- » [Map of countries that outlaw same-sex relations between consenting adults here.](#)

- » In countries that recognize same-sex marriage, there are backlashes of violence against LGBTQ people, including hate crimes
- » Police in many countries are among the most intolerant of the gay community; making a police report can bring additional violence and trauma
- » Many LGBTQ people are disowned by their families and are at risk of losing their jobs or their children if their sexual orientation or gender identity are discovered

WHAT IS THE ASYLUM PROCESS? LIVE FOR LGBTI PEOPLE?

Attaining asylum is a complex and difficult journey. Even if their claim is successful, LGBTI refugees are forced to confront the reality of a country that is homophobic and hostile to immigrants.⁴

Moreover, many LGBTI people – even in the Bay Area – do not have the support of their family or religious community, making the experience even more isolating.

Trans people in detention face greater danger than cisgender immigrants, including increased risk for sexual assault.⁵ To apply for asylum, LGBTI people must go through a rigorous process of retelling painful experiences of abuse; this process itself can be traumatizing for survivors.

OLAS LGBT SANCTUARY PROJECT



EBSC is a fiscal sponsor for OLAS, a community support program for LGBTI asylum seekers. Facilitated by bilingual LGBT, people of color and mental health professionals, OLAS workshops help to jumpstart healing through mental health support, stress reduction tools, community building, arts and education.

HIGHLIGHT ON TRANSGENDER ASYLUM SEEKERS

While all LGBTI people face discrimination, transgender asylum seekers are especially vulnerable to harassment and persecution.⁶ Trans people are especially vulnerable in detention centers, where they may not have access to necessary medication, such as hormone treatment, and often experience higher amounts of abuse.⁷

[1] <https://www.humanrightswatch.org/lgbt-the-law/map-of-criminalisation/>

[2] Yucatan Ranks Fourth Place in Homophobic Crimes in the Nation, www.yucatanahora.com (Jan. 19, 2011).

[3] Maciel, Camila, Investigation Identifies the Police as the Group Most Intolerant of Sexual Minorities, www.conapred.org (2011).

[4] http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2017/06/28/for_lgbtq_refugees_to_the_u_s_newfound_visibility_can_be_problematic.html

[5] A Government Accountability Office report (2013) found that 1/5th of confirmed sexual assault cases between 2009 and 2013 in detention facilities involved trans immigrants. ([Slate.com](http://www.slate.com))

[6] <http://www.newsweek.com/transgender-immigrant-asylum-court-decision-immigration-368607>

[7] <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/road-to- asylum-for-transgender-immigrants/> and <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/03/23/do-you-see-how-much-im-suffering-here/abuse-against-transgender-women-us>

CITY CLERK DEPARTMENT 2026 COUNCIL MEETING TIMELINE

COUNCIL MEETING	THURSDAY 12:00 PM - Day 33 - DEPT. REPORTS DUE TO CLERK	MONDAY 5:00 PM - Day 22 - COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS DUE TO CLERK	THURSDAY 12:00 PM - Day 19 - AGENDA COMMITTEE PACKET TO PRINT	MONDAY 2:30 PM - Day 15 - AGENDA COMMITTEE MEETING	WEDNESDAY 11:00 AM - Day 13 - FINAL AGENDA MEETING (PRINT AGENDA ON WED.)	THURSDAY By 5:00 PM - Day 12 - COUNCIL AGENDA DELIVERY
Winter Recess [December 3, 2025 through January 19, 2026]						
Jan 20	12/18	12/29	1/2 (Fri)	1/5	1/7	1/8
Jan 27	12/26 (Fri)	1/5	1/8	1/12	1/14	1/15
Feb 10	1/8	1/20 (Tue)	1/22	1/26	1/28	1/29
Feb 24	1/22	2/2	2/5	2/9	2/11	2/11 (Wed)
Mar 10	2/5	2/17 (Tue)	2/19	2/23	2/25	2/26
Mar 24	2/19	3/2	3/5	3/9	3/11	3/12
Spring Recess [March 25 through April 13, 2026]						
Apr 14	3/12	3/23	3/26	3/31 (Tue)	4/1	4/2
Apr 21	3/19	3/30	4/2	4/6	4/8	4/9
Apr 28	3/26	4/6	4/9	4/13	4/15	4/16
May 12	4/9	4/20	4/23	4/27	4/29	4/30
May 19	4/16	4/27	4/30	5/4	5/6	5/7
Jun 9	5/7	5/19 (Tue)	5/21	5/28 (Thur)	5/28 (Thur)	5/29 (Fri)
Jun 16	5/14	5/26 (Tue)	5/28	6/1	6/3	6/4
Jun 30	5/28	6/8	6/11	6/15	6/17	6/18
Jul 7	6/4	6/15	6/18	6/22	6/24	6/25
Jul 14	6/11	6/22	6/25	6/29	7/1	7/2
Jul 28	6/25	7/6	7/9	7/13	7/15	7/16
Summer Recess [July 29 through September 14, 2026]						
Sep 15	8/13	8/24	8/27	8/31	9/2	9/3
Sep 29	8/27	9/8 (Tue)	9/10	9/14	9/16	9/17
Oct 13	9/10	9/21	9/24	9/28	9/30	10/1
Oct 27	9/24	10/5	10/8	10/13 (Tue)	10/14	10/15
Nov 17	10/15	10/26	10/29	11/2	11/4	11/5
Dec 1	10/29	11/9	11/12	11/16	11/18	11/19
Dec 15	11/12	11/23	11/25 (Wed)	11/30	12/2	12/3
Winter Recess [December 16, 2026 through January 18, 2027]						

VTO Affected Dates	Holiday Affected Dates	Religious Holiday Affected Date
--------------------	------------------------	---------------------------------

Reports not submitted by the deadlines listed will not be included on the agenda.

Updated 9/19/2025