

# **BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 28, 2026  
10:00 AM**

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor, 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: 165 547 3579**. 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:** 10:06 a.m.

**Present:** Ishii, Kesarwani

**Absent:** Blackaby

Councilmember Blackaby present at 10:15 a.m.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 2 speakers.

## Minutes for Approval

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

### 1. Minutes - May 14, 2026

**Action:** M/S/C (Kesarwani/Ishii) to approve the May 14, 2026 minutes.

**Vote:** Ayes – Kesarwani, Ishii; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent - Blackaby

## 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. Five Year Capital Improvement Program Overview

Contact: Wahid Amiri, Public Works, (510) 981-6300; Scott Ferris, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront, (510) 981-6700; Maricar Dupaya, City Manager, (510) 981-7000; Kevin Fong, Information Technology, (510) 981-6500

**Action:** 5 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held. The Committee completed its consideration of this item.

Councilmember Kesarwani absent 12:00 p.m. – 12:10 p.m.

## Committee Action Items

3. **Co-Sponsorship and Budget Referral for the Solano Avenue Stroll**  
**From: Councilmember O'Keefe (Author), Councilmember Blackaby (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred: April 6, 2026**  
**Due: October 6, 2026**  
**Recommendation:** 1. Adopt a Resolution for the City of Berkeley to Co-Sponsor the Solano Avenue Association's September 2026 and September 2027 Solano Avenue Stroll events.  
2. Refer to the FY 2027-2028 Budget Process the cost of providing Police, Fire, and Public Works services to the Solano Stroll, totaling \$81,000 per year, for a two-year total of \$162,000, including:  
a. \$55,000 per year for Police, including command/supervision, dispatch, community service officers, and parking enforcement officers to manage traffic control, safety, and missing children;  
b. \$14,000 per year to cover the cost of Fire Department staffing and the use of fire engines and ambulances; and  
c. \$12,000 per year for Waste Management Services.  
3. Refer to the FY 2027-2028 Budget Process the cost of safety barricades, street closure supplies, and zero waste fees including:  
a. \$50,000 per year for vehicle barricade rentals (\$100,000 total);  
b. \$6,000 per year for street closure supplies and rentals (\$12,000 total); and  
c. \$1,500 per year to cover zero waste fees (\$3,000 total).  
4. Refer \$10,000 per year to the FY 2027-2028 Budget Process (\$20,000 total) to support the September 2026 and 2027 Solano Stroll events.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Shoshana O'Keefe, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150  
**Action:** 1 speaker. Presentation made and discussion. M/S/C (Ishii/Blackaby) to send the item to Council with a qualified positive recommendation with amendments to include a referral to staff to cost out purchasing barriers as opposed to renting them.  
**Vote:** Ayes – Blackaby, Ishii; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent - Kesarwani

## 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.*

## Unscheduled Items

- 4. Amendment to Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 7.18 to Explicitly Require Competitive Procurement for Services to Promote Accountability and Transparency and Refer Development of Regulations to City Manager**  
**From: Councilmember Kesarwani (Author), Mayor Ishii (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred: April 27, 2026**  
**Due: October 13, 2026**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt an ordinance amending Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) Chapter 7.18, Expenditure Limitations, to require procurement through competitive solicitation for all city contracts for professional services and other services greater than \$100,000.  
Refer to the City Manager to promulgate any further regulations that may be needed related to the requirement for competitive solicitation except for emergencies and when market research justifies the business case for a sole-source procurement, in alignment with the existing purchasing manual.  
**Financial Implications:** Staff time  
Contact: Rashi Kesarwani, Councilmember, District 1, (510) 981-7110
- 5. Community Agency Contracts Overview**  
Contact: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager, (510) 981-7000
- 6. Adopt a Resolution Restricting Council Discretionary Spending from Personnel Budget Salary Savings**  
**From: Councilmember Lunaparra (Author), Councilmember O'Keefe (Co-Sponsor)**  
**Referred Date: May 4, 2026**  
**Due Date: October 20, 2026**  
**Recommendation:** Adopt a resolution restricting Council discretionary spending by mandating that salary savings realized from step-placement differentials remain restricted to personnel. The transfer of such savings to non-personnel categories would be prohibited, with the exception of a one-time discretionary transfer cap not to exceed \$10,000 for newly elected Councilmembers during their initial year of the first term. This item does not apply to the Mayor's budget because it operates under a different structure, rendering this recommendation irrelevant and inapplicable to their budget.  
**Financial Implications:** See report  
Contact: Cecilia Lunaparra, Councilmember, District 7, (510) 981-7170

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Ishii/Blackaby) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Ayes - Blackaby, Ishii; Noes - None; Abstain – None; Absent - Kesarwani.

Adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Budget & Finance Committee meeting held on May 28, 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).*