



Peace and Justice Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, February 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.

South Berkeley Senior Center

2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703

Approved Minutes

Meeting began at 6:30 PM with Chair Phillips presiding. Tasha Tervalon as Secretary

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNiel, Lippman, Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Taylor, Cassidy

Arrived at 6:30: Commissioners Mascarenhas-Sawn and Elias

Arrived at 6:33: Commissioner Morizawa

Arrived at 6:37: Commissioner Mencher

Arrived at 6:44: Commissioner Lee

Absent: None

Leave of Absence: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

2. Announcements

3. Review and approval of Agenda.

Motion to approve amended agenda:

M/S/C: Taylor/ Cassidy

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNiel, Lippman, Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Taylor, Cassidy, Mascarenhas-Sawn and Elias, and Morizawa

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Lee

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

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

Public Attendance: 4

Public Comments: 0

5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
6. Secretary's Report

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. A Conversation with Irma Gallego Chavez on her LGBTQIA experience in Mexico and immigrant experience emigrating from Mexico to the United States under political asylum grounds. Client, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant. **Item was discussion only.**
2. Presentation with Q and A on Privacy and Surveillance in the Current Immigration Era, Brian Hofer, Executive Director, Secure Justice. **Item was discussion only.**
3. Selection of commissioners or commissioners to present at council on March 10th (and Council Committee if the item is referred to Committee)
 - a. Alien Enemies Act: refer to the City Manager to refer to the appropriate department or division to develop an educational event, whether a panel of speakers, a film, a play or some combination of these, for the Berkeley community so that the broader community can be made aware of the impact of the Alien Enemies Act and its impact on Berkeley community members during World War II. Such event shall be free of charge and well-promoted.
 - b. Re-Affirming Commitment to Free Speech: Adopt this recommendation re-affirming the City of Berkeley's commitment to Free Speech and Assembly and its opposition to the detainment and deportation of immigrants without due process, violating their constitutionally protected speech.

Motion: Move that Commissioners Marasovic and Morizawa speak on behalf of the commission for the item as passed on June 2025 (item A Above) including speaking at agenda committee.

M/S/C: Marasovic and Cassidy

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNiel, Lippman, Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Taylor, Cassidy, Mascarenhas-Sawn, Elias, Morizawa and Lee

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

Motion: Commissioners McNiel and Taylor present item "Re-Affirming Commitment to Free Speech" and speak on behalf of the commission to the council and council policy

committees

M/S/C: Marosovic and Mascarenhas-Sawn

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNeil, Lippman, Remler, Marasovic, Taylor, Cassidy, Mascarenhas-Sawn, Elias, Morizawa and Lee

Noes: None

Abstain: Commissioners Schwartz, Remler, Fink and Lee

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

4. ICE Killings in Minneapolis. **Item was discussion only.**
5. Revised letter to Council recommending LGBTQIA persons receive needed services under County Measure W to incorporate use of Proposition 1 (BHSA) to meet LGBTQIA needs.

Motion: Move to adopt letter as written and presented to the commission.

M/S/C: Taylor and Morizawa

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNeil, Lippman, Morizawa, Schwartz, Marasovic, Fink, Taylor, Cassidy, Mascarenhas-Sawn, and Lee

Noes:

Abstain: Commissioners Remler, Elias and Mencher

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

6. Chair and Vice Chair Elections.

Motion: Move to Elect Pastor Dwayne Phillips as chair, amendment by Elias and seconded by Taylor to add 10 minutes of discussion and add potential candidates, amendment accepted by Cassidy.

Motion: Move to Elect Pastor Dwayne Phillips as Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission.

M/S/C: Cassidy and Fink

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Lee and Cassidy

Noes: None

Abstain: Commissioners Sani, McNeil, Lippman, Morizawa, Mascarenhas-Swan, Taylor

Absent: None

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

Motion: Move to nominate George Lippman as Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission.

M/S/C: Fink and Remler

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, McNeil, Lippman, Morizawa, Mascarenhas-Swan, Taylor

Noes: Commissioners Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Lee,

Cassidy

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

Motion: Move to nominate Andrea Cassidy as Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission.

M/S/C: Fink and Marasovic

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Sani, Lippman, Morizawa, Schwartz, Remler, Marasovic, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Lee, and Cassidy

Noes: Commissioners McNeil, Mascarenhas-Swan

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: Commissioners Yasavul and Weisberg

7. Rejecting militarization in Iran. **Item was discussion only.**
8. 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. Item not discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30

Respectfully Submitted, _____

Tasha Tervalon,

Secretary Peace and Justice Commission

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