



**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 18, 2025  
2:00 PM**

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

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. Attend this meeting remotely using [Zoom](#). 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: 160 456 4732**. 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](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov). All Committee meetings are recorded.

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** 2:04 p.m.

**Present:** Kesarwani, O'Keefe, Blackaby

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - July 21, 2025

**Action:** M/S/C (Kesarwani/O'Keefe) to approve the July 21, 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. 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:** 0 speakers. M/S/C (Blackaby/Kesarwani) to send the item with a qualified positive recommendation to Council, requesting that the City Attorney draft ordinance language as outlined in the recommendation, with additional clarification regarding location parameters and permissible volume levels.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Committee Action Items

**3. Proposed Public Safety Meeting Schedule Change to 3rd Thursday of the month, 2:00 p.m.**

**From: Councilmember Blackaby**

Contact: Brent Blackaby, Councilmember, District 6, (510) 981-7160

**Action:** 0 speakers. M/S/C (Blackaby/O'Keefe) to change the Public Safety Committee Regular Schedule to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 2:00 p.m.

**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.*

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

Action: M/S/C (O'Keefe/Blackaby) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 18, 2025.

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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](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov).*

