

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL HEALTH, LIFE ENRICHMENT, EQUITY &
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 12, 2022
10:00 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn
Alternate: Councilmember Terry Taplin

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

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the City Council Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81835945409> If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **818 3594 5409** If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity, & Community Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 10:05 a.m. Present: Kesarwani, Taplin (for Bartlett), Hahn

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters: 2 speakers.

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. Minutes - November 14, 2022

Action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/Hahn) to approve the minutes of November 14, 2022.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.

Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.

2. Parking/Towing Fines & Fees Reform

From: Councilmember Robinson (Author), Councilmember Harrison (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)

Referred: October 19, 2022

Due: April 11, 2023

Recommendation: 1. Adopt an Ordinance amending BMC 14.72.080 to allow individuals who are eligible for Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) permits and also for parking citation Indigent Payment Plans to purchase Residential Parking Permits even if they have outstanding parking tickets older than 21 days.
2. Refer to the City Manager to implement reforms that reduce the disproportionate burden of parking and towing fines and fees on low-income individuals, as follows:
a. Expand eligibility for the City's parking citations indigent payment plan to encompass households making up to 50% of Alameda County's Area Median Income (AMI) and update these guidelines in accordance with AMI on an annual basis. Provide notice of the change to all individuals with unpaid tickets.
b. Amend City policy to formalize the current practice of not booting or towing cars when the sole reason for doing so is the vehicle having five or more outstanding parking tickets where payment is delinquent.
c. Develop a program to offer vehicle release fee waivers for low-income and/or homeless individuals and, if feasible, vehicle release fee reductions or waivers for first-time tows.
3. Refer \$383,512 in ongoing annual funding to the FY 2024 Mid-Biennial Budget Update for 2 Associate Management Analyst FTEs to administer and expand the indigent payment plan program.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Rigel Robinson, Councilmember, District 7, (510) 981-7170

Action: 4 speakers. M/S/C (Taplin/Hahn) to forward the item to Council with a positive recommendation that the City Council approve the item with the Author's substitute recommendations as follows:

- (1) Adopt an Ordinance amending BMC 14.72.080 to allow individuals who are eligible for Residential Preferential Parking (RPP) permits and also for parking citation Indigent Payment Plans to purchase Residential Parking Permits even if they have outstanding parking tickets older than 21 days.
- (2) Direct the City Manager to implement reforms that reduce the disproportionate burden of parking and towing fines and fees on low-income individuals, as follows:
 - a) Expand eligibility for the City's parking citations indigent payment plan to encompass households making up to 50% of Alameda County's Area Median Income (AMI) and update these guidelines in accordance with AMI on an annual basis. Provide notice of the change to all individuals with unpaid tickets.
 - b) Amend City policy to formalize the current practice of not booting or towing cars when the sole reason for doing so is the vehicle having five or more outstanding parking tickets where payment is delinquent.
- (3) Refer to the City Manager to:
 - a) Develop and return to Council with a program to offer vehicle release fee waivers for low-income and/or homeless individuals and, if feasible, vehicle release fee reductions or waivers for first-time tows.
 - b) Explore the possibility of raising the thresholds for 2A to 80% or 100% of AMI in the future, and explore the possibility of indexing fee reduction to income (if at 30% AMI, pay 30% of fee, if at 50%, pay 50% of fee, etc.)
 - c) Consider allowing all undocumented individuals to participate in payment plans or fee reductions or waivers without the need to show proof of income or public benefits.
 - d) Look at simplification of payment plan administration and potentially allowing all parking and towing-related fines and fees to be paid through payment plans, regardless of income qualification, as a means to simplify administration. Consider software options for tracking and collection.
 - e) Explore opportunities to coordinate outreach for payment plans with opportunities to engage residents in participation in other social services and public benefits
- (4) Refer \$383,512 in ongoing annual funding to the FY 2024 Mid-Biennial Budget Update for 2 Associate Management Analyst FTEs to administer and expand the indigent payment plan program.

Vote: All Ayes.

Unscheduled Items

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.

None

Items for Future Agendas

None

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (Hahn/ Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee meeting held on December 12, 2022.

Neetu Salwan, Assistant City Clerk

Communications

Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or policycommittee@cityofberkeley.info.