

# BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2026  
10:00 AM

2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Teleconference Location – 1619 Edith Street, Berkeley CA 94703

Committee Members:

Mayor Adena Ishii, Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani and Brent Blackaby

Alternate: Councilmember Igor Tregub

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: 161 511 3616**. 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:** 10:04 a.m.

**Present:** Kesarwani, Ishii

**Absent:** Tregub

Councilmember Tregub present at 10:09 a.m.

## Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

## Minutes for Approval

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

- 1. Minutes - April 16, 2026**  
**Action:** M/S/C (Kesarwani/Ishii) to approve the April 16, 2026 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.*

*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. Discussion: Follow up on Overview of FY 2027 – FY 2028 Proposed Budget Balancing Plan**  
Contact: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, (510) 981-7000  
**Action:** 8 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held.
- 3. Charter Officer Budget Reduction Plans - City Attorney**  
Contact: Farimah Brown, City Attorney, (510) 981-6998  
**Action:** 4 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held.

## Committee Action Items

**4. Budget Referral to Reissue the Request for Proposal (RFP) to Support Berkeley-Based Non-Profit Food Assistance Providers Serving Food Insecure Households and to Incorporate Food Insecurity as a Funded Category in Future Community Agency Grant Funding\*\*\***

**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author)**

**Referred: February 23, 2026**

**Due: July 13, 2026**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager to reissue and fund a Request for Proposal (RFP) process as a short-term measure to support Berkeley-based non-profit food assistance providers serving food insecure households. Like the RFP that was issued in August 2024, funds are intended for (but not limited to) the following needs: Expansion of capacity to service more people experiencing food insecurity, such as purchase of equipment; Hiring of additional staff to serve more people; and/or Other emerging needs to be determined. Refer \$300,000 annually in funding to the biennial FY 2026-27 to FY 2027-28 budget process to fund qualified proposals resulting from the RFP. Further, refer to the City Manager to establish food insecurity as a funded category for the Community Agency RFP process for future funding cycles to ensure city funds are permanently allocated to address this key priority and maximize sustainability for relevant non-profits.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110

**Action:** 2 speakers. M/S/C (Kesarwani/Tregub) to send the item to Council with a positive recommendation as amended to establish food insecurity as a funded category for the next community agency RFP process.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Items for Future Agendas

- Councilmember Kesarwani requested a future discussion about ensuring all city contracts have performance metrics, annual compliance reviews of funded agencies, and establishing a corrective action process for non-compliance. Timing to be coordinated with the City Manager and Deputy City Manager.
- Chair Ishii requested a presentation or information about community agency contracts and the impacts suggested in the current budget.

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Tregub/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on April 23, 2026.

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Keith Nesbit, 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).*