



Peace and
Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703

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
 - Update on the Immigration Taskforce
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. 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.
 - a. Challenges to trans persons in employment and housing. Discussion and possible action.
2. Possible recommendation regarding continued provided medical care, through local providers, to immigrants without inquiring as to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) status. Discussion and possible action.
3. Possible change of date of Peace and Justice Commission meeting from: November 10, 2025 to another Monday date chosen by Commission with options for Monday, November 3, 2025; Monday, November 17, 2025; Monday, November 24, 2025; Monday, December 1, 2025; or Monday, December 8, 2025. Discussion and possible action.

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 2:39 PM
To: Brown, Rex <ReBrown@berkeleyca.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Votes needed to take action in case of a LOA

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.

Rex,

I'm following up on your ruling in the last Peace and Justice Commission meeting that there is a firm requirement of a majority of appointed commission members to pass a motion regardless of leaves of absence—that would currently be eight votes.

I recall that a previous secretary had a practice of telling us at the beginning of each meeting how many members were on approved leaves of absence, what was the effective quorum, and the "number of affirmative votes needed to pass an item." The last two numbers were always equal.

I followed up with City Clerk Mark Numainville to confirm the rule. I referred him to the passage on pages 54-55 of the commissioners' manual, which gives the following example of a commission with nine members:

Scenario 2

A commission with nine seats. Three commissioners do not attend and do not have leaves of absence. One seat is vacant. The number of Actual Appointees is eight. The quorum is five. The number of votes needed for action is five.

In Scenario 2, there are five commissioners in attendance, and the votes needed for action is five. All votes must be unanimous in order City of Berkeley to complete commission business. This highlights the importance of requesting a LOA in advance of a meeting. Had the three absent commissioners obtained a LOA, the number of Actual Appointees would have dropped, thus lowering the quorum and the votes needed to take action.

(Emphasis added)

Please see Mark's response below where he states that the votes needed to take action decreases along with the quorum when there are leaves of absence granted.

I hope you can clarify with the commission officers the official rule about requirements to pass an item when commissioners have approved LOAs.

Thanks,

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Numainville, Mark L." <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: RE: Votes needed to take action in case of a LOA
Date: October 9, 2025 at 4:45:03 PM PDT
To: [REDACTED]

As the chart in the Manual indicates, quorum = votes need to take action.

Mark Numainville
City Clerk, City of Berkeley
(510) 981-6909
mnumainville@berkeleyca.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 9, 2025 4:39 PM
To: Numainville, Mark L. <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: Re: Votes needed to take action in case of a LOA

Thanks Mark. That much is not in dispute.

The issue is whether the number of votes needed to pass is also seven.

We were told that the LOAs, while they reduced the quorum, did not reduce the number to pass. So, no matter how many members had an approved LOA, the number to pass an item remained eight.

Please clarify this point, thanks.

[REDACTED]

On Oct 9, 2025, at 3:43 PM, Numainville, Mark L. <MNumainville@berkeleyca.gov> wrote:

On a 15-member commission, with all 15 seats filled, and two members absent with an approved LOA, the quorum is seven.

Mark Numainville
City Clerk, City of Berkeley
(510) 981-6909
mnumainville@berkeleyca.gov

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.

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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

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Peace and Justice Commission
City of Berkeley
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Berkeley, CA 94704*