

Peace and  
Justice  
Commission

**PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, March 9, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.**  
**South Berkeley Senior Center**  
**2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703**

**Minutes**

Meeting began at 6:32 PM with Chair Phillips presiding. Tasha Tervalon as Secretary

**Mayor Adena Ishii:**  
Andrea Cassidy  
**Vice-Chair**

**Rashi Kersarwani:**  
Selim Yasavul

**Terry Taplin:**  
Adam Weisberg

**Ben Bartlett:**  
Carole Marasovic

**Igor Tregub:**  
Deborah Fink

**Shoshana O'Keefe:**  
Nimrod Pitsker Elias

**Brent Blackaby:**  
Robin Mencher

**Cecilia Lunaparra:**  
Luke Taylor

**Mark Humbert:**  
Ilene Lee

**BUSD:**

**Appel-** Grace Morizawa

**Shanoski-** Jeannette McNeil

**Chang-** Babak Sani

**Vasudeo-** George Lippman

**Babitt-** Pastor Dwayne L. Phillips- **Chair**

**Clark-** Judah Press

**SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Present: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Arrived at 6:41: Commissioner Lee**

**Arrived at 6:48: Commissioner Marasovic**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Leave of Absence: None**

2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.

**Motion to move item #6 before item #5 and accept the rest of the agenda.**

**M/S/C: Lippman/Morizawa**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Commissioners Cassidy, Marasovic and Lee**

**Excused: None**

5. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 6, 2026 Peace and Justice Commission Meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes with Correction to commissioner Morizawa name spelling and Typo of the word "chair".**

**M/S/C: Babak/Morizawa**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Commissioners Cassidy, Marasovic and Lee**

**Excused: None**

6. Comments from the Public on non-agenda items. Public Comment is subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary.

# of Public Present: 33

# of comments: 4

7. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report

- The Chair reports on PJC activities and informal ad hoc subcommittees

8. Secretary's Report

**SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Adopt a Recommendation to the City Council to reaffirm its commitment to international peace, opposing the war on Iran and expressing solidarity with the people of Iran and their right to self-determination.

**Motion to adopt the following recommendation as amended:** Adopt a Resolution reaffirming the commitment of City of Berkeley to international peace, opposing the war on Iran, an unconstitutional war initiated unilaterally by the U.S. President without congressional authorization, and expressing solidarity with the people of Iran and their right to self-determination.

**M/S/C: Sani/Taylor**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Marasovic, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: Commissioner Lee**

**Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Fink, Elias and Mencher**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Excused: None**

2. Discuss potential dates for one additional meeting to utilize the 10th meeting option for the Commission due to the cancellation of the January meeting. Action is acceptable if a date is proposed.

**No Action**

3. Recommendation to Council that the City of Berkeley be declared a sanctuary city for LGBTQIA+ persons including recommendations as to proposed City mandates to protect, and expand, the rights of trans persons. Discussion and possible action.

**Item referred to next meeting**

4. Commission authorization for Commissioners Luke Taylor and Carole Marasovic to present LGBTQIA+ recommendation to City Council and Council Policy Committees on behalf of the Peace and Justice Commission.

**Item referred to next meeting.**

5. Social Justice Implications of Proposed Use of Controlled Weapons and Other Policing Tools: Adopt a Resolution approving the following actions with regard to the appropriateness of certain chemical weapons and other tools:

- a. Retain the existing 2020 bans on chemical weapons (CS and OC), and the 1982 bans on police dogs and helicopters.
- b. Retain the 1997 requirement for public reporting of each use of pepper spray.

**Motion to** adopt the following recommendation: Adopt a Policy approving the following actions with regard to the appropriateness of certain chemical weapons and other tools:

1. Retain the existing 2020 bans on chemical weapons (CS and OC), and the 1982 bans on police dogs and helicopters.
2. Retain the 1997 requirement for public reporting of each use of pepper spray.
3. Request the City Manager to engage an academic institution such as UC Berkeley, UCSF, or Stanford to study the health impacts of tear gas and other chemical weapons and canine support, potential short-term and long-term impacts on vulnerable populations and possible alternatives to the use of chemical weapons that provide officer safety, suspect safety, and safety to the general public.

**M/S/C: Lippman/Taylor**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Marasovic, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: Commissioner Fink**

**Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Weisberg, Elias, Mencher and Lee**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Excused: None**

6. Social Justice Implications of contracts with the immigration data broker Flock Safety: Cancel Berkeley's Flock Safety contracts for public surveillance images and video footage, due to Flock's repeated sharing of such data with immigration authorities, and the inherent exposure of "cloud-based" storage to Trump administration access.

**Motion to adopt item:**

Approve a Policy approving the following actions with regard to safeguards for Berkeley's surveillance-derived images and footage:

Cancel Berkeley's Flock Safety contracts for public surveillance images and video footage, due to Flock's repeated sharing of such data with immigration authorities, and the inherent exposure of "cloud-based" storage to Trump administration access.

**M/S/C: Lippman/Morizawa**

**Ayes: Commissioners Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: Commissioner Elias**

**Abstain: Commissioners Phillips and Yasavul**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Excused: None**

**Substitute Motion to** Recommend to City Council to terminate all contracts with Flock due to Flock's known cooperation with the federal administration inconsistent with Berkeley's status as a sanctuary city and that jurisdictions throughout the country have terminated their contracts with Flock upon learning that Flock had without their consent released information to federal authorities.

To further explore alternate camera providers, who do not share data with federal authorities without a judicial warrant, to satisfy community concerns for public safety, given that other jurisdictions have switched from Flock to other camera providers,

**M/S/F: Marasovic/Elias**

**Ayes: Commissioners Marasovic and Lee**

**Noes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Mencher, Taylor, Morizawa and McNeil**

**Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Fink, Elias, Sani, Lippman and Press**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Excused: None**

**Motion** Commissioners Phillips and Lippman to communicate The Peace and Justice Commission's perspective at the March 24<sup>th</sup> council meeting regarding the use of Flock cameras.

**M/S/C: Elias/Phillips**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

**Excused: None**

**Motion Passes**

## **SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS**

*Communications submitted to the Peace and Justice Commission are on file in the City Manager's Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the Secretary at or [ttervalon@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ttervalon@berkeleyca.gov)*

## SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion** Adjourn the meeting at 9:28

**M/S/C: McNeil/Elias**

**Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Yusavul, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press**

**Noes: None**

**Abstain: None**

**Absent: Commissioner Cassidy**

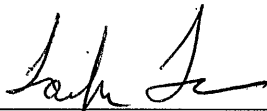
**Excused: None**

Respectfully Submitted,

Tasha Tervalon,

Secretary Peace and Justice Commission

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 4/8/26