### Human Welfare and Community Action Commission



AGENDA Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:30 PM

#### PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20, issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, this meeting of the Housing Advisory Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order, and to ensure the health and safety of the public by limiting human contact that could spread the COVID-19 virus, there will not be a physical meeting location available.

## To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL –<u>https://zoom.us/j/4863098496</u>

If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon on the screen. **To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-6833 and Enter Meeting ID: 486 309 8496.** If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

#### **Preliminary Matters**

- 1. Roll Call
- 2. Agenda Approval
- 3. Public Comment

#### Update/Action Items

## The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

#### Berkeley Community Action Agency Board Business

- 4. Approve minutes from the 3/23/2022 Regular Meeting (Attachment A) All
- 5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair All
- 6. <u>Update and approve the 2018-2023 HWCAC Work Plan for submission to City</u> <u>Council (Attachment B) – All</u>
- 7. <u>Review City of Berkeley funded agency Program and Financial reports</u> (Attachment C) — Staff
  - a. Through The Looking Glass and financial reports

#### **Other Discussion Items**

- 8. <u>Discussion and possible action on communication to Council regarding Easy</u> <u>Does It lapse in services – Commissioner Behm-Steinberg</u>
- 9. <u>Discuss potential infrastructure and affordable housing bonds/taxes discussed by</u> <u>Council (Attachment D)</u>
- 10. <u>Discussion and possible action regarding a site visit to the Pathways facility –</u> <u>Commissioner Behm-Steinberg</u>
- 11. <u>Subcommittee for prevention and ending of homelessness in Berkeley update</u> and possible action on communication to Council – Commissioners Bookstein, <u>Lippman, Omodele</u>
- 12. Subcommittee on Alta Bates update Commissioners Bookstein, Omodele
- 13. Review latest City Council meeting agenda
- 14. Announcements
- 15. Future Agenda Items

#### **Adjournment**

#### **Attachments**

- A. Draft Minutes of the 3/23/2022 Meeting
- B. Draft 2018-2023 HWCAC Work Plan
- C. Program and financial reports from Through The Looking Glass

D. "Berkeley eyeing a big ballot measure in 2022 for streets, affordable housing", Berkeleyside

Review City Council Meeting Agenda at City Clerk Dept. or http://www.cityofberkeley.info/citycouncil

#### **Communications**

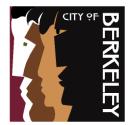
Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in 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. 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 Housing and Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

Agenda – HWCAC April 27, 2022 Page 3 of 3

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. 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 business days before the meeting date. **Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.** 

Secretary: Mary-Claire Katz Health, Housing & Community Services Department 510-981-5414 <u>mkatz@CityofBerkeley.info</u>

Mailing Address: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission Mary-Claire Katz, Secretary 2180 Milvia Street, 2<sup>∞</sup> Floor Berkeley, CA 94704



DRAFT MINUTES Wednesday, March 23, 2022 6:30 PM

#### PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

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#### Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call

Present: Behm-Steinberg, Omodele (7:45PM depature), Sood, Sim, Lippman Absent: Bookstein Quorum: 4 (Attended: 5) Staff Present: Mary-Claire Katz, Rhianna Babka Public Present: Michai Freeman

- 2. Agenda Approval No agenda changes.
- 3. Public Comment None.

#### Update/Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

#### Berkeley Community Action Agency Board Business

 <u>Approve minutes from the 2/16/2022 Regular Meeting (Attachment A) – All</u> Action: M/S/C (Sood/Lippman) to approve the minutes.
 Vote: Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Lippman, Omodele, Sood, Sim; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Bookstein.
  Update and approve the 2018-2023 HWCAC Work Plan for submission to City Council (Attachment B) – All
 Action: M/S/C (Soci/Omodele) to finalize and approve the work plan at the poperty.

**Action:** M/S/C (Sood/Omodele) to finalize and approve the work plan at the next meeting and for commissioners to come to the next meeting with any comments and/or changes to the work plan.

**Vote:** Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Lippman, Omodele, Sood, Sim; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Bookstein.

- 6. <u>Review City of Berkeley funded agency Program and Financial reports</u> (Attachment C) — Staff
  - a. <u>J-Sei program and financial reports</u> Commissioners discuss minutes. Commissioner Behm-Steinberg appreciates J-Sei narrative explanations.

#### **Open Items**

- 7. <u>Communication: Vacant Properties (Attachment D)</u> Commissioner Sood will provide an update on this topic at the next meeting.
- 8. <u>Communication: Alta Bates Update (Attachment E)</u> Commissioner Omodele will provide an update on this topic at the next meeting.

#### Other Discussion Items

 Discussion and possible action on communication to Council regarding Easy Does It (EDI) lapse in services – Commissioner Behm-Steinberg Commissioner Behm-Steinberg met with the Executive Director of EDI and will bring more information on this topic to the next meeting.

#### Public Comment: Michai Freeman

Freeman advocates for more oversight of EDI. She urges this commission to develop a recommendation that COB-funded nonprofits are held responsible for their actions and treatment of their clients. Freeman says that she has spoken with EDI staff and there is a culture of fear of retaliation for complaints. She says that EDI needs a client satisfaction survey for services. She says she would like this commission to require an audit of EDI's contract. She says that there are people who will not use EDI services because they could not get a female attendant. She says people have been left in their beds for long periods of time because of lack of service availability. She says EDI is on the verge of collapse and then clients will have to contact EMS and the fire department for help.

10. <u>Discuss potential infrastructure and affordable housing bonds/taxes discussed by</u> <u>Council (Attachment F)</u>

Commissioner Behm-Steinberg discusses a conversation with the COB HCS Manager on this topic. The HCS Manager said that there will be presentations coming up on this topic from COB departments.

- 11. Discussion and possible action regarding a site visit to the Pathways facility Commissioner Behm-Steinberg Commissioner Behm-Steinberg spoke with BACS and COB staff on this topic. The message is that there are no sites visits because of COVID but Commissioner Behm-Steinberg disagrees because of triple vaccination and the availability of N95 masks and that a walk-through of the site should be available. She says that COB employees should consider being whistleblowers on this topic.
- 12. <u>Subcommittee for prevention and ending of homelessness in Berkeley update</u> and possible action on communication to Council – Commissioners Bookstein, <u>Lippman, Omodele</u> Move to next meeting.
- 13. <u>Subcommittee on Alta Bates update Commissioners Bookstein, Omodele</u> Move to next meeting.
- 14. <u>Review latest City Council meeting agenda</u> Commissioner Lippman reviewed a presentation from anti-eviction mapping network who made a map of Berkeley and analyzed Senate Bill 9 for Berkeley and its impact on poor communities. Commissioner Lippman says that the organization has recommendations on this topic that are contrary to Council. Commissioner Sood says Councilman Bartlett brought a reparations study to the Council meeting.
- 15. Announcements

Rhianna Babka will no longer be supporting this commission. The Peace and Justice Commission elected Commissioner Lippman as their ` Chair.

16. <u>Future Agenda Items</u> Commissioner Omodele will provide an update on Alta Bates discussion.

#### **Adjournment**

Action: M/S/C (Sood/Behm-Steinberg) to adjourn at 8:00PM. Vote: Ayes – Behm-Steinberg, Lippman, Sood, Sim; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent – Bookstein, Omodele.

#### **Attachments**

- A. Draft Minutes of the 2/16/2022 Meeting
- B. Draft 2018-2023 HWCAC Work Plan
- C. Program and financial reports from J-Sei
- D. Communication: Vacant Properties
- E. Communication: Alta Bates Update

F. "Berkeley eyeing a big ballot measure in 2022 for streets, affordable housing", Berkeleyside

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Secretary: Mary-Claire Katz Health, Housing & Community Services Department 510-981-5414 <u>mkatz@CityofBerkeley.info</u> Mailing Address: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission Mary-Claire Katz, Secretary 2180 Milvia Street, 2∞ Floor Berkeley, CA 94704



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

#### 2018-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

#### <u>Vision</u>

Eradicate persistent poverty in the city of Berkeley by offering residents the services they require for a decent life while offering a path to economic stability.

#### <u>Mission</u>

Provide city council with recommendations to support a fully integrated system of community services and policies that provide low income residents of Berkeley, with the following: (A) Responsive, caring, and effective community services that provide basic human needs, including, but not limited to, the core services; (B) Opportunities for employment that provide a living wage and offer future growth; (C) Opportunities to continuously build an asset and skills base that can lead to greater economic stability.

#### Core Services to be provided by City and/or Agencies

- 1. Access to nutritious food/Food Security
- 2. Housing/Housing stability
- 3. Healthcare (Including Mental health services)
- 4. Childcare
- 5. Transportation
- 6. Services for the Disabled
- 7. Computer and Internet Access
- 8. Legal Services
- 9. Skills Training
- 10. Job/Opportunity Development
- 11. Banking Services
- 12. Money Management

#### **Target Populations**

- 1. General Funds: Low income( Defined as 20 to 60% of AMI.) households that own or rent within the City of Berkeley.
- 2. CSBG Funds: Households that own or rent within the City of Berkeley whose household income is 125% or less of the poverty level.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. Increase engagement with community to understand needs
- 2. Increase the number of low income commissioners serving on the HWCAC.
- 3. Show an improvement in living conditions of target population through the following:
  - a. Increase in people with access to regular meals
  - b. Increase in people with access to healthcare
  - c. Increase in people with stable housing
  - d. Increase in median household income
  - e. Increase In long term employment rates
  - f. Increase in median savings or net worth
  - g. Increase in education levels attained
- 4. Reduce number of households in target populations from Y1 baseline within 5 years
- 5. Create partnerships with other commissions and city agencies to find ways to increase services and leverage resources
- 6. Maintain a high approval rate on all agency and city services

#### **Strategies**

- 1. Establish baseline metrics and mechanisms for gathering those metrics on a regular basis
- Use feedback and data to determine Core Service priorities before each funding cycle
- 3. Collaborate with other commissions on policy and recommendations
- 4. Monitor all council activities that may affect target populations and determine a response

- 5. Develop agency events or other programs that enhance collaboration and knowledge sharing
- 6. Keep up strategic plan up to date

#### **Action Plan**

- 1. Develop feedback mechanisms from community, agencies, and city staff on services currently provided and needed
  - a. Develop a questionnaire aimed at gathering information on services needed and provided
  - b. Carry out "listening booth" meetings at locations that can yield good information and/or carry out a semiannual community meeting to discuss needs
  - c. Bring in community experts to discuss and educate commissioners on agenda topics as required
  - d. Carry out regular meetings with agencies and city teams providing services regarding quality services
  - e. Work with staff to implement a survey form for agency clients to complete and submit
- 2. Commissioner Engagement
  - a. Find ways to recruit more low income members of the community into the commission
  - b. Strive to keep agenda focused and relevant
  - c. Keep all commissioners engaged and participating by encouraging them to take on tasks and to bring forward recommendations
  - d. Establish call-in meeting procedures
- 3. Metrics
  - a. Determine number of households that currently are in the target populations
  - b. Develop a map to determine where these households are located
  - c. locate sources for additional metrics per objectives
- 4. Stay informed on Council activities

- a. Appoint commissioners on a monthly rotating basis to examine council agenda and come back to group with relevant items
- b. Add relevant items to meeting agenda to help ensure that they get discussed
- c. Formally determine a no action/action (communication or recommendation) from commission on agenda items
- 5. Agency Reviews
  - a. Look at implementing an annual meeting with agencies to discuss their programs and best practices
  - b. Review existing agency reports and provide staff with ideas on ways that could help provide additional information
  - c. Review all agency reports annually and work with city staff to carry out site visits at least once every funding cycle
  - d. Look for alternative sources of funding to help support agencies and staff
- 6. Carry out an annual planning meeting in October each year to discuss the following items
  - a. Review of accomplishments for current year
  - b. Discuss commission priorities for the coming year
  - c. Review community services to ensure that community needs are being met
  - d. Review any recommendations for changes to commission bylaws
  - e. Discuss any updates to work/strategic plan
- 7. Working with other commissions
  - a. Establish liaisons for other commissions
  - b. Find ways to bring other commissions into council recommendations
  - c. Share information with other commissions as needed

#### Return to Reports Page

# City of Berkeley Community Agency CLIENT CHARACTERISTICS REPORT

Contract No: 31900258

Agency:	Through The Looking Glass	Period of:	1st Qtr 2022
Program:	Berkeley Parenting & Disability Project	Report Prepared By:	Nicolee Brorsen
Phone:	510-225-7556	E-mail:	nbrorsen@lookingglass.org, mkirshbaum@lookingglass.org

#### 1. CLIENT SUMMARY - OTR 1

1. CLIENT SUMMARY - QTR 1	QTR 1	YTD
A. Total New Clients Served by the Program (Berkeley and Non-Berkeley)	39	39
B. Total New Berkeley Clients Served for Whom You Were Able to Gather Statistics on Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Income:	39	39
C. Total New Berkeley Clients Served for Whom You Were <b>NOT</b> Able to Gather Statistics on Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Income:		0
D. Total New Berkeley Clients Served:	39	39

#### 2. DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

RACE - Unduplicated Count	Previous	s Periods	Repor	t Period	Year-T	o-Date
		Hispanic		Hispanic		Hispanic
Single Race Categories	Hispanic	Ethnicity	Hispanic	Ethnicity?	Hispanic	Ethnicity
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0			0	0
Asian	0	0		6	0	6
Black/African American	0	0	10		10	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0			0	0
White	0	0	8		8	0
Combined Race Categories						
American Indian/Alaskan Native & White	0	0		13	0	13
Asian & White	0	0			0	0
Black/African American & White	0	0		2	0	2
American Indian/Alaskan Native & Black/African American	0	0			0	0
Other Combined Race Categories	0	0			0	0
TOTALS	0	0	18	21	18	21
TOTAL SERVED		0		39	3	9

#### **3. INCOME LEVEL**

Income Level - Unduplicated Count	Previous Periods	This Period	YTD
Poverty	0	37	37
Poverty to 30% of AMI (Ex. Low)	0	2	2
31-50% of AMI (Low)	0		0
51-80% of AMI (Moderate)	0		0
Above 80% of AMI	0		0
TOTALS	0	39	39

#### 4. AGE

Age - Unduplicated Count	Previous Periods	This Period	YTD
0-5	0	4	4
6-11	0	10	10
12-17	0	6	6
18-24	0	2	2
25-44	0	7	7
45-54	0	5	5
55-61	0	1	1
62 and Over	0	4	4
Unknown	0		0
TOTALS	0	39	39

#### **5. OTHER CHARACTERISTICS**

Other Characteristics - Unduplicated Count	Previous Periods	This Period	YTD
Female	0	23	23
Male	0	16	16
Other		0	
Disabled	0	21	21
Homeless	0	5	5
Chronically Homeless	0	5	5

#### **6. SERVICE MEASURES**

	Annu	al Goal	(	ຊ1	Q2		Q3		Q4	Serve	ed YTD	% Se	erved
Service Measures	uos	New Clients	UOS	New Clients	# of Existing Clients		# of Existing Clients		# of Existing Clients	Total UOS	Total New Clients	UOS	Total Clients
***** Disability	Servic	es ****	*										
1 Client Sessions	775	55	775	39						775	39	100%	71%

#### **Quarter 1 Narrative**

We are ahead of schedule to meet projected UOS, using a combination of funding sources to meet the needs of the complicated families we serve. Thirty-nine clients are currently enrolled and continuing to participate in the Parenting & Disability program. As reported above, 21 household members (children and/or caregivers) have disabilities; each household has at least two members with disabilities or medical conditions significant enough to impact their daily lives.

#### 7. OUTCOMES

01	utcomes	Annual Goal	Q1 Achieved Outcome	Q2 Achieved Outcome	Q3 Achieved Outcome	Q4 Achieved Outcome	Achieved Outcome YTD	% Achieved Outcome of Annual Goal	% Achieved Outcome of Total Served
1	Clients accessed previously inaccessible services	44	39				39	89%	100%
1	Clients demonstrate improved functioning	44	0				0	0%	0%
1	Participants achieved enhanced skills or knowledge	44	0				0	0%	0%

#### **Quarter 1 Narrative**

The staff who serve these families bring specialized knowledge and often have personal and/or close family experience with living with disability, which makes our services uniquely accessible. The outcomes for improved functioning and enhanced skills/knowledge, as well as the survey, will be reported on in the end-of-year report since we are continuing to serve these clients.

#### Uploaded Attachments:8. PROGRAM SATISFACTION SURVEY

Question		Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Does Not Apply	I Do Not Understand This Question	Total Number of responses
1. I am satisfied with the	This Period								0
	Prior Periods								0
this program.	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	% of Total								
2. This program's staff treated	This Period								0
me with respect.	Prior Periods								0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
	% of Total								
3. This program helped me	This Period								0
make progress towards my	Prior Periods								0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0
							HWCAG	C, 4/27/22, pg. 1	3 of 19

#### City Data Services - Berkeley, CA

				_	_	_		
% of Total							ATTACHM	ENT C
This Period								(
Prior Periods								(
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(
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	% of Total This Period Prior Periods Total % of Total	This Period Prior Periods Total 0 % of Total	This PeriodPrior PeriodsTotal0% of Total	This PeriodPrior PeriodsTotal00% of Total00	This Period   Image: Constraint of the second sec	This Period         Image: Constraint of the second se	This Period         Image: Constraint of the second se	This Period         Image: Constraint of the system         Image: Constraintof the system         Image: Constand of the system

Date Signed

03/02/2022

Approved By	Mary-Claire Katz	
Date Signed	03/21/2022	
5		

Initially submitted: Mar 2, 2022 - 16:16:03

#### Return to Reports Page

#### CITY OF BERKELEY COMMUNITY AGENCY STATEMENT OF EXPENSE 04/01/2021 TO 06/30/2021

Note: Any variation			-	ten percent (		-		m.		
Agency Name:	Throug	h The Look	ing Glass		Con	tract #:	31900258			
Program Name	Berkele	ey Parenting	<b>3</b> & Disability	Project	PO	#:	22001208			
Funding Source	e : Genei	al Fund								
Expenditure Category	Staff Name	Approved Budget	Budget Mod Q2	Revised Budget	Jul-Sep 2020	Oct-Dec 2020	Jan <b>-</b> Mar 2021	Apr-Jun 2021	Total Expenditure	Budget Balance
Clinical Director	Sherrie Hansen	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00	\$45.54	\$387.61	\$598.43	\$168.42	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Family Clinician 3	Jennifer Bregante	\$4,788.00	\$-1,000.00	\$3,788.00	\$1,557.56	\$93.80	\$1,873.20	\$220.44	\$3,745.00	\$43.00
Family Clinician 2	Lisa Keheller	\$3,288.00		\$3,288.00	\$1,379.81	\$1,271.22	\$1,933.05	\$223.00	\$4,807.08	\$-1,519.08
Family Clinician 1	Abigail Laniel	\$3,300.00	\$-1,000.00	\$2,300.00	\$239.04	\$392.81	\$1,011.22	\$180.35	\$1,823.42	\$476.58
OT, disability adaptations	Sharon Bergmann	\$1,528.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,528.00	\$1,349.45	\$469.04	\$192.21	\$162.25	\$2,172.95	\$1,355.05
Project Coordinator	Nicolee Brorsen	\$1,376.00		\$1,376.00	\$476.50	\$646.90	\$757.15	\$0.00	\$1,880.55	\$-504.55
supervisor and family clinician	Adam Moss	\$1,883.00		\$1,883.00		\$1,561.40	\$1,122.06	\$-547.60	\$2,135.86	<b>\$-252.8</b> 6
Taxes/Benefits		\$4,047.00		\$4,047.00	\$1,207.17	\$1,727.61	\$1,871.83	\$-759.61	\$4,047.00	\$0.00
Rent		\$1,826.00		\$1,826.00	\$400.05	\$642.42	\$622.71	\$160.82	\$1,826.00	\$0.00
Utilities		\$53.00		\$53.00		\$16.79		\$5.99		\$-0.00
Insurance		\$341.00		\$341.00		\$82.03		\$83.11		
Communications		\$735.00		\$735.00		\$229.15	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	\$75.84		\$229.34
Office Supplies		\$158.00		\$158.00		\$85.48	\$53.24	\$0.00		\$-2.80
Transportation		\$210.00		\$210.00				\$0.00		\$210.00
Indirect Costs		\$2,473.00		\$2,473.00		\$618.25		\$560.00	\$2,566.20	<b>\$-</b> 93.20
TOTAL		\$27,206.00	\$0.00	\$27,206.00	\$7,439.51	\$8,224.51	\$11,008.97	\$533.01	\$27,206.00	\$0.00

Advances Received \$27,206.00

Underspent/(Overspent) \$0.00

#### Quarter 2 Budget Modification:

We only assign employees to work when jobs are available.

Explain any staffing changes and/or spending anomalies that do not require a budget modification at this time:

Upload of Resumes for New Staff (required): Go to Document Upload page

Expenditures reported in this statement are in accordance with our contract agreement and are taken from our
books of account which are supported by source documentation.

All federal and state taxes withheld from employees for this reporting period were remitted to the appropriate government agencies. Furthermore, the employer's share or contributions for Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment and State Disability insurance, and any related government contribution required were remitted as well.

Prepared By: Lisa Santos-Wilson

Authorized By: Megan Kirshbaum Name of Authorized Signatory with Signature on File Email: lisa@lookingglass.org Email: mkirshbaum@lookingglass.org Date: 03/08/2022

Approved By:

**Examined By:** 

Approved By:

Mary-Claire Katz	03/21/2022					ATTAQHMENT C
Project Manager	Date	CSA Fiscal Unit	Date	CSA Fiscal Unit	Date	

Initially submitted: Aug 5, 2021 - 10:51:32

# Berkeleyside

#### **HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT**

# Berkeley eyeing a big ballot measure in 2022 for streets, affordable housing

Mayor Jesse Arreguín and others are making the case for a new measure raising hundreds of millions of dollars for infrastructure and housing.

By Nico Savidge, Jan. 9, 2022, 8 a.m.



Crews work to improve University Avenue at the Berkeley Marina. The project was funded by Measure T1, an infrastructure bond voters approved in 2016. Credit: Kelly Sullivan

Berkeley leaders are poised to spend much of 2022 making the case for a ballot measure that could raise hundreds of millions of dollars to repair the city's aging infrastructure and address its shortage of affordable housing.

Most voters want Berkeley to fix crumbling streets and provide more housing for low-income and homeless residents, early city polling on the issue found — but there are signs the appetite for another new measure to fund those needs may be waning.

Just about all of the details of the potential measure will be worked out over the coming months. Among the most important questions: How much money will the city ask voters for? Will it propose a combined measure raising money for both housing and infrastructure, or could the issues be split into separate questions on the ballot? And will the new revenue be raised through a bond or another method, such as a parcel or sales tax?

Broadly, though, city officials have started making the case that Berkeley needs a measure orders of magnitude larger than those residents have approved in recent years.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our people and invest in our infrastructure," Mayor Jesse Arreguín said in an interview. "Just doing \$150 million or \$250 million is probably not enough to have the scale of impact we need."

"I think we have to think big, because the need is big," Arreguín added.



Construction at the new affordable housing development at 2012 Berkeley Way. Credit: Supriya Yelimeli

Between streets, sidewalks, civic buildings, stormwater systems and other pieces of local infrastructure, Berkeley has identified \$1 billion worth of maintenance needs city-wide. A 2020 estimate projected the cost just of repairing Berkeley's roads — which rank among the worst in the Bay Area, according to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission — will surpass \$300 million by next year.

Then there's the challenge of affordable housing. As the housing crisis has pushed less-wealthy residents out of Berkeley and onto its streets, the city has fallen far short of its goals for affordable housing construction in recent years — in part because organizations often struggle to patch together funding for projects. Arreguín said he also sees promise in the strategy of buying existing buildings to preserve their units as affordable housing and prevent displacement, but noted the options for financing those deals are limited.



A file photo shows flooding at the Ashby Avenue on-ramp to Interstate 80. The low-lying roadway often floods during heavy rains. Photo: Jennifer Lazo

The city is soliciting responses through Wednesday to an online survey about local infrastructure, and plans to send a questionnaire to residents about a potential revenue measure this month. The City Council is set to discuss its priorities for a measure at a Jan. 20 meeting.

From there, city staff will develop a draft plan for the measure in February, which will be updated through the spring with more public outreach. The City Council is expected to vote in June on whether to place the measure on the ballot.

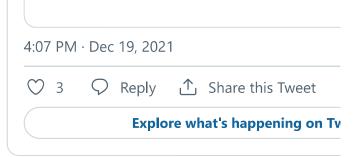
Berkeley voters have supported several measures to address the two issues in recent years, <u>approving two</u> infrastructure bonds, an <u>affordable housing bond</u> and a tax for homeless services since 2012.



Help us understand what we should fund for City improvements. Take ou us what improvements are importar

### Survey: tinyurl.com/2050Survey

### Details: cityofberkeley.info/Visio



To Isabelle Gaston, a former City Council candidate who opposed prior bond measures, asking for another big round of funding is "redundant" and "excessive."

"Berkeley really needs to live within its means," Gaston said.

Backers of a new revenue measure — who point to street repairs, upgraded park facilities and new affordable housing as successes made possible by those prior taxes and bonds — contend the continuing need shows those measures weren't ambitious enough. Arreguín called the \$30 million raised for local infrastructure through

HWCAC, 4/27/22, pg. 18 of 19

2012's Measure M "a drop in the bucket," while Berkeley Public Works Director Liam Garland said the city's aging infrastructure "demands a bigger investment" than the \$100 million raised with 2016's Measure T1.

"What T1 has not been able to do is address the size and scale of the need," Garland said. "T1 has been great, and we need more."

Whether enough Berkeley voters agree could be another story, however.



Improvements to University Avenue at the Berkeley Marina were funded by 2016's Measure T1. City officials contend the infrastructure bond has been a success, but wasn't big enough to address the scale of Berkeley's needs. Credit: Kelly Sullivan

City-funded polling that was conducted in October and made public in a memo last month found a majority of

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likely voters said they would be in favor of a hypothetical measure to fund both housing and infrastructure needs. But that support fell short of the two-thirds majority such a measure would likely need to pass. The share of respondents saying they would vote yes consistently hovered between 57% and 60%, with opposition ranging from 27% to 32%, when voters were asked about new taxes and bonds of varying sizes. The poll's sample size was 500 likely voters, and it had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

"There is going to be work to do to garner enough support to pass," Garland acknowledged.

Still, more than three-quarters of respondents said they considered "increasing affordable housing for lowincome and homeless residents" to be a "very" or "extremely important" priority for the city, and 73% said the same about repairing streets.

While Arreguín said he understands voters' hesitation about raising taxes amid the pandemic, he contends Berkeley must push for the funding to shore up infrastructure and provide more affordable housing. And after getting voters to approve measure after measure in a "piecemeal" approach over the past decade, he said, part of the city's promise must be that "we're not going to come back for another bond for a while."

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