



Youth Commission

Recreation

Youth Commission Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022 at 5:30pm

Zoom Webinar

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device, please use this URL to join the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85925075321?>

Passcode: 621930

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To join by phone: Dial: +16699006833, or +13462487799

If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Note: Your phone number will appear on the videoconference screen.

Agenda

The Commission may discuss any items listed on the agenda but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. Call to Order (Chair)
2. Roll Call (Secretary)
3. Approval of Agenda (Chair)
4. Approval of Minutes for December 13, 2021 (Chair)
5. Public Comments
6. Chair's Announcements
7. Director's Report
8. Land Acknowledgment (Schlosberg)
9. Introductions
10. Recruitment (Chair)
11. Attendance Requirement (Secretary)
12. Discussion: Chair election (Chair)
13. Action: Letter to BUSD regarding student safety during Covid-19 Omicron surge
14. Reimagining Public Safety Task Force presentation (Thompson)
15. **Adjourn**

Commission Information: The Youth Commission packet is available for review at both the Berkeley Main Library and the Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street –3rd Floor, during normal business hours. If you have questions, contact Commission Secretary, Ginsi K. Bryant, at 981-6678 or by email at gbryant@cityofberkeley.info

ADA Disclaimer: This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodations to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

SB343 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 Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 3rd Floor, Berkeley CA.

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. All communications to the Commission should be received at least 10 days before the meeting date. 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 commission or committee for further information.

Commission Members

<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mayor	Hannah Slattery Weisberg	BUSD/Brown	Khalid Powell
Kesarwani	Vacant	BUSD/Vasudeo	Vacant
Taplin	Anya Draves	BUSD/Babbitt	Nicholas Sanders
Bartlett	Vacant	BUSD/Student Director	Max Schlosberg
Harrison	Vacant	BUSD/Sinai	Vacant
Hahn	Abigail Lamoreaux	BUSD	Asha Baudart-Gehlawat
Wengraf	Samuel Kaplan-Pettus	BUSD/Alper	Vacant
Robinson	Vacant	BUSD	Nina Thompson
Droste	Vacant	BUSD/Cutler	Annabel Jay

Mission Statement

The Berkeley Youth Commission identifies the needs of youth, reviews and recommends youth services and programs.



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Draft Minutes

The Commission may discuss any items listed on the agenda but may take action only on items identified as Action.

1. Call to Order (Chair) **5:08pm**
2. Roll Call (Secretary) **Present:** Slattery-Weisberg, Henry, Draves, Kaplan-Pettus, Powell, Schlosberg, Thompson, and Jay. **Absent:** Zhou, Lamoreaux, Cline, Baudart-Gehlawat, and Buendia. **Late:** Wilson, and Sanders
3. Approval of Agenda (Chair) **M/S/Kaplan-Pettus/Slattery-Weisberg. Aye's:** Slattery-Weisberg, Henry, Draves, Kaplan-Pettus, Powell, Schlosberg, Thompson, Wilson, Sanders, and Jay **Noe's:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zhou, Lamoreaux, Cline, Baudart-Gehlawat, and Buendia.
4. Approval of Minutes for November 8, 2021 (Chair) **M/S/Kaplan-Pettus/Draves. Aye's:** Slattery-Weisberg, Draves, Kaplan-Pettus, Powell, Schlosberg, Thompson, and Jay **Noe's:** None. **Abstain:** Henry, Wilson, and Sanders. **Absent:** Zhou, Lamoreaux, Cline, Baudart-Gehlawat, and Buendia.
5. Public Comments
6. Chair's Announcements
7. Director's Report
8. Land Acknowledgment (Schlosberg)
9. Introductions (Zhou)
10. **ACTION: Youth Commission 2022 meeting schedule (Secretary) M/S/Kaplan-Pettus/Slattery-Weisberg. Aye's:** Slattery-Weisberg, Henry, Draves, Kaplan-Pettus, Powell, Schlosberg, Thompson, Wilson, Sanders, and Jay **Noe's:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zhou, Lamoreaux, Cline, Baudart-Gehlawat, and Buendia.
11. Recruitment (Chair)
12. Update on Council recommendations (Chair)
13. Police Review Commission update (Thompson)
14. **Adjourn 6:11pm M/S/Kaplan-Pettus/Powell. Aye's:** Slattery-Weisberg, Henry, Draves, Kaplan-Pettus, Powell, Schlosberg, Thompson, Wilson, Sanders, and Jay **Noe's:** None. **Abstain:** None. **Absent:** Zhou, Lamoreaux, Cline, Baudart-Gehlawat, and Buendia.

To whom it may concern,

We as Youth Commissions are writing to you with our own urges and concerns of the rise in COVID-19 and the sweeping Omicron variant. On Tuesday, January 4th, The California Department of Public Health reported more than 230,000 new cases. On that same day, over 8,300 cases were reported in Berkeley, CA alone. The day before, January 3rd, the 7-day average was reported to be 14.4%, up about 5% from just a few days before. These tests do not fully take into account the Holiday parties as well as high rates of travel in the Bay Area throughout winter break.

When looking at these numbers, it is important to keep in mind that many cases go unreported, untested and undetected. Additionally, the New York Times reports that Alameda County's 14-day change is +666%. These statistics have all dramatically risen with the introduction of Omicron into our community. We have yet to even see the peak of Omicron cases yet - the worst is yet to come. We have an opportunity to do something before the worst of it is here. When BUSD first went into quarantine, the number of cases present in BUSD was significantly lower than they are now, even though we have no safety precautions in place now.

What we are asking for is for the school board to work with BUSD schools to come up with a solution for students who don't feel safe coming to school right now with the new variant becoming so widespread. A complete lockdown might not be feasible nor beneficial to the majority of the BUSD community, so this is a request for a separate and optional route for remote learning that students and families can elect to take that will reap no punishment or negative consequences on the student.

COVID-19 has changed the way we need to think and operate. Students safety should be a number one priority; right now, many students are not feeling like that priority is being taken seriously.

Here are some Anonymous statements from BUSD students on how they are feeling about the return to school after being asked, "*Do you feel safe at school with the heavy rise in COVID-19 and Omicron cases*" on Commissioner Lamoreaux's public instagram account. 76% of respondents answered "NO" to the question:

BHS Student in 12th Grade:

"Many kids just came home from break the day before school, and those kids won't show up positive on the antigen tests, meaning they will think it's okay to hang out with friends, who will hang out with more people causing a massive spread."

BHS Student in 11th Grade:

"People are dropping every day and it's insane. I was sitting next to someone the other day who is now out and sick with COVID."

BHS Student in 12th Grade:

"I'm staying home this week because I don't feel comfortable going to a school with 3,000+ kids during this Omicron outbreak. My family has pre-existing health conditions and I can't risk passing COVID-19 on to them. I'm facing serious truancy claims because the district will no longer allow my mother to excuse my absences without a doctor's note... I'm not sick, but I know I will be if I go to school right now."

BHS Student in 12th Grade:

"Even though the school tried to reinforce mandates, you can't trust people and most of them don't follow the rules, being selfish and exposing everyone else."

BHS Student in 11th Grade:

"My boyfriend and I recently got COVID-19, and many of the students in our classes aren't even at school despite being sick or not because it's such a contagious virus and variant. There's more covid cases in school now than when we were all in distance learning."