



# URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)  
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

**Meeting Date: October 11, 2022**

**Item Description: Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)  
*Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.*
- Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)  
*There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.*

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

## **Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:**

The protest movement in Iran and the Iranian government's response have escalated significantly in recent weeks and days. It is in the public interest and consistent with Berkeley's role as the birthplace of the 1960s Free Speech Movement for the City of Berkeley to urgently communicate its support for the freedom of speech and expression for women and all people in Iran.

The need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.



Lori Droste  
Councilmember, District 8

CONSENT CALENDAR  
October 11, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Lori Droste, Rashi Kesarwani, Rigel Robinson, and Susan Wengraf

Subject: Adopt a Resolution in Support of the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution in support of the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests.

Send copies of the resolution and letters to Senators Feinstein and Padilla, and Congresswoman Lee.

CURRENT SITUATION, EFFECTS, AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Berkeley City Council wishes to convey its urgent support for the women of Iran and its condemnation of the Iranian government's oppression of women and violent suppression of protests.

The Free Speech Movement of the 1960's was born in Berkeley. The City Council and the people of Berkeley therefore feel a special connection and obligation to the global struggle for freedom of speech and expression.

It is well known that the Iranian government has for over 40 years severely curtailed the freedoms of the Iranian people. This has been especially true for women and members of ethnic and religious minorities and other marginalized groups.

The murder of (Jīna) Mahsa Amini by Iran's morality police was but one particularly egregious travesty in a decades-long campaign of state-sponsored violence against women and others in Iran who bravely assert their fundamental rights. But it was the senseless and tragic slaying of (Jīna) Mahsa Amini that ignited this new wave of pro-freedom demonstrations.

The ongoing protest movement in Iran represents the strongest showing of defiance against the ruling theocracy since this repressive government rose to power in 1979. The courageous women, young people, and other demonstrators in Iran deserve our support as they force open this window of opportunity for freedom and reform.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time will be necessary for the Clerk to send the letter to the specified elected officials.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Lori Droste (510) 981-7180

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. Letters

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE WOMEN OF IRAN AND CONDEMNING THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT'S OPPRESSION OF WOMEN AND VIOLENT SUPPRESSION OF PROTESTS; AND CONDEMNING THE DETENTION AND DEATH OF (JĪNA) MAHSA AMINI AND CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO END ITS SYSTEMIC PERSECUTION OF WOMEN

WHEREAS (JĪna) Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman, died in the custody of the Morality Police of Iran after being detained for purportedly wearing a hijab "improperly";

WHEREAS the Morality Police of Iran, an element of the Law Enforcement Forces of Iran, continually suppress Iranian women's right to freedom of expression and opinion, including restrictions on women's behavior and clothing such as compulsory wearing of the hijab;

WHEREAS the protests over the death of Ms. Amini are the largest in Iran in years and have spread throughout the capital of Iran, all of the 31 provinces of Iran, and at least 80 other cities and towns nationwide;

WHEREAS the Government of Iran has instituted a violent crackdown against peaceful protesters following the death of Ms. Amini, resulting in the injury and detention of hundreds of protesters and the deaths of at least 133 people as of October 3rd, 2022;

WHEREAS, to prevent protests from spreading, the biggest telecommunications operator in Iran largely shut down mobile internet access-the most severe internet restriction in the country since 2019;

WHEREAS the Government of Iran consistently engages in a range of human rights abuses in addition to its systematic persecution of women and peaceful protesters, including-

- (1) unlawful or arbitrary killings;
- (2) trials without due process;
- (3) forced disappearances;
- (4) torture;
- (5) arbitrary arrest and detention;
- (6) harsh and life-threatening prison conditions;
- (7) transnational attacks against dissidents and persecuted ethnic groups;
- (8) severe restrictions on free expression and the media;
- (9) substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association;
- (10) severe restrictions on religious freedom; and
- (11) restrictions on the ability of citizens to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections;

WHEREAS the Government of Iran is ranked as one of the worst human rights violators in the world, having received a 14 out of 100 "Global Freedom Score" and a 16 out of 100 "Internet Freedom Score" from Freedom House;

WHEREAS Iran has been designated as a "country of particular concern" by the Department of State for its suppression of religious freedom every year since 1999; and

WHEREAS improvements in the fundamental rights of women, freedom of expression, and other human rights are essential to strengthening the accountability of the Government of Iran to its citizens:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley:

- (1) condemns the detention and death of (Jīna) Mahsa Amini
- (2) recognizes the bravery and right of the Iranian people protesting the death of Ms. Amini, including many Iranian women, with special recognition for the Kurdish people and others in the Kurdish region of Iran, where protests began;
- (3) calls on the Government of Iran to end its systemic persecution of women;
- (4) calls on the Government of Iran to allow peaceful protest and free elections;
- (5) calls on the Government of Iran to cease attacks on and imprisonment of its journalists, artists, intellectuals, and demonstrators for their exercise of their human rights to free speech and free expression;
- (6) calls on the Government of Iran to end its media censorship and allow free and fair access to the internet;
- (7) supports human rights, including the human rights of women in Iran; and
- (8) supports holding all human rights violators in Iran to account.

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests**

Dear Senator Padilla:

The Berkeley City Council wishes to convey its urgent support for the women of Iran and its condemnation of the Iranian government's oppression of women and violent suppression of protests.

The Free Speech Movement of the 1960's was born in Berkeley. The City Council and the people of Berkeley therefore feel a special connection and obligation to the global struggle for freedom of speech and expression.

It is well known that the Iranian government has for over 40 years severely curtailed the freedoms of the Iranian people. This has been especially true for women and members of ethnic, religious, and sexual minorities.

The murder of (Jîna) Mahsa Amini by Iran's morality police was but one particularly egregious travesty in a decades-long campaign of state-sponsored violence against women and others in Iran who bravely assert their fundamental rights. But it was the senseless and tragic slaying of (Jîna) Mahsa Amini that lit the fuse for this new wave of pro-freedom demonstrations.

The ongoing protest movement in Iran represents the strongest showing of defiance against the ruling theocracy since this repressive government rose to power in 1979. The courageous women, young people, and other demonstrators in Iran deserve our support as they force open this window of opportunity for freedom and reform.

We thank you for your sponsorship of the bipartisan, bicameral resolution in support of Iranian women and protestors, and we hope you will consider additional actions to support their efforts and broader cause.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Berkeley City Council

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**Re: Support for the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests**

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The Berkeley City Council wishes to convey its urgent support for the women of Iran and its condemnation of the Iranian government's oppression of women and violent suppression of protests.

The Free Speech Movement of the 1960's was born in Berkeley. The City Council and the people of Berkeley therefore feel a special connection and obligation to the global struggle for freedom of speech and expression.

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The ongoing protest movement in Iran represents the strongest showing of defiance against the ruling theocracy since this repressive government rose to power in 1979. The courageous women, young people, and other demonstrators in Iran deserve our support as they force open this window of opportunity for freedom and reform.

We urge you to support the bipartisan, bicameral resolution cosponsored by Senator Padilla in support of Iranian women and protestors, and we hope you will consider additional actions to support their efforts and broader cause.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Berkeley City Council

The Honorable Barbara Lee  
United States House of Representatives  
2470 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-0513

**Re: Support for the Women of Iran and Condemning the Iranian Government's Oppression of Women and Violent Suppression of Protests**

Dear Representative Lee:

The Berkeley City Council wishes to convey its urgent support for the women of Iran and its condemnation of the Iranian government's oppression of women and violent suppression of protests.

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The ongoing protest movement in Iran represents the strongest showing of defiance against the ruling theocracy since this repressive government rose to power in 1979. The courageous women, young people, and other demonstrators in Iran deserve our support as they force open this window of opportunity for freedom and reform.

We urge you to support the bipartisan, bicameral resolution cosponsored in the Senate by Senator Padilla in support of Iranian women and protestors, and we hope you will consider additional actions to support their efforts and broader cause.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Berkeley City Council