

Peace and
Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, May 4, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703

AGENDA

Mayor Adena Ishii:
Andrea Cassidy
Vice-Chair

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- George Lippman
Babitt- Pastor Dwayne L. Phillips- **Chair**
Clark- Jonah Press

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. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from April 6, 2026 Peace and Justice Commission Meeting
6. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items. Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary.
7. Commission Updates & Chairperson’s Report
 - The Chair reports on PJC activities and informal ad hoc subcommittees

8. Secretary's Report

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation from Police Accountability Board.
2. Declare Berkeley a Sanctuary City for Transgender and Gender Expansive People, and adopt a comprehensive set of policies to protect and support transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) residents.
3. Discuss City of Berkeley City manager proposed budget
 - a. Budget and Finance Committee agenda April 16, 2026:
<https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-agendas/2026-04-16%20Agenda%20Packet%20-%20Budget.pdf>
 - b. Budget and Finance Committee Attachment April 16, 2026 (PowerPoint presentation)
https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/legislative-body-meeting-attachments/Item%2002%20Budget%26Finance-FY2728%20Budget%20Update_04.16.26%20%283%29.pdf
4. Peace and Justice Commission Annual Workplan discussion.

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 D. ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Minutes from April 6, 2026
2. Draft Recommendation item to declare Berkeley a Sanctuary City for Transgender and Gender Expansive People, and adopt a comprehensive set of policies to protect and support transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) residents.
3. Information:
 - a. New York Times Article: These Masked Men in San Francisco Want One Thing: Your Signature
 - b. California Elections Code: Article 1. Improper Signature-gathering Tactics

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

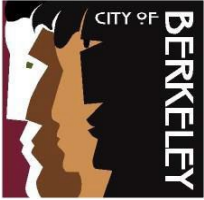
*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in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



Peace and Justice Commission

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Mayor Adena Ishii:
Andrea Cassidy
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Rashi Kersarwani:
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Ben Bartlett:
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Vasudeo- George Lippman
Babitt- Pastor Dwayne L. Phillips- **Chair**
Clark- Jonah Press

Meeting began at 6:33 PM with Chair Phillips presiding. Tasha Tervalon as Secretary

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- 9. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Phillips, Cassidy, Weisberg, Marasovic, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Arrived at 6:36: Commissioner Morizawa

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Leave of Absence: Commissioner Fink

- 10. Land Acknowledgement

- 11. Announcements

12. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.

Motion to approve the agenda with one change, Presenter for Item #2 is unavailable, commission will discuss the item without presentation.

M/S/C: Sani/Press

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Cassidy, Weisberg, Marasovic, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink

13. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 9, 2026 Peace and Justice Commission Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: in item #5- Capitalize U. S. President, comma after authorization. In item #10 add apostrophe in Flock's, change semicolon to comma and correct M/S/C to M/S/F for failed motion.

M/S/C: Sani/Press

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Marasovic, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: None

Abstain: Commissioner Cassidy

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink

14. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items. Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary.

of Public Present: 4

of comments: 2

15. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report

- The Chair reports on PJC activities and informal ad hoc subcommittees

16. Secretary's Report

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

5. Presentation from BPD regarding hate crimes and hate incidents: reporting, investigation and referral for prosecution with Q and A. Discussion only no action.
6. Presentation from Community Violence Solutions on Human Trafficking. Discussion only no action.
7. Recommendation to Council that the City of Berkeley be declared a sanctuary city for LGBTQIA+ persons including recommendations as to proposed City mandates to protect, and expand, the rights of trans persons. Discussion only no action.
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.

Motion to add the following date for a special meeting: December 7, 2026**M/S/C: Lippman/Press****Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press****Noes: Commissioners Cassidy and Marasovic****Abstain: None****Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias****Excused: Commissioner Fink****Motion to adjourn at 8:30****M/S/C: Lippman/Taylor****Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Cassidy, Weisberg, Marasovic, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press****Noes: None****Abstain: None****Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias****Excused: Commissioner Fink**



Peace and Justice
Commission

[CONSENT OR ACTION]
CALENDAR

May 4th, 2026

DRAFT

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Peace and Justice

Submitted by: Rev. Dwayne Philips, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission

Subject: On Declaring Berkeley a Sanctuary City for and Affording Legal
Protections to Trans and Gender Expansive People in Berkeley

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council declare Berkeley a **Sanctuary City for Transgender and Gender Expansive People**, and adopt a comprehensive set of policies to protect and support transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) residents through the following actions:

- Refer to the City Manager to review City of Berkeley data sharing and encryption practices to ensure compliance with SB 107 and SB 497, prohibiting the use of City resources—including staff time, equipment, and databases—in assisting out-of-state or federal agencies in investigating, detaining, or prosecuting individuals for seeking, providing, or assisting in lawful gender-affirming care; refer to the City Manager a review of data encryption policies for the City of Berkeley to prevent potential seizure of data that might nonconsensually “out” a TGNC person to another jurisdiction;
- Continue with current trends by formalizing updates to the Berkeley Building Code to require all newly constructed or majorly renovated commercial and public buildings to include gender-neutral or all-gender multi-stall facilities, or all-gender single stall restrooms in keeping with AB 1732 (non-retrospective);
- ~~Employment: Refer to the City Manager to utilize available Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants for the development of TGNC-specific fair-chance hiring initiatives.~~

- Recommend to Council to refer to the Board of Library Trustees to develop a policy that books and materials related to gender identity and trans persons be available in the library consistent with the Berkeley Public Library's adoption of the American Public Library's policy to challenge censorship
- Anti-discrimination in housing: Recommend that Council amend related ordinances to provide for the First-In-Time standard to be applied to all rental housing in the City of Berkeley. Refer to the City Manager and the Rent Stabilization Board to develop implementation and enforcement procedures and return them to Council.
- Recommend that Council refer to the City Manager that when the City sends the annual notice of license renewal to Berkeley businesses that a letter be included advising of employers' obligations under SB1343 including that of trans persons;
- Access to Mental Health Services: Urge the prioritization of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and upcoming Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funds to bridge the June 2026 funding gap for the Pacific Center and other TGNC-specific mental health lifelines.
- Housing Safety Protocols: Refer to the City Manager to direct the inclusion of TGNC-specific safety protocols in all capital-funded transitional housing and shelters, ensuring identity-respecting placement and anti-violence training for staff.
- Refer to the City Manager the designation of a TGNC Services Coordinator within the Department of Health, Housing, and Community Services (HHCS). This role shall serve as a specialized navigator for unhoused transgender and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) residents to:
 1. Provide direct assistance in navigating the Coordinated Entry System to ensure identity-aligned and safe shelter placements;
 2. Act as a technical advisor to city-funded shelter providers on implementing TGNC-safety protocols; and
- Work with other East Bay cities to explore the possibility of opening a trans shelter to which trans individuals facing challenges in other shelters can be.
- Objective Rental Standards (First in Time): Refer to the 4x4 the development of a 'First in Time' ordinance for residential rentals. This policy would require housing providers to:
 1. Publish all minimum screening criteria (e.g., credit, income, references) at the time of listing;
 2. Date and time-stamp all completed applications; and
 3. Offer tenancy to the first qualified applicant who meets the published criteria.
- Recommend that Council refer to the 4x4 that the Executive Director of the Rent Board write a letter to Berkeley landlords advising them of the rights of trans persons not to be discriminated against in tenancy;
- Recommend that Council refer to the City Manager to require that when inspections of workplaces are conducted for any reason, that the posting under SB1343 including trans rights, is in compliance; Have SB 1343 employer sexual harassment training requirements sent out to all Berkeley businesses in a flyer during license renewal.
- Include an addendum in all city vendor contracts with the following language: "Contractor shall ensure that all services and benefits provided under this

agreement are administered in a gender-neutral manner. Contractor is prohibited from discriminating against any person on the basis of actual or perceived gender identity, including non-binary and transgender status, in the provision of services, facilities, or employment opportunities related to this City contract."

- Update language in the city code (ie. BMC 13.32.010) that discriminates on the basis of sex and gender (highlighted below with suggested amendment).

SUMMARY

In response to an unprecedented federal assault on transgender rights, this recommendation codifies Berkeley's role as a haven. By declaring sanctuary status, Berkeley joins California cities including Sacramento and West Hollywood in refusing to comply with out-of-state "gender ideology" investigations. Berkeley continues its long tradition of standing at the vanguard of Civil Rights movements during moments of state-sanctioned bigotry. Many Berkeley departments have already taken steps, including Berkeley Parks opening gender-inclusive restrooms at Ohlone and Willard Parks. This recommendation formalizes and expands accessibility and safety mechanisms throughout the city.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None to the General Fund. All recommended actions utilize regulatory updates, existing departmental staff time, or restricted funding sources. Mental health support is directed from MHSA/BHSA state allocations, and employment initiatives are to be funded through federal workforce grants or capital project budgets.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The TGNC community is under a state of emergency due to coordinated federal actions since January 2025:

- Executive Order 14168 (signed Jan 20, 2025) redefined "sex" as a biological binary at conception for all federal agencies, stripping TGNC individuals of legal recognition in passports, federal housing, and healthcare. Executive Orders 14190, 14201, 14183, and 14187 each seek explicitly to erase transgender people from various areas of public and professional life.¹
- A December 2025 CMS rule proposed denying Medicare/Medicaid funding to any hospital providing gender-affirming care to minors. This threatens de facto bans on care at Berkeley-area hospitals.
- BPD reports indicate that hate crimes involving gender and sexual orientation were the second highest category of reported incidents in 2024, with anti-transgender

¹ <https://lgbtqbar.org/programs/advocacy-resources/trump-executive-order-tracker/>

events increasing statewide by 12.3% in 2025.^{2, 3}

- The Pacific Center faces a critical funding expiration in June 2026 as existing MHSA cycles transition to BHSA.
- In response to threats from the Federal Government, many medical facilities throughout California have ended their gender affirming care services, endangering the lives of countless people, particularly trans youth.
- In March, 2026 Idaho recently passed the most extreme anti-trans bathroom ban in the country, with convictions leading to years of incarceration; also in March, Kansas revoked drivers licenses for trans people and mandated medical facilities to report transgender patient data to the state, establishing a de facto registry of trans people

Precedence:

Multiple cities in California have taken similar steps to declare themselves havens for the trans community. West Hollywood in 2023, Sacramento and San Francisco in 2024, Richmond in 2025 and others all passed city resolutions reaffirming their commitment to the trans community and taking measures to materially protect and support TGNC individuals. Berkeley has already declared itself a sanctuary city for immigrants and has committed significant resources to that important work in response to the Federal government's anti-immigrant stance.

Rationale:

The federal characterization of gender-affirming care (GAC) as "junk science" is directly contradicted by the nation's leading medical authorities:

- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): Maintains that evidence-based GAC is medically necessary and life-saving. In December 2025, the AAP called federal restrictions a "baseless intrusion into the patient-physician relationship."⁴
- American Medical Association (AMA): Reaffirms that GAC—including hormones and social transition—is associated with significant decreases in anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.⁵
- The American Psychological Association (APA): issued a May 2025 statement criticizing the lack of transparency in federal reports and reaffirming that supportive

² <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/BPD%202024%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

³

<https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-third-annual-state-pride-report-honor-pride#:~:text=In%202024%2C%202.8%20million%20people,hate%20crimes%20please%20visit%20here.>

⁴

<https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/33988/AAP-Proposed-restrictions-to-gender-affirming-care?autologincheck=redirected>

⁵ <https://www.ama-assn.org/public-health/population-health/advocating-lgbtq-community>

mental health care and gender-affirming protocols significantly reduce suicide risk.⁶

Research from UCLA's Williams Institute and local Bay Area studies (2025) shows that LGBTQI+ individuals face a 30% higher rate of housing instability.⁷

A 2019 study of transwomen living in the Bay Area showed that, for every instance of intersectional discrimination, odds of housing instability increased by 1.25%⁸. In Berkeley, gender-nonconforming individuals in shelters report heightened acts of violence and theft when placed in facilities that do not respect their gender identity. Sanctuary status ensures these individuals are not just "housed," but safe.

Studies show that 70% of transgender people have experienced denial of access, verbal harassment, or physical assault in gender-segregated facilities. Furthermore, research from the Williams Institute confirms that inclusive bathroom policies do not increase safety risks for cisgender people.⁹ Conversely, forcing TGNC individuals into non-aligned facilities increases their risk of being victimized by 2.5 times the rate of cisgender peers.¹⁰ Beyond the TGNC community, all-gender stalls provide essential safety for caregivers of a different gender (parents with children or assistants for people with disabilities) who otherwise face exclusion or harassment in binary-gendered spaces.

BACKGROUND

On May 4th, 2026, the Peace and Justice Commission passed a motion as follows:

To adopt the above recommendation as stated above.

M/S:

Yes:

No:

Abstentions:

6

<https://updates.apaservices.org/statement-on-access-to-treatment-for-transgender-gender-diverse-and-nonbinary-people>

⁷ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/housing-is-an-lgbtq-issue/>

⁸ <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/16/22/4521>

⁹ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/safety-in-restrooms-and-facilities/>

¹⁰

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/violent-victimization-sexual-orientation-and-gender-identity-2017-2020>

Leaves of Absence:

Absences:

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

To be determined by staff.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Because the challenges facing the TGNC community are myriad and vast, many possible actions were considered for inclusion in this recommendation. Those chosen strike the best balance between non-capital intensive policy change and important declarations in language that resist the narrative shift the Federal administration is seeking with regards to gender identity.

CITY MANAGER

[The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.]

CONTACT PERSON

[Name], [Title], [Department], [Phone Number]

Attachments: [Delete if there are NO Attachments]

1: [Title or Description of Attachment]

2: [Title or Description of Attachment]

Guidance for Referenced Materials and Attachments

Attachment - BMC Adjustments

BMC 13.32.010 – Current

“It shall be either a misdemeanor or an infraction, in the discretion of the prosecutor, for any person to appear nude in any place open to the public or any place visible from a place open to the public. "Nude" within the meaning of this section means the absence of an opaque covering which covers the genitals, pubic hair, buttocks, perineum, anus or anal region of any person **or any portion of the breast at or below the areola thereof of any female person.**”

Amendment:

Eliminate “...or any portion of the breast at or below the areola thereof of any female person”.

These Masked Men in San Francisco Want One Thing: Your Signature

California's ballot initiative wars are so lucrative that signature gatherers are offering cash and pizza for names on a petition. The exchange is illegal, and state officials say they are investigating.

Listen · 5:19 min



By Heather Knight
Reporting from San
Francisco

April 10, 2026

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When people make deals on the sidewalks in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, they often sell drugs for cash. But this spring, some engaged in a different trade: offering cash for signatures to help initiatives qualify for the ballot.

On one afternoon this month, three men in ski masks set up a folding table in a part of San Francisco known for homelessness and addiction and handed out \$5 bills and pizza slices in exchange for signatures.

Up and down one block of Leavenworth Street, people in tattered clothes sat on the sidewalk, some smoking drugs, others nodding off. Some who gathered to sign petitions clutched drug paraphernalia in one hand and a pen in the other.

In a California ballot initiative season flush with cash, paid petitioners can make as much as \$15 per signature. Prices are sky high largely because a proposed ¹⁵ billionaires' tax has spurred countermeasures funded by billionaires, and various campaigns have entered a veritable bidding war for John Hancocks across the state.

While petitioners can legally earn money for convincing California voters to sign, it is illegal to pay signatories. And elections officials are supposed to reject signatures that are forged or don't belong to a registered voter.

Evan Underwood walked up Leavenworth after signing a petition at the table. Mr. Underwood, who said he is homeless, explained in an interview that he had signed the petition just for the cash and food. He said the men had told him what the measure was for, but he had already forgotten. (Mr. Underwood, 32, is registered to vote in San Francisco, according to voter records.)

The signature gatherers had clipboards in a crate with petitions for a measure that would require government audits of proposed taxes and could block the billionaires' tax. Building a Better California, a group backing the measure, has received at least \$45 million from the Google co-founder Sergey Brin and several million dollars each from the venture capitalists John Doerr and Michael Moritz, among others.

Molly Weedn, a spokeswoman for the audit measure, said the campaign has been working with law enforcement officials.

"Our campaign has a strict, zero-tolerance policy against any form of fraudulent activity," she said.

Kurt Oneto, a lawyer working on measures backed by Building a Better California, said the group is using a signature gathering firm, which in turn hires subcontractors. Those smaller companies seek signature gatherers on websites like Craigslist.

Mr. Oneto said the portion of signature gatherers engaged in fraud is “exceedingly¹⁶ small” and that the bad signatures would be tossed by the firm and elections officials. But gatherers are paid \$15 per signature when they turn in their petitions, regardless of whether the signatures are ultimately validated.

Mr. Oneto said anyone paying signatories and collecting invalid signatures was essentially stealing from the campaign donors. “Those folks are engaged in theft,” he said. “We’d love to see those crimes prosecuted.”

In March, a video of different signature gatherers in San Francisco went viral. They appeared to be asking a line of people to sign names that were not their own in exchange for cash. The activity has invited further criticism of California’s electoral process from Republicans, who accuse the state of allowing fraud to occur.

The office of California’s top elections official, Secretary of State Shirley Weber, said it is working with law enforcement to investigate such petition fraud. Spokesmen with the Police Department and District Attorney’s Office in San Francisco said they could not comment on current investigations.

Omar Ward, who posts social media videos of the Tenderloin under the alias J.J. Smith, posted the March video and others like it. He said he had seen fraudulent signature gathering at least 10 times in the city in the past several weeks.

Pablo Gonzalez said in an interview that he had signed a petition in March for cash, putting a name assigned to him by the signature gatherers instead of his own. He said he had no idea what the measure was about.

“I was just there for the five bucks,” he said.

Other videos have shown similar activity in Los Angeles’s Skid Row, and similar fraud has been reported in past California election cycles, sometimes resulting in convictions.

Bilal Mahmood, who represents the Tenderloin on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, said he has received several calls from constituents who were confused about why they were being offered money for signatures. He said it was

disheartening that rogue operators would “prey on the most vulnerable communities in San Francisco.”

Lawrence Smith, a handyman and longtime Tenderloin resident, said he was walking along Leavenworth Street recently when a man asked him to sign somebody else’s name on a petition for cash.

President Trump has frequently criticized California’s elections as fraudulent, and Mr. Smith said he worried the actions of some of these people would only reinforce that rhetoric.

Mr. Smith, who is Black, said he admonished the petitioner, who was also Black: “I told him, ‘Man, as long as it took Black folks to get the right to vote and you’re out here doing this?’”

Sheelagh McNeill contributed research.

Heather Knight is a reporter in San Francisco, leading The Times’s coverage of the Bay Area and Northern California.

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There Is a Newer Version of the California Code

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2010 California Code Elections Code Article 1. Improper Signature-gathering Tactics

ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 18600-18604

18600. Every person is guilty of a misdemeanor who:

(a) Circulating, as principal or agent, or having charge or control of the circulation of, or obtaining signatures to, any state or local initiative, referendum or recall petition, intentionally misrepresents or intentionally makes any false statement concerning the contents, purport or effect of the petition to any person who signs, or who desires to sign, or who is requested to sign, or who makes inquiries with reference to it, or to whom it is presented for his or her signature.

(b) Willfully and knowingly circulates, publishes, or exhibits any false statement or misrepresentation concerning the contents, purport or effect of any state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition for the purpose of obtaining any signature to, or persuading or influencing any person to sign, that petition.

(c) Circulating, as principal or agent, or having charge or control of the circulation of, or obtaining signatures to, any state or local initiative, intentionally makes any false statement in response to any inquiry by any voter as to whether he or she is a paid signature gatherer or a volunteer.

18601. Any person working for the proponent or proponents of an initiative or referendum measure or recall petition who refuses to allow a prospective signer to read the measure or petition is guilty of a misdemeanor.

An arrest or conviction pursuant to this section shall not invalidate or otherwise affect the validity of any signature obtained by the person arrested or convicted.

18602. Any person working for the proponent or proponents of a statewide initiative or referendum measure who covers or otherwise obscures the summary of the measure prepared by the Attorney General from the view of a prospective signer is guilty of a misdemeanor.

18603. Every person who offers or gives money or other valuable consideration to another in exchange for his or her signature on a state, county, municipal, or district initiative, referendum, or recall petition is guilty of a misdemeanor.

18604. Upon conviction of a violation of any provision of this article, Article 2 (commencing with Section 18610), Article 3 (commencing with Section 18620), Article 5 (commencing with Section 18640), Article 6 (commencing with Section 18650), or Article 7 (commencing with Section 18660), the court may order as a condition of probation that the convicted person be prohibited from receiving money or other valuable consideration for gathering signatures on an initiative, referendum, or recall petition.