

Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Monday, March 6, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Public Advisory: Beginning March 2023 all meetings for the calendar year will be held In-Person at the location listed below:

*South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street
Berkeley Ca, 94703*

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. Discuss Reimagining Public Safety in Berkeley
9. Discuss Shellmound Issues and Possible Modification of Land Acknowledgement Language with Indigenous Representatives
10. Update on Reproductive Services and Education Access Survey
11. Update on BUSD Ethnic Studies
12. Discussion on Seating Needed for Berkeley Post Offices


SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

13. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION
SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. February Draft Minutes
- B. Land Acknowledgement Resolution
- C. Peace and Justice Commission Fiscal Year Work Plan 2023
- D. 2023 Meeting Calendar

 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.

Communications Disclaimer

*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.*

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 Meeting
February 6, 2023**

Pursuant to March 17, 2020 Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting was held electronically.

MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:00 pm with George Lippman (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Community Service Specialist, Secretary.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call

Present: Lippman, Lee, Maran, Jacquilin, Morizawa, Gussmann

Absent: Leon-Maldonado, Bohn

Excused: None

Leave of Absence: None

2. Announcements

Information meeting for the Specialized Care Unit is to take place on February 9, 2023

3. Comments from the Public

Public Attendance: 2

Public Comments: 2

4. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 1/9/23.

M/S/C: Maran, Jacquilin

Ayes: Morizawa, Jacquilin, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Lee, Leon-Maldonado

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bohn

Excused: None

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

6. Secretary's Report (No Action Taken)

Beginning in March 2023 Commission meetings will be held In-Person, the location decided was South Berkeley Senior Center.

2939 Ellis Street Berkeley Ca, 94703

The request for hearing devices will be sent over to the Clerks office to assist in providing accommodations.

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Election of the Peace and Justice Commission Chair

Commissioner Gussmann nominated Morizawa to serve as the Peace and Justice Commission chair.

M/S/C:

Ayes: Lippman, Lee, Maran, Leon-Maldonado, Jacquilin, Morizawa, Gussmann

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bohn

Excused: None

8. Election of the Peace and Justice Commission Vice-Chair

Commissioner Jacquilin nominated Lippman to serve as the Peace and Justice Commission Vice-Chair

M/S/C:

Ayes: Lippman, Lee, Maran, Leon-Maldonado, Jacquilin, Morizawa, Gussmann

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bohn

Excused: None

9. Resolution of Support for Dis-Credit Bad Banks

Pass support March 21, 2023 day of Action urging banks to divest from fossil fuel business.

M/S/C: Jacquilin, Lippman

Ayes: Lippman, Lee, Leon-Maldonado, Jacquilin, Morizawa

Noes: None

Abstain: Maran, Gussmann

Absent: Bohn

Excused: None

10. Japanese Day of Remembrance Letter

A letter of thanks will be sent to the council based on a passed resolution for Japanese Day of Remembrance.

M/S/C: Morizawa, Jacquilin

Ayes: Lippman, Lee, Leon-Maldonado, Jacquilin, Morizawa, Gussmann

Noes: None

Abstain: Maran

Absent: Bohn

Excused: None

11. Discuss Shellmound Issues and Possible Modifications of Land

Acknowledgement Language with Indigenous Representatives.

No Action Taken.

12. Update on Reproductive Services and Education Access Survey

No Action Taken

13. Update on BUSD Ethnic Studies

No Action Taken

14. Discussion on Seating Needed for Berkeley Post Offices

No Action Taken

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

15. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

M/S/C: Lippman, Morizawa

Ayes: Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa, Jacquilin, Leon-Maldonado

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Lee, Bohn

Excused: None

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.

Peace and Justice Committee Fiscal Year 2023 Work Plan

The Commission emerged from an 18-month pandemic lockdown in the fall of 2021, eager to grapple with the new world that has emerged since mid-2020.

Our landscape in the 2020s is defined by a national racial reckoning and the demand to reimagine public safety, in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, a U.S. body politic figuratively at war with itself, along with a literal war in Europe that makes us fear for our survival, climate destruction even more terrifying, and now with a woman's right to choose under severe attack.

As grim as these challenges are, they can bring out the best of Berkeley's character. This city has a genius for grasping the what the moment calls upon us to do, what role we can play to turn tragedy into triumph.

The big lesson of our times is that the pursuit of human rights, peace and social justice, is one that everyone plays a role in. At the founding of this Commission in 1986, Council declared, "It is the responsibility of one and all to labor hard for peace and justice within forums of appropriate scale."

The mission of the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission is, firstly, to "advise the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice." Secondly, it is to "help create citizen awareness around issues of social justice and develop educational programs for implementation by the City Council and the School Board."

These times are very fluid, and it is impossible to entirely predict what fresh challenges to peace and justice will arise in the coming year. Therefore, the Commission can determine its Work Plan in advance only in part, as we must be able to respond to the unfolding crises of our society.

We do expect, however, to focus much of our work on the following issues:

1. Reimagining public safety in Berkeley.
 - The City of Berkeley is committed to the Reimagining rubric of three parts: Reduce, Improve, and Invest. Public (or community) safety is seen in its broadest sense: how can we ensure our collective and individual safety and health?
 - The Commission's mandate calls upon us to "develop ways to resolve conflict which do not involve violence and which may be applied on a local level as well as a national level...Our best protection lies in initiating, devising, and promulgating peaceful and just policy alternatives." Today, we call these restorative practices.
 - From the beginning of the Reimagining process in 2020, the Council elaborated three overall goals. The first two were outcome-focused, envisioning a transformative

approach to public safety and equitable investments in historically marginalized communities. The third envisioned a process shift, “a broad community process that will result in deep and lasting change to support the safety and well-being of Berkeley residents.”

As the City moves into planning and implementation phases, we and other advisory commissions must play our full role in concert with the elected leaders, staff, and public to ensure that the needs of the community are clearly heard.

- City Council has proposed to create an Office of Equity and Diversity, initially to consider the recommendations from the Reimaging Public Safety Task Force. As the Commission mandated to advise Council and BUSD on all matters of social justice, Peace and Justice will follow with interest the work of the Office, and support it with community-based input.

2. Fostering world peace and security.

- Promote a just and prompt end to the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia.
- Contribute to the global conversation about international security and how such conflicts can be prevented in the future.
- Defend democracy and freedom in domestic and U.S. foreign policy, including immigration and economic, military, and diplomatic relations.

3. Defending reproductive rights including access to abortion.

- Based on the recent Supreme Court leak, the greatest rollback on access to abortion in a century appears underway.
- Governor Newsom has been working with community organizations from some time in preparation for this moment. The recommendations made by the Governor’s Future of Abortion Council (CA-FAB)¹ focus primarily on supporting women who may travel to California for procedures that will no longer be available in their states. Secondly, they propose broadening support for abortion provision across California, surveying issues preventing access in the most-impacted communities.
- The Peace and Justice Commission has recommended to the City Council that it charter a similar investigation of reproductive care and women’s health in Berkeley. As we move into the expected post-Roe future, it is important to know what disparities in access and affordability of reproductive health services exist in our City.

4. Eliminating racial and other inequities in all realms, including housing, health, law enforcement, education, labor, and the environment.

¹ <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-california-sanctuary-625a118108bcda253196697c83548d5b>
and
https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/uploads/filer_public/d8/e1/d8e17825-72e0-4f6f-9c57-7549bb54261e/ca_fab_council_report_.pdf

- Not only have these manifold disparities been identified and studied for many years, beginning measures to address them have been discussed and adopted. To secure the public's trust in overcoming inequality, the program of change must be clearly communicated, it must be fully funded and successfully implemented, and it must have full transparency, community oversight, and accountability.
- In early 2021, Council also passed a resolution titled "Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley" proposal, providing an additional framework for the Department of Equity and a potentially a path for Peace and Justice to collaborate with other commissions and City departments toward a new paradigm in public safety and health.²
- The Commission continues to support and advocate for the African American Holistic Resource Center (AAHRC).

5. Support efforts in the BUSD to provide equitable access to education.

- In the last year, commissioners have reached out to school board members, staff, and other members of the BUSD community to discuss how we can be of help in the District's social justice initiatives. The commission is studying the BUSD's African American Success Framework and its new program for K-12 Ethnic Studies. We will continue to look for ways to support such positive initiatives and to build support for them in the community at large.

In addition, several other critical social issues cry out for our attention, including voter suppression, gun violence, and homelessness and affordable housing for all.

Ongoing Projects

Nuclear-Free Berkeley

The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act came into force in 1986 (Chapter 12.90.070 Section 030D). The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (NFBA) to oversee and reinforce compliance with the terms of the Act. The

² The "Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley" proposal reflects on both the disparate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Latinx, Native American, and Asian American communities, and the heightened understanding of structural and institutionalized racism nationally. The proposal commits the City to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. Specifically, it calls for a series of town hall meetings throughout the sessions to address the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members and to strengthen the anti-racist capacity building; establishment of a working group to promote racial equity; the City Manager to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; to propose a Health in All Policies Ordinance; mandatory anti-racist training for City employees; a Strategic Plan for Health Equity; an anti-racism dashboard; work with BUSD to study whether "race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities."

Subcommittee's activities have included:

- recommendation against a waiver for continuation of the Berkeley Public Library's contracts with 3M (2009-2010);
- consideration of a waiver for the City of Berkeley Public Health Division's proposal on medical supplies (2012);
- recommendation of a waiver for the SkyDeck Business Incubator-Accelerator Contract (2012);
- recommendation (February 7, 2013) to the Regents of the University of California that it phase out responsibility for operating the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories in Livermore and Los Alamos;
- a letter from the City of Berkeley to President Obama in 2014 urging support of a ban on nuclear weapons;
- maintenance of opposition to nuclear power.

More recently, in light of the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), whose goal is international adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Treaty), the Peace and Justice Commission will seek to collaborate further with ICAN on activities of mutual concern. We would note that the California State Senate and the California State Assembly voted affirmatively on a bill in September 2018 to urge U.S. Senate adoption of the Treaty. Strong support comes also from the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement; Nuclear Ban US; The City of Los Angeles, California; the City of Takoma Park, Maryland; Physicians for Social Responsibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others.

Indigenous Peoples

Between December 2015 and January 2016, the Berkeley City Council, upon the recommendation of the Peace and Justice Commission, adopted five important resolutions supporting the treaty rights of indigenous people in Berkeley. The resolutions included: recognition of the Ohlone people as the original inhabitants of Berkeley and the Bay Area, pledging to work in good faith with Ohlone representatives; implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as municipal policy; endorsing the upgrading of the Declaration to a Convention; honoring the Berkeley Shellmound indigenous site; and urging the East Bay Regional Parks District to protect the Ohlone place of origin sacred site.

The resolution on the Berkeley Shellmound mandated that “free, prior, and informed consent of the Ohlone and other indigenous peoples of the region should be integral to any alteration planning for the Berkeley Shellmound site, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

Socially Responsible investment and Procurement Policy (SRIPP) and Sustainable Sweatshop-Free Berkeley

The SRIPP Subcommittee of the Peace and Justice Commission was chartered by resolution of the Berkeley City Council on July 16, 2019. Its immediate charge is to develop a proposed policy to “govern the Commission’s advisory role in socially responsible investing and socially responsible procurement.” Prior to March 2020, the subcommittee held several meetings including one discussion with City Finance Department staff and used those conversations to craft a draft SRIPP ordinance that is responsive to the City Council’s request.

The Sweatshop-Free Berkeley Policy now has a zero-dollar threshold per supplier per year for textile products purchased by the City. This threshold is an improvement over the previous minimum of \$1,000 purchase per supplier for the Policy to apply. However, the policy is complaint-driven, so the burden is on community members to research the supply chain for each supplier. The SRIPP Subcommittee proposes to establish a mechanism for suppliers to show that they are using Sweatshop Free products for City purchases.

The Policy governs textile purchases only. The goal is to identify sweat-free alternatives for technology purchases so tech can be covered as well.

The BUSD, through the School Board Policy Committee, is in the process of establishing a Sweatshop-Free Schools Policy for athletic supplies. The SRIPP Subcommittee and the Commission are supporting the BUSD to ensure the development of an effective policy.



Peace and Justice
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Peace and Justice Commission Approved 2023 Meeting Schedule

1. Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7pm- Zoom
2. Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7pm- Zoom
3. Monday, March 6, 2022 at 7pm- **In-Person remainder of 2023**
4. Monday, April 17, 2023 at 7pm
5. Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7pm
6. Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7pm
7. Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7pm
8. Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7pm
9. Monday, October 2, 2023 at 7pm
10. Monday, November 6, 2023 at 7pm