



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

**Thursday, October 16, 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 and virtual attendance. 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: 160 649 5058**. 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. 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: 2:01 p.m.

Present: Kesarwani, O'Keefe, Blackaby

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters: 2 Speakers

Minutes for Approval

Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.

1. **Minutes - September 18, 2025**

Action: M/S/C (Kesarwani/O'Keefe) to approve the September 18, 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.

Committee Action Items

2. Unmanned Aerial Systems and Drones as First Responders

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

Referred: September 15, 2025

Due: March 9, 2026

Recommendation: Refer to the City Manager the initiation of the process outlined by BMC 2.99: Surveillance Technology Ordinance (STO) for the Berkeley Police Department (BPD) to acquire and use Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), including Drones as First Responders (DFR), consistent with all auditing, transparency, data and privacy protections required for all use policies and acquisition reports under the STO. Submitting a UAS acquisition report and use policy will support informed, collaborative, and accountable exploration of this technology across departments, and ensure that any deployment aligns with Berkeley's commitment to public trust, environmental stewardship, and racial and social equity. As outlined in the STO, the use policy, and acquisition report shall include:

An interdepartmental assessment of potential operational uses by public safety and regulatory frameworks, civil liberties and privacy protections, and equity implications; Community engagement and best practices for transparency and accountability; A requirement for annual public reports detailing: Instances of drone deployment; Departmental uses and impacts on operations; Community outcomes; Compliance audits; And updates on training, and data handling procedures.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

Action: 3 speakers. M/S/C (Kesarwani/O'Keefe) to send the item with a positive recommendation to Council.

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 (O'Keefe/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: All Ayes.

Adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Public Safety Committee meeting held on October 16, 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.