



Internal

## Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

### MINUTES

Wednesday, March 23, 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 –<https://zoom.us/j/4863098496>**

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  
Present: Behm-Steinberg, Omodele (7:45PM departure), 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**

4. Approve minutes from the 2/16/2022 Regular Meeting (Attachment A) – All  
**Action:** M/S/C (Sood/Lippman) to approve the minutes.

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

5. Update and approve the 2018-2023 HWCAC Work Plan for submission to City Council (Attachment B) – All

**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. Review City of Berkeley funded agency Program and Financial reports (Attachment C) — Staff

- a. J-Sei program and financial reports

Commissioners discuss minutes. Commissioner Behm-Steinberg appreciates J-Sei narrative explanations.

### Open Items

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

### Other Discussion Items

9. 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. Discuss potential infrastructure and affordable housing bonds/taxes discussed by Council (Attachment F)  
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.  
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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. Subcommittee for prevention and ending of homelessness in Berkeley update and possible action on communication to Council – Commissioners Bookstein, Lippman, Omodele  
Move to next meeting.
13. Subcommittee on Alta Bates update – Commissioners Bookstein, Omodele  
Move to next meeting.
14. Review latest City Council meeting agenda  
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. Future Agenda Items  
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

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

### **Communications**

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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:**

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Minutes approved on: 4/27/2022  
Commission Secretary: Mary-Claire Katz

