



Peace and Justice  
Commission

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.

South Berkeley Senior Center

2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

### Commissioners

**Mayor Adena Ishii**  
Andrea Cassidy

**Rashi Kersarwani:**  
Selim Yasavul

**Terry Taplin:**  
Adam Weisberg

**Ben Bartlett:**  
Carole Marasovic

**Igor Tregub**  
Deborah Fink

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

**Brent Blackaby:**  
Robin Mencher

**Cecilia Lunaparra:**  
Luke Taylor

**Mark Humbert**  
Anna Mantell

#### **BUSD:**

**Appel-** Grace Morizawa

**Shanoski-** Jeannette McNeil

**Chang-** Sandy Park- Vice Chair

**Vasudeo-** Sheela Jivan

**Babitt-** Ptr. Dwayne Phillips- Chair

**Clark-** Sonali Mascarenhas-Swan

### Minutes

#### SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Ptr. Dwayne Phillips (Chair)  
Commissioner Sandy Park (Vice Chair)  
Commissioner Andrea Cassidy  
Commissioner Selim Yasavul  
Commissioner Adam Weisberg  
Commissioner Carole Marasovic  
Commissioner Deborah Fink  
Commissioner Nimrod Pitskar Elias  
Commissioner Robin Mencher

Commissioner Luke Taylor  
Commissioner Anna Mantell  
Commissioner Grace Morizawa  
Commissioner Jeannette McNeil  
Commissioner Sheela Jivan  
Commissioner Sonali Mascarenhas-Sawn  
Commissioner Ilene Lee  
Okeya Vance-Dozier  
Rex Brown

Absent:

CMO Staff:

Clerk's Office Staff: Mark Numainville

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Announcements

M/S/C Cassidy/Bhatt Jivan to change the order of the items on the agenda to move Section B items 4, 5, 6, and 7 to Section A Item, number 6 as Commission Updates as they do not clearly identify an item on which to act and are for discussion only and approve the agenda.

**Ayes:** Phillips, Park, Cassidy, Yasavul, Weisberg, Marasovic, Fink, Pitsker Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Mantell, Morizawa, McNeil, Bhatt Jivan, Mascarenhas-Sawn

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:**None

**Absent:** Lee

**Excused:**Lee

4. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)  
Chair explains Non-agenda public comment prior to Review and approval of the minutes, a period of public comment following each agendized item for discussion and action in Section B of the Agenda, one minute per speaker allowed, and Disruption warnings.

5. Review and approval of meeting minutes.

M/S/C Marasovic / Mascarenhas-Sawn to approve the minutes from the last meeting with the amendment to add language to incorporate "marginalized populations targeted by the Trump administration" in the work plan.

**Ayes:** Phillips, Park, Cassidy, Marasovic, Fink, Mencher, Taylor, Morizawa, McNeil, Bhatt Jivan, Mascarenhas-Sawn

**Noes:** None

**Abstain:** Mantell, Weisberg, and Yazavul.

**Absent:** Lee

**Excused:**Lee

6. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report:

- a. Training on Proper procedure to submit a commission recommendation to council from Rex Brown. Discussion. To be further discussed at the next meeting.

- b. Sanctuary City for LGBTQIA2S+ People. Discussion.
  - c. Preliminary Discussion on Elements for a Recommendation to Council on Protecting Transgender Rights in Berkeley. To be discussed at a later meeting.
  - d. Federal Actions Targeting the LGBTQ Community. Discussion
7. Secretary’s Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings) Update on the “Resolution for an Immediate and Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza, and an End to U.S. Military Aid to Israel, and Support for Palestinian Self-Determination” previously passed as forwarded to City Council.

## SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation on Ensuring and Protecting Trans Sex Equality, AJ Stone Jonathan. Discussion. Public comment.
2. Action on the Progress Flag at 1231 Addison. Discussion. Public comment. M/S/C Taylor / Park to amend language of the item to “replace the Pride Flag with the Progress Flag at 1231 Addison as a first step toward supporting the transgender community.” Commissioner Marasovic voted Aye with the caveat that she is “relying on Commissioner Taylor’s statement that it was in proper format and proper procedure for him to bring the recommendation to the School Board.”  
**Ayes:** Phillips, Park, Cassidy, Yasavul, Marasovic, Fink, Pitskar Elias, Taylor, Mantell, Morizawa, McNeil, Bhatt Jivan, Mascarenhas-Sawn  
**Noes:** None  
**Abstain:** Mencher and Weisberg  
**Absent:** Lee
3. Commissioner Taylor, who requested that the “Resolution Opposing an American Occupation of Gaza” item be put on the agenda, requested that it be withdrawn. Public comment.

## SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

1. No communications received.

## SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

## SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn.

M/S/C Mencher/Park. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rex Brown, Secretary  
Peace and Justice Commission