



Berkeley Homeless
Services Panel of Experts

Dear Mayor, Members of the Council Budget and Finance Committee, Members of Council and City Manager:

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts vigorously urges the Council Budget and Finance Committee, Members of Council and the City Manager to allow the Homeless Services Panel of Experts to maintain its seat at the table and present recommendations during the current budget process.

The Measure P ordinance mandates that the revenue raised by the tax imposed by Section 7.52.040 requires that the City Council shall consider, but need not follow, the Panel's recommendations on how and to what extent to use this revenue to establish and/or fund programs to pay for homeless services and shall annually inform the Panel as to the extent to which it has implemented the Panel's recommendations.

In the current instance, the recommendations of the Homeless Services Panel of Experts have not been considered at all. This is a betrayal of the voters, who when voting for Measure P, relied on the Panel to provide recommendations based on the commissioners' expertise. It also is a betrayal of honoring City of Berkeley commissions and citizens' input in general.

We urge the Council Budget and Finance Committee to provide for a presentation from the Homeless Services Panel of Experts on May 14, 2026 at its scheduled meeting. This presentation will be based on recommendations made at the upcoming May 6, 2026 Homeless Services Panel of Experts' meeting.

On April 15, 2026, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts voted as follows:

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Solberg move to submit the letter with the language as incorporated above to the Council Budget and Finance Committee, Council and City Manager as amended.

Vote: Ayes: Marasovic, Kealoha-Blake, Segal, Levy, & Solberg.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bookstein.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Marasovic, Chair

Homeless Services Panel of Experts