



Peace and
Justice
Commission

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

DRAFT MINUTES

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- Jonah Press

Meeting began at 6:33 PM with Chair Phillips presiding. Tasha Tervalon as Secretary

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Phillips, Cassidy, Weisberg, Marasovic, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Arrived at 6:36: Commissioner Morizawa

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Leave of Absence: Commissioner Fink

2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements

4. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.

Motion to approve the agenda with one change, Presenter for Item #2 is unavailable, commission will discuss the item without presentation.

M/S/C: Sani/Press

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink

5. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the March 9, 2026 Peace and Justice Commission Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with the following corrections: in item #5- Capitalize U. S. President, comma after authorization. In item #10 add apostrophe in Flock's, change semicolon to comma and correct M/S/C to M/S/F for failed motion.

M/S/C: Sani/Press

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink

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: 4

of comments: 2

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. Presentation from BPD regarding hate crimes and hate incidents: reporting, investigation and referral for prosecution with Q and A. Discussion only no action.
2. Presentation from Community Violence Solutions on Human Trafficking. Discussion only 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 only no action.
4. 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.

Motion to add the following date for a special meeting: December 7, 2026

M/S/C: Lippman/Press

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: Commissioners Cassidy and Marasovic

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink

Motion to adjourn at 8:30

M/S/C: Lippman/Taylor

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Yasavul and Elias

Excused: Commissioner Fink