



**POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

Board Members

Joshua Cayetano (Chair)	Leah Wilson (Vice-Chair)
Kitty Calavita	Juliet Leftwich
Randy Wells	Joshua Buswell-Charkow

MEETING LOCATION

Office of the Director of Police Accountability
1900 Addison Street, Floor 3
Berkeley, CA 94704

Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Board Member Joshua Cayetano (Chair)
Board Member Leah Wilson (Vice Chair)¹
Board Member Kitty Calavita
Board Member Juliet Leftwich
Board Member Buswell-Charkow

Absent: Board Member Randy Wells²

ODPA Staff: Hansel Aguilar, Director of Police Accountability
Syed Mehdi, Data Analyst
Jose Murillo, Policy Analyst
Daniel Weinberg, Investigator

BPD Staff: Lt. Coats

¹ Vice Chair Wilson was absent at roll call and arrived later in the meeting.

² Board Member Wells was granted a Leave of Absence for the January 7, 2026.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to Approve the Agenda.

Moved/Second (Leftwich/Calavita) Motion carried.

Ayes: Buswell-Charkow, Cayetano, Calavita, Leftwich.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wells, Wilson.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

1 Physically Present Speakers

8 Virtually Present Speakers

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Minutes for the Special Meeting of December 17, 2025

Motion to Approve the Minutes for the Special Meeting of December 17, 2025.

Moved/Second (Buswell-Charkow/Leftwich) Motion carried.

Ayes: Buswell-Charkow, Cayetano, Calavita, Leftwich, Wilson.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wells.

5. ODPa STAFF REPORT

Director Aguilar gave a brief status update on the ODPa's ongoing budget work, including the Budget and Finance Committee of the Berkeley City Council's request for a 10% budget reduction. He also noted that the budget freeze remains in effect.³

6. CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

No activities have been reported since the last PAB meeting on December 17, 2025. Board Member Calavita encouraged community members to attend the January 15, 2026, community conversation on surveillance technology that will be hosted by the BPD.⁴

7. CHIEF OF POLICE'S REPORT

Lt. Coats, on behalf of Chief Louis, informed the PAB of the upcoming community conversation on surveillance technology scheduled for January 15, 2026. She further noted that BPD Policy "Fair and Impartial Policing" has been updated to specifically ban arrest quotas.

8. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Subcommittees report on their activities since the last PAB meeting on December 17, 2025.

³ Berkeley Scanner "City Considers 10% Budget Cuts, with \$29M Deficit Possible.":

<https://www.berkeleyscanner.com/2026/01/01/community/berkeley-budget-cuts-deficit-expected/>

⁴ BPD Community Conversation on Public Safety Technology: <https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/events/community-conversation-public-safety-technology>

9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Nomination of candidates for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2026 Calendar Year as outlined in Section 1(a) to Section 1(c) of the Standing Rules of the Police Accountability Board (ODPA)

The following nominations were made:

Nominee	Role	Nominated by	Nomination Seconded By
Cayetano	Chair	Calavita	Leftwich
Wilson	Vice-Chair	Cayetano	Leftwich

- b. Discussion and action on the annual review of the Use of Force Policy to reflect developing practices and procedures per SB 230 and BPD Policy 300.13 “Policy Review and Updates” (Cayetano)

The PAB took no formal action. The Board asked Director Aguilar to contact the BPD to request the current status of the policy, their anticipated timeline for the new policy, and to obtain the complete version for the PAB’s review.

- c. Discussion and Action on the Preparation of the 2025 PAB and ODPa Annual Report (ODPA)
 - i. Review and Approval of the Proposed Outline
 - ii. Selection of PAB Liaisons for Report Preparation

The PAB took no formal action. The PAB will continue their discussion at their 2026 strategic planning session.

- d. Discussion and action on the proposed resolution to amend Berkeley City Council's 2020 direction to reinstate BPD's Use of Tear Gas in limited situations and lift the COVID-19 moratorium on the use of smoke and oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray (ODPA)

The PAB took no formal action. Chair Cayetano and Vice-Chair Wilson will draft two different positions for the PAB to consider at the PAB’s January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

0 Physically Present Speakers

1 Virtually Present Speakers

11. CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

Pursuant to the Court's order in *Berkeley Police Association v. City of Berkeley, et al.*, Alameda County Superior Court Case No. 2002-057569, the Board will recess into closed session to discuss and act on the following matter(s):

- a. Conference With Labor Negotiators; Government Code § 54957.6
Designated representatives: Hansel Aguilar, Director of Police Accountability; Kitty Calavita and Julie Leftwich, Members, Police Accountability Board Regulations Subcommittee
Employee organization: Berkeley Police Association

The PAB took no formal action.

- b. Case Updates and Recommendations Regarding Complaints Received by the ODPa:

Motion to administratively close ODPa Complaint Number 2025-CI-0042.

Moved/Second (Leftwich/Calavita) Motion carried.

Ayes: Buswell-Charkow, Cayetano, Calavita, Leftwich, Wilson.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wells.

Motion to authorize the Director to enter into a contract with a law firm to represent the Police Accountability Board with respect to Investigation 2025-CI-0020 and matters related to that investigation, including but not limited to, potential litigation associated with the investigation.

Moved/Second (Leftwich/Calavita) Motion carried.

Ayes: Buswell-Charkow, Cayetano, Calavita, Leftwich, Wilson.

Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Wells.

Additional action was taken in closed session; however, no further information is reported pursuant to Government Code section 54957.1(a)(2).⁵

END OF CLOSED SESSION

12. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTIONS

Chair Cayetano announced the closed session actions.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn. Moved/Second (Cayetano/Leftwich). The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM by unanimous consent.

⁵ California Government Code section 54957.1(a)(2):
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV§ionNum=54957.1.

Minutes Approved On: 01/21/2026

Hansel A. Aguilar, Commission Secretary



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H.A. Aguilar', is written over a solid blue horizontal line.