



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

**Thursday, May 16, 2024
10:00 AM**

2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor - Redwood Room

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Ben Bartlett
Alternate: Councilmember Sophie Hahn

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Remote participation by the public is available through Zoom. To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL – <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1608402725>. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” icon on the screen. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** or **1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and Enter Meeting ID: **160 840 2725**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. Please be mindful that the meeting will be recorded.

To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov.

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.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure and State Law, the presiding officer may remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Prior to removing an individual, the presiding officer shall warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal. The presiding officer may then remove the individual if they do not promptly cease their disruptive behavior. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, a failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body, or engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

MINUTES

Roll Call: 10:11 a.m.

Present: Bartlett, Kesarwani

Absent: None

Election of Chairperson:

Action: M/S/C (Bartlett/Kesarwani) to elect Councilmember Kesarwani as Chairperson of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee.

Vote: All Ayes.

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. Minutes – December 11, 2023

Action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/Bartlett) to approve the December 11, 2023 minutes.

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.

Committee Action Items

2. Referral for Development of Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households

From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author), Councilmember Humbert (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Taplin (Co-Sponsor)

Referred: November 13, 2023

Due: July 26, 2024

Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager to develop and fund a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to support Berkeley-based non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households. Funds are intended for (but not limited to) the following needs:

-Expansion of capacity to serve more people experiencing food insecurity, such as one-time purchase of equipment;

-Hiring of additional staff to serve more people; and/or

-Other emerging needs to be determined.

Refer \$200,000 annually in funding to the biennial FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26 budget process to fund qualified proposals resulting from the RFP.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

Action: 5 speakers. M/S/C (Kesarwani/Bartlett) to refer item to City Council with a Qualified Positive recommendation with the amendment of referring the issue of food assistance to the Community Agency RFP process the next time the RFP is developed.

Vote: All Ayes.

3. Healthy Checkout Amendment

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

Referred: November 13, 2023

Due: July 26, 2024

Recommendation: 1. Adopt an amendment to the Healthy Checkout Ordinance (9.82) requiring stores 2,500 square feet and under in size to sell more nutritious food and beverage options in their checkout areas.

2. Refer to the City Manager to determine funding and staffing needs to implement and enforce the expansion of the ordinance and sources of funding to support this program.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

Action: Item continued to next meeting on June 10, 2024.

Committee Action Items

4. Small Business Support Act

From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author)

Recommendation: That the City Manager and Finance Department amend the City of Berkeley business license process and requirements to promote transparency between the City and small business owners and lower burdensome barriers to entry for new business owners. Such amendments shall include the following: 1. Establish a business license amnesty program; 2. Establish a Small Business Support and Retention Emergency Grant; 3. Create a Small Business Ombudsman; 4. Promote greater transparency about the business licensing process.

These actions will support small business creation and retention. The close relationship between the people of Berkeley, our small businesses, and the City is essential to making our community thrive.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

Action: 1 speaker. Discussion held. Item continued to a future meeting.

5. Re-Adoption of the Berkeley Building Codes, including Local Amendments to the 2022 California Building Standards Code

From: City Manager

Referred: May 7, 2024

Due: October 14, 2024

Recommendation: ****On May 7, 2024 the City Council referred the NOX provisions of this item to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee for review and a recommendation to Council.****

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Jordan Klein, Planning and Development, (510) 981-7400

Action: Item continued to the next meeting on June 10, 2024.

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

- Possible Impact Bond with parameters that you only pay if a program works – staff is working on RFP

Adjournment

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

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity, & Community Committee meeting held on May 16, 2024.

Wendy Sorensen, 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@berkeleyca.gov.

