



Peace and
Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 9, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley, CA 94703

Draft Minutes

Meeting began at 6:32 PM with Chair Phillips presiding. Tasha Tervalon as Secretary

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- Judah Press

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Arrived at 6:41: Commissioner Lee

Arrived at 6:48: Commissioner Marasovic

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Leave of Absence: None

2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Review and approval of Agenda. Discussion and possible action.

Motion to move item #6 before item #5 and accept the rest of the agenda.

M/S/C: Lippman/Morizawa

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Cassidy, Marasovic and Lee

Excused: None

Motion passed.

5. Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the February 6, 2026 Peace and Justice Commission Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with Correction to commissioner Morizawa name spelling and Typo of the word “chair”.

M/S/C: Babak/Morizawa

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Yasavul, Weisberg, Fink, Elias, Mencher, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioners Cassidy, Marasovic and Lee

Excused: None

Motion passed.

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: 33

of comments: 4

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. Adopt a Recommendation to the City Council to reaffirm its commitment to international peace, opposing the war on Iran and expressing solidarity with the people of Iran and their right to self-determination.

Motion to adopt the following recommendation as amended: Adopt a Resolution reaffirming the commitment of City of Berkeley to international peace, opposing the war on Iran, an unconstitutional war initiated unilaterally by the us president without congressional authorization and expressing solidarity with the people of Iran and their right to self-determination.

M/S/C: Sani/Taylor

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

Noes: Commissioner Lee

Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Fink, Elias and Mencher

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Passed.

2. 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.

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 and possible action.

Item referred to next meeting

4. Commission authorization for Commissioners Luke Taylor and Carole Marasovic to present LGBTQIA+ recommendation to City Council and Council Policy Committees on behalf of the Peace and Justice Commission.

Item referred to next meeting.

5. Social Justice Implications of Proposed Use of Controlled Weapons and Other Policing Tools: Adopt a Resolution approving the following actions with regard to the appropriateness of certain chemical weapons and other tools:

- a. Retain the existing 2020 bans on chemical weapons (CS and OC), and the 1982 bans on police dogs and helicopters.

b. Retain the 1997 requirement for public reporting of each use of pepper spray.

Motion to adopt the following recommendation: Adopt a Policy approving the following actions with regard to the appropriateness of certain chemical weapons and other tools:

1. Retain the existing 2020 bans on chemical weapons (CS and OC), and the 1982 bans on police dogs and helicopters.
2. Retain the 1997 requirement for public reporting of each use of pepper spray.
3. Request the City Manager to engage an academic institution such as UC Berkeley, UCSF, or Stanford to study the health impacts of tear gas and other chemical weapons and canine support, potential short-term and long-term impacts on vulnerable populations and possible alternatives to the use of chemical weapons that provide officer safety, suspect safety, and safety to the general public.

M/S/C: Lippman/Taylor

Ayes: Commissioners Phillips, Marasovic, Taylor, Sani, Morizawa, Lippman, McNeil and Press

Noes: Commissioner Fink

Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Weisberg, Elias, Mencher and Lee

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Passes

6. Social Justice Implications of contracts with the immigration data broker Flock Safety: Cancel Berkeley's Flock Safety contracts for public surveillance images and video footage, due to Flock's repeated sharing of such data with immigration authorities, and the inherent exposure of "cloud-based" storage to Trump administration access.

Motion to adopt item:

Approve a Policy approving the following actions with regard to safeguards for Berkeley's surveillance-derived images and footage:

Cancel Berkeley's Flock Safety contracts for public surveillance images and video footage, due to Flock's repeated sharing of such data with immigration authorities, and the inherent exposure of "cloud-based" storage to Trump administration access.

M/S/C: Lippman/Morizawa

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

Noes: Commissioner Elias

Abstain: Commissioners Phillips and Yasavul

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Passes

Substitute Motion to Recommend to City Council to terminate all contracts with

Flock due to Flocks known cooperation with the federal Administration inconsistent with Berkeley's status as a sanctuary city; that jurisdictions throughout the country have terminated their contracts with Flock upon learning that Flock had without their consent released information to federal authorities. To further explore alternate camera providers, who do not share data with federal authorities without a judicial warrant, to satisfy community concerns for public safety, given that other jurisdictions have switched from Flock to other camera providers,

M/S/C: Marasovic/Elias

Ayes: Commissioners Marasovic and Lee

Noes: Commissioners Phillips, Weisberg, Mencher, Taylor, Morizawa and McNeil

Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul, Fink, Elias, Sani, Lippman and Press

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Fails

Motion Commissioners Phillips and Lippman to communicate The Peace and Justice Commission's perspective at the March 24th council meeting regarding the use of Flock cameras.

M/S/C: Elias/Phillips

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

Noes: None

Abstain: Commissioners Yasavul

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Passes

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications submitted to the Peace and Justice Commission are on file in the City Manager's Office at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA, and are available upon request by contacting the Secretary at or ttervalon@berkeleyca.gov

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Adjourn the meeting at 9:28

M/S/C: McNeil/Elias

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Cassidy

Excused: None

Motion Passes

SECTION D. ATTACHMENTS

Land Acknowledgement Statement: *The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.*



Meeting Access: To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist, at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD), at least three (3) business days before the meeting date.

Communications Disclaimer

*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record.** If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.*

SB 343 Disclaimer

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Old City Hall located at 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

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