



Peace and Justice  
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, September 15, 2025 – 7:00 pm**  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
1901 Hearst Ave. Berkeley, CA

**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-** Sandy Park- **Vice Chair**

**Vasudeo-** Majdi Gaith

**Babitt-** Rev. 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. Review and approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting. Discussion and possible action.
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 Brian Hofer, Director of Secure Justice, on data privacy and AI, including relationship to immigration, in our current political climate. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.
2. Medicaid data sharing with the federal government: presentation by Anna Rich, Deputy Attorney General in the California Department of Justice's Healthcare Rights and Access Section, where she represents the State of California in litigation to preserve Californians' access to equitable and affordable healthcare, including in response to threats from the federal administration. Discussion only. Public Comment.
3. Establishing a Sister City Partnership - Berkeley & Gaza City. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.
4. Possible recommendation to Council on the City of Berkeley as a LGBTQ+ sanctuary city including prioritizing gender-neutral bathrooms, amending needed Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) language amendments and possible other accommodations. Discussion only. Public Comment.
5. Possible recommendation regarding continued provided medical care, through local providers, to immigrants without inquiring as to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) status. Discussion and possible action.

**SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2025 10:00 AM  
**To:** Brown, Rex <ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov>  
**Cc:** Numainville, Mark L. <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Ad-hoc committees meeting in public

Thanks, it's good to have this in writing. Verbal conversations can be confusing.

On Aug 25, 2025, at 9:58 AM, Brown, Rex <[ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov)> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

There was never a question whether public presence was banned at ad hoc meetings. The question is whether they are Brown Act meetings. I informed you that they were not Brown Act meetings. I told you at the meeting verbally that there was no ban. However, you did follow up with an email inquiring about a ban and I apologize for the delay in responding,. I hope this helps to close that loop.

Best,

Rex

<image001.png>

Rex Brown  
Diversity Equity and Inclusion Officer  
Pronouns: He/Him  
[City of Berkeley](#)  
Cell: 510.542.1861  
Office: 510.981.7019  
[ReBrown@Berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ReBrown@Berkeleyca.gov)

**In office Mondays, Thursdays, & Fridays. Remote working Tuesdays & Wednesdays.**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2025 9:54 AM  
**To:** Numainville, Mark L. <[MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Brown, Rex <[ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ad-hoc committees meeting in public

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mark,

A question came up at a recent commission meeting regarding ad-hoc committee and subcommittee meetings.

It is clear that rules for noticing such meetings changed significantly under the pandemic, and that the revised rules remain in effect.

The question is whether public meetings of such meetings is banned, or is simply not required.

I have read through the commissioners' manual. Your 2021 letter included in the manual states that such bodies are no longer required to provide for public attendance. However, I do not read that as barring the committees from holding meetings that are open to the public.

The intent of the 2021 policy revision is given as "Temporarily suspending the application of State open meeting procedures to ad hoc subcommittees will decrease the amount of staff time required to coordinate and support the functions of City boards and commissions." There should not be any additional strain on staff if ad-hoc committees continue to allow public participation, as staff are not obligated to publicize, or attend, the committee meetings. Please recall that secretaries have never been obligated to attend subcommittee meetings.

To reflexively ban public attendance at ad-hoc meetings just because it is not required would be excessively bureaucratic and would work against the spirit of public participation for which Berkeley is known. It goes beyond the mandate of the city council resolution passed on January 21 2021.

Can you please clarify the current policy on whether ad-hoc committees may hold meetings in public, and if not, cite to the relevant policy?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

**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**

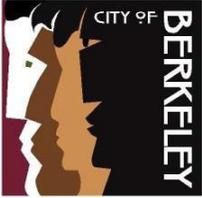
*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in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

*Rex Brown, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission  
City of Berkeley  
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704*



Peace and Justice  
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Monday, August 18, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.  
South Berkeley Senior Center  
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley CA, 94703**

**Commissioners**

**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-** Sandy Park- **Vice Chair**

**Vasudeo-** Majdi Gaith

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

**Clark-** Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan

**SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Ptr. Dwayne Phillips (Chair)  
Commissioner Andrea Cassidy  
Commissioner Adam Weisberg  
Commissioner Carole Marasovic  
Commissioner Deborah Fink  
Commissioner Nimrod Pitskar Elias  
Commissioner Selim Yasavul  
Commissioner Ilene Lee  
Commissioner Grace Morizawa  
Commissioner Jeannette McNeil  
Commissioner Majdi Gaith  
Commissioner Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan  
Commissioner Sandy Park (Vice Chair)  
Commissioner Robin Mencher  
Absent/Excused: Commissioner Luke Taylor  
CMO Staff: Rex Brown

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Announcements:

BUSD Reparations Task Force will have their first event on reparations. They want volunteers to hand out flyers.

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

M/S/C Marasovic/Sandy Park to move agenda item #9 in Section B to number 3 in Section B and approve the agenda. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**Ayes:**

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

5. No comments from the Public on non-agenda items pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3(a). Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary. Public comment must be confined to the subject matter to be considered at the special meeting.

6. Review and approval of meeting minutes from previous meeting.

M/S/C Marasovic/Yasavul to approve the minutes with the amendment from Commissioner Pitskar Elias that agenda item #3 of Section B regarding Alternate Recommendation on Alien Enemies Act and Impact on Berkeley Japanese-American Community During World War II “include only references to community-wide education” as recommendation:

“The Peace and Justice Commission further recommends that given that during the third invocation of the Alien Enemies Act (the Act has only been invoked three times prior to this year, during the War of 1812, World War I, and World War II), Japanese residents of the Berkeley community, survivors and their ancestors, were harmed by the invocation of the act during World War II in which persons of Japanese, Italian and German ancestry, primarily in coastal areas but also in Berkeley, were transported and interned in U.S. camps, including in California, that Council 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 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.”

“That is achieved through community education.”

**Ayes:** Cassidy, Yasavul, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Pitskar Elias, Mencher, Lee, Morizawa, McNeil, Gaith, Phillips, Mascarenhas-Swan

**Noes:**

**Abstain:** Park

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

7. Commission Updates & Chairperson’s Report

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

8. Secretary’s Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

Secretary updates on matters referred to City Clerk, continued orientation on Robert’s Rules of Order, new equipment, and other items.

## SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion and possible action on establishment of the temporary ad hoc committees Immigration, LGBTQI+, and Racial Justice ad hoc sub committees and appointment of members. Public Comment.

M/S/C Cassidy/McNeil motion to establish membership for the Racial Equity, LGBTQ+, Immigration ad hoc committees and to add a By-Laws ad hoc committee approved by unanimous consent.

Racial Equity: Yasavul, McNeil, Gaith, Mascarenhas-Swan, Cassidy, Morizawa, Ptr. Phillips

LGBTQ+: Taylor (nominated in absentia), Pitskar Elias, Gaith, Marasovic

Immigration: Yasavul, McNeil, Mencher, Morizawa, Marasovic

By-Laws/Rules: Pitskar Elias, Ptr. Phillips, Morizawa, Marasovic

**Ayes:**

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

2. Discussion as to how the commission could be part of the public education and advocacy work on Berkeley as an Immigrant welcoming sanctuary city and what may be needed now to renew our commitment to care for immigrants in our city and in our county. Discussion only. Public Comment.
3. Recommendation to Council to refer to the City Manager outreach to local health care providers to facilitate the provision of medical care without requiring or encouraging Medi-Cal/Medicaid applications in all instances in consultation with community-based organizations providing services for immigrants. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.

After discussion and public comment, no action taken. Chair Ptr. Phillips asks if Nimrod Pitskar Elias and Carole Marasovic would agree to volunteer working on a new version of the motion together.

4. Discussion and possible action meeting start time and location. Public Comment.

M/S/C Fink/Cassidy motion to move PJC meeting time to 6:30 PM.

**Ayes:** Cassidy, Yasavul, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Pitskar Elias, Mencher, Lee, Park, Gaith, Ptr. Phillips, Mascarenhas-Swan

**Noes:** McNeil

**Abstain:** Morizawa

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

M/S/F Marasovic/Cassidy motion to explore moving PJC meeting location (including North Berkeley Community Center).

**Ayes:** Yasavul, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Mencher, Lee

**Noes:** Morizawa, McNeil, Park, Gaith, Ptr. Phillips, Mascarenhas-Swan

**Abstain:** Pitskar Elias

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

5. Letter to Council recommending that Council incorporate attention to the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in requesting monies from the County under County Measure W. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.

No action taken.

6. Possible recommendation to Council on the City of Berkeley as a LGBTQ+ sanctuary city including prioritizing gender-neutral bathrooms, amending needed Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) language amendments and possible other accommodations. Discussion only. Public Comment.

M/S/C Marasovic/Lee motion to move agenda item #5 on the agenda to the next meeting. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**Ayes:**

**Noes:**

**Abstain:**

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

7. Letter to Council in Support of June 4, 2025, Statement from Berkeley Mayor Adena Ishii and Councilmembers Terry Taplin, Igor Tregub, and Mark Humbert. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.

M/S/F Lee/Pitskar Elias motion to approve the letter with the friendly amendment substituting “endorses” with “appreciates”.

**Ayes:** Cassidy, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Pitskar Elias, Mencher, Lee,

**Noes:** McNeil, Gaith, Mascarenhas-Swan

**Abstain:** Marasovic, Morizawa, Park, Ptr. Phillips

**Absent:**

**Excused:** Taylor

8. Discussion and possible action on recommendation to approve Grace Morizawa, Carole Marasovic, and Andrea Cassidy as the Peace and Justice Commission representatives to the Mayor's Sanctuary Task Force. Public Comment.

No action taken.

9. Commission vote to select Peace and Justice Commission commissioner to present item to Council and Council Policy Committees on item passed at P and J last month. Discussion and possible action. Public Comment.

No action taken.

## **SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS**

No communications received.

## **SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## **SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 10:00 PM.  
M/S/C Park/Cassidy. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Rex Brown, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

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 (Chochen-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.



Peace and Justice  
Commission

[CONSENT OR ACTION]

CALENDAR

[Meeting Date (MM dd, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Majdi Gaith

Submitted by: Majdi Gaith

Subject: Establishing a Sister City Partnership - Berkeley & Gaza City

### RECOMMENDATION

The Peace and Justice commission formally requests for the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council to formally hold a public hearing, approve and establish Berkeley as a sister city with Gaza City. This would mark Berkeley's first Sister City partnership in West Asia and the Middle East.

Upon approval, the Peace & Justice Commission recommends that the City Manager's Office provide administrative oversight of the partnership, while the Berkeley Sister City Association—or a newly formed Gaza Sister City Committee—serve as the primary body for coordinating exchanges, cultural programs, and community engagement.

### SUMMARY

The Peace and Justice Commission recommends establishing a Sister City partnership between Berkeley and Gaza City to advance cultural diplomacy, education, and solidarity. The proposal highlights alignment with Berkeley's values on equity, justice, and climate action while addressing issues such as genocide, apartheid, and scholasticide in Gaza. Gaza City is already a sister city with multiple global municipalities, and this partnership would mark Berkeley's first in West Asia and the greater Middle East.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Educational or economic development projects as approved by council.

## CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Establishing a Sister City Partnership - Berkeley & Gaza City falls in line with the City of Berkeley's goals and values -

- Champion and demonstrate social and racial equity
- Be a global leader in addressing climate change, advancing environmental justice, and protecting the environment.

## BACKGROUND

Sister City proposals are great for cultural diplomacy, education, business development, and community solidarity.

According to the City of Berkeley's website, "the City of Berkeley has sister cities as a way to enrich and benefit our Berkeley culture. The City of Berkeley has established relationships with Sister Cities which benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture and education of the residents of Berkeley, and provide for new opportunities for exchange programs and cultural enrichment for Berkeley students." (1)

Historically, the City of Berkeley has established sister city programs with 18 other cities starting in 1966. (1)

Gaza City is currently sister cities with Barcelona, Cáceres, and Dunkirk in Europe; Cascais in Portugal; Turin in Italy; Tromsø in Norway; Camden, New Jersey, United States; Tabriz in Iran; and Tel Aviv in Israel. (2)

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

N/A

## RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The rationale for recommending Berkeley and Gaza City as sister cities include various substantive justifications -

### 1. **Ecoside** -

The City of Berkeley aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. According to *the Guardian*, the carbon footprint of the first 15 months of Israel's assault on Gaza is greater than the annual emissions of over 100 individual countries. (4)

## 2. **Genocide** -

The following countries, organizations, and bodies that have explicitly condemned Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide:

### *Countries:*

South Africa, Brazil, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua (withdrew later but initially supported), Pakistan, Palestine, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkey, Venezuela, Zimbabwe

### *Regional & International Bodies:*

African Union, Arab League, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Non-Aligned Movement

### *Human Rights & Civil Society Organizations:*

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, B'Tselem, Physicians for Human Rights–Israel, Al-Haq, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Jewish Voice for Peace, International Association of Genocide Scholars, Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, +1,400 NGOs/unions/foundations worldwide

### *UN Officials / Experts:*

UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine (Francesca Albanese), UN Special Committee on Israeli Practices, UN Humanitarian Chief (Tom Fletcher, 2025), 500+ UN OHCHR staff.

According to Israeli data, 83 percent of Palestinians killed in Gaza are civilians, including over 20,000 infants and young children. (5)

## 3. **Access to Higher Education & "Scholasticide"** -

The City of Berkeley has long been championed for its dedication to higher learning and academic rigor. Gaza City once stood as the academic heart of the Gaza Strip, distinguished by both the number of its universities and the diversity of its fields of study.

According to the Associated Press, all 17 universities and colleges in Gaza have been decimated by Israeli bombardment and ground offensives, a reality now referred to by many academic groups as "scholasticide." (6)

## 4. **Social Justice** -

The City of Berkeley's first official sanctuary designation was in 1971, and the scope has broadened over the decades. As a sanctuary city committed to amplifying the voices of the unheard civilian population currently experiencing

destruction, forced starvation and genocide by the Israeli government in tandem with the US government. While many families in the City of Berkeley fear leaving their homes for basic necessities due to ICE operations, the people of Gaza City and the rest of the Gaza Strip also fear leaving their homes in search of safety and access to food, water and basic medical supplies.

According to the World Health Organization, famine is confirmed for the first time in the Gaza strip with more than 500,000 people in Gaza trapped in famine, marked by widespread starvation, destitution and preventable deaths. (7)

Finally, the Indigenous Ohlone people of Huchiun, whose ancestral territory extends from the northern San Francisco Peninsula through the East Bay to Monterey Bay and the Salinas Valley, have expressed recognition of cultural and historical connections with the people of Gaza City and Palestine. These parallels, grounded in shared experiences of displacement and struggle, further support the implementation of this recommendation. (8)

5. **Stance Against Apartheid and Inequality** - Gaza City and the greater Gaza Strip has been under an illegal blockade by land, air and sea since 2007. The UN General Assembly, UN bodies (e.g., the Human Rights Council, ICJ advisory opinions) and over 130 countries consider the Gaza Strip to be under military siege, whereby Gazan Palestinians are not allowed to visit their own territories including East Jerusalem, the West Bank nor are they able to return to their homes in areas such as Jaffa, Haifa and other cities in Historic Palestine (modern day Israel).

“Before the fall of apartheid in South Africa, the City of Berkeley established its sister city status with two South African Cities; Mathopestad, 1986 and Oukasie, 1988. (8)

In a 1997 address marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, Nelson Mandela reiterated his commitment to their cause, declaring: "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." (9)

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

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.

**Note: If the City Manager does not (a) concur, (b) takes any other position, or (c) refer to the budget process, a council action report must be prepared. Indicate under the CITY MANAGER heading, "See companion report."**

CONTACT PERSON

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

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1: [Sister Cities | City of Berkeley](https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/about-us/sister-cities) -  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/about-us/sister-cities>
- 2: [Gaza City - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_City) (current sister cities)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza\\_City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_City)
3. [Berkeley Climate Action Plan](https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-climate-action-plan)  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/our-work/adopted-plans/berkeley-climate-action-plan>
4. [Carbon footprint of Israel's war on Gaza exceeds that of many entire countries](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/30/carbon-footprint-of-israels-war-on-gaza-exceeds-that-of-many-entire-countries)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/30/carbon-footprint-of-israels-war-on-gaza-exceeds-that-of-many-entire-countries>
5. [Israeli data shows 83 percent of Gaza war dead are civilians: Report](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/21/israeli-data-shows-83-percent-of-gaza-war-dead-are-civilians-report)  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/8/21/israeli-data-shows-83-percent-of-gaza-war-dead-are-civilians-report>
6. [AP PHOTOS: A bombed-out Gaza university becomes a shelter for displaced Palestinians](https://apnews.com/article/islamic-university-gaza-tent-camp-photos-4c0c7f376bb989625991aa62a5d0fe6f)  
<https://apnews.com/article/islamic-university-gaza-tent-camp-photos-4c0c7f376bb989625991aa62a5d0fe6f>
7. [Famine confirmed for first time in Gaza](https://www.who.int/news/item/22-08-2025-famine-confirmed-for-first-time-in-gaza)  
<https://www.who.int/news/item/22-08-2025-famine-confirmed-for-first-time-in-gaza>
8. [Indigenous People for a Free Palestine - The Sogorea Te Land Trust](https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/2023/11/14/indigenous-people-for-a-free-palestine/)  
<https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/2023/11/14/indigenous-people-for-a-free-palestine/>
9. [Sister Cities | City of Berkeley](https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/about-us/sister-cities) -  
<https://berkeleyca.gov/your-government/about-us/sister-cities>
10. [Speeches - Address by President Nelson Mandela at International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People, Pretoria](http://www.mandela.gov.za/mandela_speeches/1997/971204_palestinian.htm)  
[http://www.mandela.gov.za/mandela\\_speeches/1997/971204\\_palestinian.htm](http://www.mandela.gov.za/mandela_speeches/1997/971204_palestinian.htm)

RESOLUTION NO.56,069-N.S.

ESTABLISHING THE CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF SISTER CITIES TO THE CITY OF BERKELEY

WHEREAS, on March 5, 1991, the City Council voted to direct the Peace and Justice Commission to develop the criteria for selection of Sister Cities; and

WHEREAS, on July 15, 1991, the subcommittee made a recommendation to the Peace and Justice Commission who approved the recommended criteria;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that a Sister City proposal include the following: A) A description of the proposed sister city, township, or community; B) a list of similarities between Berkeley and the proposed sister community; C) an explanation of why this particular sister city should be selected by showing how it fits the below listed criteria.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria used by the City Council to select a Sister City include the following: 1) The sister city relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture and education of the citizens of Berkeley; 2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship. 3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; 4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; 5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed sister city are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; 6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and 7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City.

Copies sent 9/17/91

To: Peace and Justice Commission

**RESOLUTION**

No. 56,069 N.S.

Dated September 10, 1991

Adopted by the Council of the City of Berkeley by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers Chandler, Collignon, Dean, Goldfarb, Shirek, Skinner, Wainwright, Woodworth, and President Hancock.

Noes: None.

Abstaining: None.

Absent: None.

Lmi Hancock  
Mayor and President of the Council

Attest Maria McKeown  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council

CITY OF BERKELEY  
CONSENT CALENDAR INFORMATION

Deadline for Council Action:

From: Peace and Justice Commission

Date: September 10, 1991

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL: ESTABLISH THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF SISTER CITIES TO THE CITY OF BERKELEY,

PRESENTED TO COUNCIL  
CITY OF BERKELEY

1. COMMENTS, CITY ATTORNEY

SEP 10 1991

Council approval is required.

OFFICE OF  
CITY CLERK

2. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR COUNCIL ACTION:

At the regular meeting of the Commission on Peace and Justice on July 15, 1991, it was M/S/C (Sherman/Haytin) unanimously that the recommendations of the Commission's Subcommittee be forwarded to the City Council for approval; and that a copy of the recommendations be sent to the School Board.

Vote: Ginger, Ginsburg, Hagen, Haytin, Lindheim, Schwartz, Shabbas, Sherman, Turk

Absent: Conly, Wilkins

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (include any dollar amount, in-kind services, multi-year commitment) AND SOURCE OF FUNDS (for both cash and in-kind services; indicate if amount is currently budgeted and requirement for budget code). IF SUBMITTAL, AUTHORIZATION OR EXECUTION OF GRANTS IS INVOLVED (include new grants or modifications) AN FN-006 (Budget Modification Form) SHOULD BE SUBMITTED WITH ITEM. ITEM WILL NOT BE PROCESSED UNLESS FN-006 IS INCLUDED.

4. COUNCIL POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, IF ANY:

5. COMMUNITY GROUPS AFFECTED:

6. BOARD(S), COMMISSION(S), COMMITTEE(S) OR DEPARTMENT(S) INVOLVED AND NAME, TITLE AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON(S) TO CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Susan Hagen, Chairperson, Commission on Peace and Justice ....548-9165

Attachment

criteria.sis C:



Peace and Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
June 27, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Peace and Justice Commission  
 Submitted by: Grace Morizawa, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission  
 Subject: Establishment of a Sister City Relationship with Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, Honduras

#### RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution establishing a sister city relationship with the municipality of Las Vegas in the Santa Bárbara department of Honduras.

#### SUMMARY

The Peace and Justice Commission is tasked with recommending the establishments of new Sister Cities. Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, Honduras has approached Berkeley with the request of becoming a Sister City. Certain criteria must be met to become a Sister City, which Las Vegas, Honduras meets.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

#### CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Pursuant to Resolution 56,069-N.S., the City of Berkeley has an established criterion for the establishment of a Sister City relationship. Below is a list of what the proposal must require:

- A) A description of the proposed sister city, township, or community; and
- B) A list of similarities between Berkeley and the proposed sister community;
- C) An explanation of why this particular sister city should be selected by showing how it fits the below listed criteria.

There are seven criteria points that must be met:

- 1) The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture, and education of the citizens of Berkeley; and

- 2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship; and
- 3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; and
- 4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; and
- 5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; and
- 6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and
- 7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City.

At its regular meeting May 1, 2023, the Peace and Justice Commission adopted the following recommendation proposing the establishment of a sister city relationship with Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, Honduras.

M/S/C: Lippman, Jaquin.

Ayes: Bohn, Jacquelin, Lippman, Morizawa.

Noes: None.

Abstain: Maran.

Absent: Lee, Gussmann.

#### BACKGROUND

Berkeley currently has 15 active Sister City relationships throughout the world, including two with Native American tribes. There are no Sister Cities in Honduras. The first establishment of a Sister City was in 1967 with Sakai, Japan, and latest took place in 2018, with Gonju, Republic of Korea.

The municipality of Las Vegas has sent two delegations to the City of Berkeley over the past several months to talk about setting up a Sister City relationship. The SHARE Foundation has also been in communication with the Mayor's offices in both Berkeley and Las Vegas, Honduras on the creation of such a relationship.

**A. List of criteria**

**1) The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture, and education of the citizens of Berkeley**

There currently is no Sister City located in Honduras. Establishing one would provide new opportunities to experience the Honduran culture and share ideas that can mutually benefit our cities on a variety of fronts.

**2) New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship**

The proposal would proposal calls for mutual visits of delegations, with residents of Las Vegas, Honduras in Berkeley for our festivals, cultural events and community gardens with our community learning about the efforts to bring back cultural activities lost to Las Vegas under the previous government, and the campaign “Vamos a la Milpa,” developing family and community gardens to provide food independence. There are also several student exchange programs which are described below.

**3) From these new opportunities, there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District**

Discussions have already begun with Berkeley elementary schools and Berkeley High for teacher and student delegations to share the rich music program in the Berkeley schools and a vision of the mayor of Las Vegas, “Guitars and Violins for Las Vegas,” which has become a national campaign with the partnership of SHARE Foundation to bring music to all of the schools in Honduras. Las Vegas will send their students to Berkeley to see BUSD’s rich educational opportunities and music program first hand.

**4) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley’s interest in such a relationship**

There have been many Berkeley residents, churches, and organizations who have been working with the population of Honduras over the past decade, in the shadows of the oppression and corruption of the previous national government, and will continue traveling to Honduras to work with the current government for the betterment of the Honduran people. The president-elect invited SHARE to her inauguration because she wanted the world to see that the relationship is only stronger now.

**5) It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship**

There have been twelve SHARE delegations to Honduras in the past four years, including many individuals and organizations representing Berkeley. SHARE Foundation has participated in a radio program on Radio Progreso (Honduran national non-profit radio), speaking to the Honduran people every Monday for three years.

**6) There should be no direct nor indirect costs to the City of Berkeley**

The SHARE Foundation and partnering organizations take responsibility for fundraising for any expenses related to this agreement. SHARE has raised significant funds over the years to support the work in Honduras.

**7) The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interests of the City**

Berkeley has a large Central American community that includes Hondurans who have come to love our city, and our Berkeley residents who have made the journey have fallen in love with Honduras and have developed deep friendships with individuals and organizations that will only get stronger with this agreement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental effects.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Establishing a new Sister City, the first in five years, would continue Berkeley's legacy of being an international city.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Peace and Justice Commission Secretary, City Manager's Office  
510-529-5376

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAS VEGAS IN THE SANTA BÁRBARA DEPARTMENT OF HONDURAS

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, and initiates and develops cultural and educational foreign exchange (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission has been charged by the Berkeley City Council with reviewing proposals for new Sister City relationships; and

WHEREAS, the SHARE Foundation presented a proposal for a Sister City relationship with the municipality of Las Vegas in the Santa Bárbara department of Honduras;<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission has concluded that the proposal meets the City's criteria for establishing a Sister City, namely:

1. The Sister City relationship should benefit the human rights, health, safety, culture and education of the citizens of Berkeley; and
2. New opportunities for exchange programs, cultural enrichment, or curriculum enhancement should result from the relationship; and
3. From these new opportunities there should accrue direct benefits to the students of the Berkeley Unified School District; and
4. It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of Berkeley residents are committed to pursuing this relationship, and that such a group is also capable of representing Berkeley's interest in such a relationship; and
5. It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; and
6. There should be no direct or indirect costs to the City of Berkeley; and

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<sup>1</sup> The city of Berkeley has maintained a long relationship with Central America during the war years, including establishing a formal sister relationship with San Antonio Los Ranchos in El Salvador, and declaring Berkeley as a Sanctuary City for Central American refugees.

The city of Berkeley is the home of the original five sanctuary congregations that helped launch the national sanctuary movement, the East Bay Sanctuary Covenant, which continues to serve thousands of Central American refugees annually, and the SHARE Foundation, which has maintained sister-relationships across the region for more than 40 years

7. The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interest of the City; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Victor Hugo Tejada of the municipality of Las Vegas has expressed to the Berkeley City Council his municipality's desire for a Sister City relationship with Berkeley in a regular Council meeting on April 25, 2023.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley hereby approves the establishment of a Sister City relationship with the Municipality of Las Vegas in the Santa Bárbara department of Honduras.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley asks the Peace and Justice Commission to coordinate with the SHARE Foundation to create the sister city committee and to look for ways to strengthen solidarity and friendship activities with the city of Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara, Honduras.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley directs the city clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Mayor Victor Hugo Tejado of Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara in Honduras; U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken; and to Berkeley's congressional representatives.

RESOLUTION NO. 70,927-N.S.

ESTABLISHING A SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAS VEGAS IN THE SANTA BÁRBARA DEPARTMENT OF HONDURAS

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice, and initiates and develops cultural and educational foreign exchange (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.68.070); and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission has been charged by the Berkeley City Council with reviewing proposals for new Sister City relationships; and

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5. It should be demonstrated that a sufficient number of residents in the proposed Sister City are committed to, and capable of, sustaining the relationship; and

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7. The Sister City relationship should increase the harmony in Berkeley and be in the best interest of the City; and

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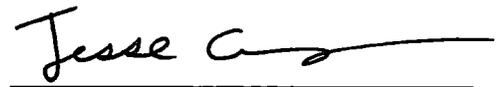
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley directs the city clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Mayor Victor Hugo Tejado of Las Vegas, Santa Bárbara in Honduras; U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken; and to Berkeley's congressional representatives.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on June 27, 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Hahn, Harrison, Humbert, Kesarwani, Robinson, Taplin, Wengraf, and Arreguin.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Numalville, City Clerk