



BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Monday, July 21, 2025
10:30 AM**

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
Teleconference Location – 5617 NW Jetty Ave, Lincoln City, OR 97367

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani, Shoshana O’Keefe, and Brent Blackaby
Alternate: Mayor Adena Ishii

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person attendance and virtual participation. All Committee meetings are recorded.

Use this URL <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1612503824> to access the meeting remotely. To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252 or 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and Enter **Meeting ID: 161 250 3824**. To provide public comment, press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

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.

California Government Code Section 84308 (Levine Act) Parties to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use are required to disclose if they made contributions over \$500 within the prior 12 months to any City employee or officer. Parties and participants with a financial interest are prohibited from making more than \$500 in contributions to a decisionmaker for the 12 months after the final decision is rendered on the proceeding. The above contribution disclosures and restrictions do not apply when the proceeding is competitively bid, or involves a personnel or labor contract. For more information, see Government Code Section 84308.

MINUTES

Roll Call 10:35 a.m.

Present: O’Keefe, Blackaby

Absent: Kesarwani

Councilmember Kesarwani present at 10:36 a.m.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters – 0 speakers.

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. **Minutes - May 8, 2025**

Action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/O’Keefe) to approve the May 8, 2025 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. Speakers are permitted to yield their time to one other speaker, however no one speaker shall have more than four minutes.

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. **Rescission of the Police Equipment and Community Safety Ordinance**

From: Councilmember Humbert (Author), Councilmember O’Keefe (Co-Sponsor)

Referred: June 2, 2025

Due: November 10, 2025

Recommendation: Adopt Ordinance No. xxxx-N.S. which rescinds Ordinance 7760-N.S. and adopt a resolution to rescind the Police Equipment and Community Safety Ordinance (enacted May 11, 2021) because the State-level reporting requirements mandated by California AB 481 already provide a comprehensive and sufficient framework for police equipment oversight.

Financial Implications: None

Contact: Mark Humbert, Councilmember, District 8, (510) 981-7180

Action: 3 speakers. M/S/C (Kesarwani/Blackaby) to send the item with a qualified positive recommendation to Council, recognizing the intention for one report, with the following matters noted for further consideration:

- Clarifying the role of public reporting of data through the Transparency Hub.
- Continued consideration of less-lethal deployment policies, including a possible review of Policy 300.
- Consideration of reporting on the acquisition and use of controlled equipment, aligning with AB 481 and allowing for review by the Police Accountability Board.

Vote: All Ayes.

Committee Action Items

3. **Discussion Item: Potential funding mechanisms for financing EMBER program implementation**
From: Councilmember Blackaby
Contact: Brent Blackaby, Councilmember, District 6, (510) 981-7160
Action: 3 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. The Committee concluded its consideration of this item.

4. **Residents Oppose Broadcasting Obnoxious Cacophony Out in Public (ROBOCOP)**
From: Councilmember O'Keefe (Author)
Referred Date: June 9, 2025
Due Date: November 17, 2025
Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager a request that the City Attorney draft amendments to Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 13.40, Community Noise, to prohibit in certain circumstances the installation and use of motion-activated surveillance devices that emit artificial or pre-recorded sound—including alarms, sirens, or voice recordings—in response to the presence or motion of persons in the public right-of-way or on private property that is open to the public. This prohibition shall apply to such devices when installed in the public right-of-way or on private property when triggered by motion in the public right-of-way, and when the sound emitted is audible in public areas. The prohibition shall not apply to conventional burglar alarms that activate only in response to unauthorized entry or tampering.
Financial Implications: See report
Contact: Shoshana O'Keefe, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150
Action: Item continued to a future meeting.

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.

5. **Discussion Item: Update on the Five-Year Infrastructure Plan and how it factors in with reduction of traffic violence**
From: Councilmember Tregub
Contact: Igor Tregub, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140

Items for Future Agendas

- None

Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (O'Keefe/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.
Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Public Safety Committee meeting held on July 21, 2025.

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.