



City of Berkeley Department of Health, Housing, and Community Services

Enhancing Community Life and
Supporting Health and Wellness
for All



CITY OF BERKELEY
HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Commission Reorganization

Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC) and
Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) Commission Merger and Reform

Background

- ❖ **Council directed staff to merge the HWCAC and PJC at their June 15, 2021 meeting.**

- ❖ **Staff commission merger development.** Staff drafted a new commission ordinance combining key responsibilities of the HWCAC and PJC, as well as Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding requirements.
 - A memo was sent to both the HWCAC and PJC in November 2023 including the background, reasoning, and tentative timeline for the merger.
 - Agenda items were included for both the HWCAC's and PJC's Feb 2024 meetings to discuss the merger .
 - Commissioners met with commission secretaries to discuss concerns and provide input.

Commission Reorganization

Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC) and
Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) Commission Merger and Reform

Background

- ❖ Staff are providing two new ordinance options for moving the Council-directed commission merger forward while ensuring that the CSBG funding requirements currently being held in the HWCAC are met.
 - **Option A.** In response to concerns raised by HWCAC and PJC commissioners, Option A will merge the HWCAC and PJC while maintaining the key areas of interest and priorities of each commission.
 - **Option B.** In the case that Option A is not approved, Option B will make necessary revisions to the existing HWCAC ordinance to ensure CSBG funding compliance.

Option A

Commission Merger between the HWCAC and PJC

Key revised commission ordinance provisions

- **New name “Human Welfare, Peace and Justice Commission”**
- **Inclusion of HWCAC and PJC priorities and responsibilities.**
- **Inclusion of CSBG-required responsibilities.**

Rationale

- The current CSBG-related requirements held by the HWCAC are not being met and put this funding at risk.
- Council directed staff to merge the HWCAC and PJC and reduce the number of seats to 9.
- Both the HWCAC and PJC have had long-term commission vacancies.
- Achieve administrative efficiencies for staff while maintaining citizen oversight on matters of human welfare and peace and justice.

Option B

Reform of the HWCAC

Key Changes to Ordinance

- **Reduction in commission membership from 15 to nine.**
- **Clarification of tripartite board composition.**
- **Clarification of CSBG required activities and responsibilities.**

Rationale

- The HWCAC acts as the tripartite board for Berkeley's CSBG funding, which brings in approximately \$300K per year for programs that benefit low-income people.
- The long-term vacancies on the HWCAC are in violation of CSBG funding requirements and put this funding at risk.



Thank you!

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