

Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, April 8, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

AGENDA

Mayor Arreguin:

Rashi Kersarwani:
Sagar Pilania

Terry Taplin:
Veta Jacquelin

Ben Bartlett:
George Lippman

Kate Harrison
Diana Bohn

Sophie Hahn
Nimrod Pitskar Elias

Susan Wengraf:
Robin Mencher

Rigel Robinson:

Mark Humbert

BUSD:
Grace Morizawa- Chair

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Announcements
4. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)
5. Review and approval of meeting minutes
6. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
7. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

8. Update on the Peace and Justice Merger
9. Discussion on Fossil Fuels and Possible Action
10. Discussion and Update on from the Gaza Peace Roundtable Subgroup.
11. Update on Proposed Educational Roundtable Community Conversation.

12. Presentation on Climate Justice and Possible Action.
13. Discussion on Berkeley High School Ethnic Studies

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS


14. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. March 2024 Draft Minutes
- B. Land Acknowledgement
- C. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech
- D. BUSD Ethnic Studies Letter

 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.

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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 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

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Peace and Justice
Commission

Peace and Justice Commission
March 4, 2024

Draft MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with Grace Morizawa (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

Absent:

Excused:

Leave of Absence:

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 0

Public Comments: 0

4. **Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 2/05/24.

M/S/C: Jacquelin, Elias

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

5. **Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report (No Action Taken):**

6. **Secretary's Report (No Action Taken)**

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Discussion and Update on the Peace and Justice Merger and Possible Action
No action taken.

M/S/C:
Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

8. Discussion and Update on the Gaza Peace Roundtable Subgroup
No action taken.

M/S/C:
Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

9. Discussion and Update on the November Roundtable Regarding Fukushima
Waste Water
No action taken.

M/S/C:
Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

10. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

M/S/C: Bohn, Guarino

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Guarino, Bohn, Jacquelin

Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

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.

To The Berkeley Unified School District Board of Education:

It has come to the attention of the Peace and Justice Commission that many 9th grade students at Berkeley High were recently taught a set of lessons about the Israel Hamas War that included factually incorrect information. Of note, this curriculum includes an inaccurate definition of the Holocaust. It also includes a description of Gaza from 20 years prior that erroneously stated that thousands of settlers still live in Gaza. We are concerned to learn about this development.

Both the School Board and the Peace and Justice Commission are tasked with advancing a peaceful and democratic society. For Berkeley to remain a place where fervent discourse, critical thinking, and engaged citizens continue to press for a more just society, the next generation must have universal access to accurate information and be taught the skills needed to engage in this effort. We write to encourage the School Board to review the history curriculum, in particular this newly developed lesson set, for historical accuracy and reputable sources. We urge you to quickly correct factual inaccuracies in the curriculum. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.



Grace Morizawa <gracehisaye@gmail.com>

Re: April 4 reading - resending with missing link (sorry about that!)

1 message

Jacqueline Cabasso <wslf@earthlink.net>

Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 2:49 PM

To: "wslf-board@googlegroups.com" <wslf-board@googlegroups.com>, Grace Morizawa <gracehisaye@gmail.com>

“Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence”

Public Participatory Reading

Thursday, April 4, 2024; 12 noon – 1 pm+

Oscar Grant Plaza, Oakland



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holding poster for 1968 Poor People's Campaign

Dear Oaklandish-area friends and colleagues,

I'm writing on behalf of the California Poor People's Campaign and Western States Legal Foundation to invite and encourage you to join this year's public participatory reading of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s prophetic speech, "**Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence**." The reading will take place on Thursday April 4, in the amphitheater in front of Oakland City Hall (Oscar Grant Plaza), from 12 noon – 1 pm+. (Conveniently located

right at the 12th St. Oakland City Center BART Station.) *Many of you have participated in these readings in previous years, and I hope you'll feel inspired to do so again!*

Please let me know if you plan to join us Tuesday, April 4, if you'd like to read a section of the speech, and if your organization would like to endorse the event by [completing this form](#).

This year's readings are again part of the Poor People's Campaign initiative to build support for the [Third Reconstruction Agenda to Heal the Nation: End Poverty and Low Wages From the Bottom Up](#).

An updated "tool kit" for the 2024 readings has been posted by PPC National Mobilizing Partner, United for Peace & Justice, at [Organize a Public Reading of Dr. King's "Beyond Vietnam" Speech in your Community - United For Peace and Justice](#). In the tool kit, you'll find the text of the speech, divided into 16 sections, in English. You'll also find an updated introduction for 2024 that connects the speech to the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine and the Israel-Hamas war.

If you can't make it in-person on April 4, there will be a statewide online reading at 6:30 pm. [Register here](#).

Background:

On April 4, 1967, exactly one year before his tragic assassination, in his prophetic speech, "[Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#)," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared: "I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values.... we must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights, are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

[The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival](#) has picked up Dr. King's unfinished work weaving the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic

poverty, environmental devastation, militarism and the war economy and a distorted moral narrative of Christian nationalism that blames poor people for their own poverty, into one “moral fusion” campaign.

Please join us on April 4! Let me know if you have any questions or can volunteer to help.

Forward together! – Jackie Cabasso

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"Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars." – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jackie Cabasso, Executive Director, Western States Legal Foundation, [655-13th Street, Oakland, CA 94612](#), (510)839-5877, www.wslfweb.org