

Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, March 4, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.
South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis St. Berkeley Ca, 94703

AGENDA

Mayor Arreguin:

Rashi Kersarwani:
Allegra Guarino

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. Discussion and Update on the Peace and Justice Merger and Possible Action
9. Discussion and Update on from the Gaza Peace Roundtable Subgroup.
10. Discussion and Update on the November Roundtable Regarding Fukushima Waste Water.


11. Discussion on Ethnic Studies Curriculum at Berkeley High School.
12. Presentation on Opposition to the Funding of Fossil Fuels.
13. Discussion on Possible Projects/Actions and Areas of Interest.

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS

14. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

 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

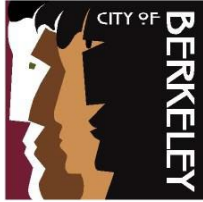
*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in 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

*Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission
City of Berkeley
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
Ovance-dozier@cityofberkeley.info (email)*



Peace and Justice
Commission

Peace and Justice Commission
February 5, 2023

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

Absent: Jacquilin

Excused: Bohn

Leave of Absence:

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 3

Public Comments: 2

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

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 1/08/24.

M/S/C: Elias, Morizawa

Ayes: Morizawa, Lippman, Mencher, Elias

Noes:

Abstain: Guarino

Absent: Jacquilin

Excused: Bohn

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**

Authorize the Chair to send a letter to Council stating that the Commission recommends:

- Delay the decision beyond February 13
- Reasons for delay
 - PJC is still discussing what it means
 - Want the public to have an opportunity to review
- Made recommendations to City staff at the meeting to look at incorporating into the staff ordinance

M/S/C: Lippman, Morizawa

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Mencher, Elias, Pilania, Guarino

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Jacquelin

Excused: Bohn

8. Election for Peace and Justice Commission Chair

Commissioner Grace Morizawa will continue her role as Chair.

M/S/C: Morizawa, Lippman

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Mencher, Elias, Pilania, Guarino

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Jacquelin

Excused: Bohn

9. Election for Peace and Justice Commission Vice-Chair

Commissioner George Lippman will continue in his role as Vice-Chair.

M/S/C: Morizawa, Elias

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Mencher, Elias, Pilania, Guarino

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent: Jacquelin

Excused: Bohn

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

10. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 PM.

M/S/C: Morizawa, Lippman

Ayes: Lippman, Morizawa, Elias, Mencher, Pilania, Guarino

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

Chapter 3.68

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMISSION

Sections:

3.68.010 Findings.

3.68.020 Established--Membership--Appointment.

3.68.030 "Peace and justice" defined.

3.68.040 Automatic termination of appointment.

3.68.050 Liaison representative to other City entities.

3.68.060 Organization, meetings, rules, and procedures.

3.68.070 Functions.

Section 3.68.010 Findings.

The council finds as follows:

- A. The intentional destruction of cities in war is the rule and not the exception.
- B. State, national and international governmental bodies have failed to control war and in fact, have in many cases, been responsible for war and the conditions of war.
- C. The wealth that could be spent to help the poor, heal the sick, house the homeless, educate the children, and care for the elderly is now spent on ever more costly weapons of mass destruction.
- D. Peace is not a fictitious tranquil end-state, but the process of solving differences constructively, creatively, and non-violently.
- E. Peace is inseparable from justice.
- F. The present threat of nuclear or biological holocaust is not peace, but a condition of war against all humanity.
- G. Initiatives are needed to reverse the drift toward war and to remove the causes of war.
- H. Our best protection lies in initiating, devising, and promulgating peaceful and just policy alternatives.
- I. Individual citizens, unless organized, are virtually powerless in confronting and influencing larger governmental bodies.
- J. It is the responsibility of one and all to labor hard for peace and justice within forums of appropriate scale.
- K. The residents of Berkeley have continually demonstrated their concern for peace and justice based on equality among all peoples.
- L. The residents of Berkeley have welcomed to our City those who have been forced into exile, and who have come fleeing torture and death.
- M. The Berkeley City Council, to act successfully in furthering peace and justice, must have wise counsel, accurate research, vigorous analysis, articulate formulation of issues and proposals for action, and thus the establishment of a Peace and Justice Commission is proper. (Ord. 5705 § 1, 1986)

Section 3.68.020 Established--Membership--Appointment.

A Peace and Justice Commission is hereby established. The commission shall consist of fifteen members. Six members shall be appointed by the Berkeley Unified School District Board and nine members shall be appointed by the Berkeley City Council. Commission members shall have a demonstrated interest in the area of peace and social justice. It is suggested that the commission should have some representation of political refugees and political exiles who are residents of Berkeley and otherwise eligible to serve on the commission. Berkeley City Council appointments to the commission shall be made, and vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of Sections 2.04.030 through 2.04.130 of the Berkeley Municipal Code enacted as Ordinance No. 4780-N.S. by the voters of the City. (Ord. 5705-NS § 2, 1986)

Title 3

Page 51

Chapter 3.68

Section 3.68.030 "Peace and justice" defined.

For the purpose of this chapter, "peace and social justice" shall refer to the goal of creating a world community in which the relations between people are based on equality, respect for human rights, and the abhorrence of exploitation and all forms of oppression. (Ord. 5705-NS § 3, 1986)

Section 3.68.040 Automatic termination of appointment.

A. The appointment of any member of the commission who has been absent from three consecutive meetings shall automatically terminate as set forth in Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 3.02 unless: (i) the absence of the commissioner is due to incarceration for acts of conscience or is due to absence from the City for work related to that of the commission, (ii) in the case of absences for reasons stated in item (i) it is strongly urged that in accordance with Section 3.02.030 of the Berkeley Municipal Code the appointing councilmember grant a leave of absence for not more than three months, and fill the vacancy with a temporary appointment to the commission.

B. The chairperson of the commission shall report the attendance records of each member of the commission to the City Clerk monthly for each regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Any member absent as noted in items A (i) and A (ii) above shall be recorded as "excused". Any member absent without being recorded as excused from three consecutive regular meetings as reported monthly shall be terminated automatically after the third missed meeting.

D. The City Clerk shall notify any member whose appointment has automatically terminated and report to the appointing City Councilmember or School Board that a vacancy exists on the commission and that an appointment should be made for the unexpired term. (Ord. 5705-NS § 4, 1986)

Section 3.68.050 Liaison representative to other City entities.

The commission may designate one or more of its members to act as a liaison representative to any other board, commission, or committee of the City. The functions of the liaison representative may include:

A. Attendance at meetings of such other boards, commissions or committees;

B. Advising the Peace and Justice Commission on the background behind those recommendations to the City Council of other boards, commissions or committees; and,

C. On request of any member of such other board, commission or committee giving advice to such other board, commission or committee of policies, and procedures and recommendations to the City Council of the Peace and Justice Commission that may bear upon matters under discussion by such other board, commission or committee. (Ord. 5705-NS § 5, 1986)

Section 3.68.060 Organization, meetings, rules, and procedures.

A. The commission shall organize by electing from its members one chairperson and one vicechairperson and such other officers as may be necessary, who shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected unless their terms as members of the commission expire sooner. An officer or employee of the City designated by the City Manager shall serve as secretary to the commission.

B. The commission shall establish a regular place and time for meeting. All meetings shall be noticed as required by law and shall be scheduled in a way to allow for maximum input from the public. The frequency of meetings shall be as determined by City Council resolution. The scheduling of special meetings in addition to those established by City Council resolution, except special meetings that take the place of cancelled regular meetings, shall be subject to approval by the City Council. A request for a special meeting shall include the reason for the proposed meeting and should be expedited on the City Council's agenda, or in the alternative, placed before the Agenda Committee for approval.

C. The commission shall establish internal working rules and procedures which do not violate those rules of governance existing in the City Charter, the Commissioner's Handbook, or established through the authority of the City Council. (Ord. 6899-NS § 1, 2006; Ord. 5705-NS § 6, 1986)

Title 3

Page 52

Chapter 3.68

Section 3.68.070 Functions.

The commission shall perform the following functions:

A. 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, including, but not limited to the issues of ending the arms race, abolishing nuclear weapons, support for human rights and self-determination throughout the world, and the reallocation of our national resources so that money now spent on war and preparation of war is spent on fulfilling human needs and the promotion of

peace.

- B. Help create citizen awareness around issues of social justice and develop educational programs for implementation by the City Council and the School Board.
- C. Help develop proposals for the City Council and the School Board for actions in furtherance of the goals of peace and justice, and help publicize such actions in the community.
- D. Hold public hearings and community forums on issues that fall within the charge of the commission, and call on appropriate witnesses to provide pertinent information.
- E. Initiate and encourage research programs to collect and assess information relevant to the functions of the commission including the effect of the arms race and military spending on funding for City and school programs and on the quality of life for citizens of Berkeley.
- F. 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.
- G. Initiate and develop cultural and educational foreign exchange.
- H. Act as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government.
- I. Prepare inventories of City resources, both public and private that are available for furthering the work of promoting international peace and social justice.
- J. Provide information to other municipalities and school districts on the work of the commission, and exchange information on actions taken by cities and the School Board in furtherance of the goals of the commission.
- K. Assist the Director of Finance in the annual evaluation of financial institutions for qualification of City investments; complete development and assist in the implementation of a linked deposit program; encourage target investments; coordinate with City agencies, appropriate community organizations, public and private investors, and the Governor's Public Investment Task Force; and advise the City Council on matters relating to the responsible investment of public funds in accordance with the responsible investment policy established by Resolution No. 55,141A-NS.
- L. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the City Council or prescribed or authorized by any ordinance of the City, and such other functions and duties not prohibited by City Council which the commission should decide are consistent with its overall function of promoting peace and social justice.
- M. In prescribing the above duties and functions of the commission, it is not the intent of the council to duplicate or overlap the functions, duties, or responsibilities heretofore or hereafter assigned to any other City board or commission or to a City department. As to such functions or responsibilities above set forth which are partially or wholly the responsibilities of another board or commission or of a department of the City, the commission will render such assistance and advice to such board, commission or department as may be requested. (Ord. 6017-NS § 1, 1990: Ord. 5705-NS § 7, 1986)

Title 3

Peace and Justice Commission
Draft Letter to Berkeley City Council on Proposed Commission Merger
For consideration at March 4 2024 commission meeting

Hon. Mayor Arreguin, City Council Members:

The Peace and Justice Commission has reviewed the staff proposal to merge it with the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC). We respectfully request that you maintain Peace and Justice in its current independent state.

As we have shared with you since this proposal was first raised, the two commissions have very different tasks. Where HWCAC conducts detailed, federally mandated community oversight over hundreds of thousands of dollars in block grants and Measure E funding, Peace and Justice advises the Council and the school board on all issues of peace and social justice.

The proposed consolidation, especially with a reduction from 30 seats to only nine, would undermine the ability of both commissions to fulfill their mandated functions.

Peace and Justice is a unique institution that views government action through a social justice lens. Since 1986 it has played a role similar to that of a human rights commission or public advocate in other cities. In the highly charged social and political environment nationwide, it is crucial for Berkeley to have a body devoted solely to promoting social justice and peace.

We wrote you in October 2021 that “there is no rationale for the removal of the six Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) slots from the PJC. The PJC is one of only two Berkeley commissions that provide an intersectional and official setting for BUSD appointees to discuss and act on matters of shared concern with Mayoral and Council appointees. At a minimum, prior to considering such a decision, the BUSD Board should be formally consulted.”

We reiterate this message today. We are aware that school board members share these concerns, but apparently the council has never raised the proposal in the 2x2 Committee. We urge that council members ask for input from the school directors and listen carefully to their responses.

Signed,
/x/

Att.: 2

Peace and Justice Commission mandate
Peace and Justice letter to Council, October 4, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor Arreguin and Members of the Berkeley City Council

From: Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission

Subject: Response to Proposed Commission Reorganization

Date: October 4, 2021

Mayor and Council,

The Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) voted unanimously on Monday, October 4, 2021 to request you maintain the current structure of the Commission, for the following reasons.

1. While the City of Berkeley appears to have largely turned the corner on the pandemic, significant swaths of Berkeley – particularly in communities that have been most impacted by historical economic and social disparities – are still falling behind. It is time to make full use of the expertise, passion, and hard work of the commissioner members, rather than saving a relatively insignificant amount of funding on consolidation with the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC).

2. A recent letter by the HWCAC Chairperson on behalf of the HWCAC (Attachment 1) well described the problem of combining the commissions: “[T]he missions of these two commissions are very different. A consolidation would create an unwieldy catch-all commission. Instead of being focused on clear goals, a consolidated group would get mired in vastly different objectives competing for limited commission time and resources, reducing its effectiveness. This would be unproductive and more importantly unfair to the communities that we’ve all been asked to represent.” This is especially true given the far-reaching scope of the PJC as prescribed in BMC Chapter 3.68 (Attachment 2).

3. No rationale has been given – nor does one exist – for the removal of the six Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) slots from the PJC. The PJC is one of only two Berkeley commissions that provide an intersectional and official setting for BUSD appointees to discuss and act on matters of shared concern with Mayoral and Council appointees. At a minimum, prior to considering such a decision, the BUSD Board should be formally consulted.

George Lippman, Chair

Peace and Justice Commission

1 Resolution Supporting Day of Action to Stop Dirty Banks

2
3 WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to
4 the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter
5 3.68.070); and
6

7 WHEREAS, according to the Environmental and Energy Study Institute,¹ “Air pollution from
8 burning fossil fuels can cause multiple health issues, including asthma, cancer, heart disease, and
9 premature death. Globally, fossil fuel pollution is responsible for one in five deaths. In the
10 United States, 350,000 premature deaths in 2018 were attributed to fossil fuel-related pollution.²
11 The annual cost of the health impacts of fossil fuel-generated electricity in the United States is
12 estimated to be up to \$886.5 billion....³
13

14 “The environmental and health impacts of fossil fuels disproportionately harm communities of
15 color and low-income communities. Black and Latinx Americans are exposed to 56 and 63
16 percent more particulate matter pollution, respectively, than they produce;”⁴ and

17 WHEREAS, the National Whistleblower Campaign states that “while fossil fuel companies and
18 deforestation-linked companies are the primary drivers of climate change, most companies in
19 these industries could not operate without support from major financial institutions.⁵ Banks
20 provide loans that allow these companies to expand, and investment banks also provide
21 underwriting services that help companies to issue new stocks and obtain debt financing through
22 corporate bonds....
23

24 “In the five years since the Paris Agreement was signed, the world’s 60 largest commercial
25 banks have provided more than USD 3.8 trillion for fossil fuels through lending and
26 underwriting.⁶ Since the Paris Agreement was signed, financial institutions have also increased
27 their funding for commodities linked to deforestation by 40%, providing USD 153.9 billion in
28 financing for forest-risk commodities;”⁷ and
29

30 WHEREAS, on May 30, 2017, after revelations about illegal behavior by Wells Fargo, today one
31 of the major investors in climate-destroying loans, the City of Berkeley resolved to divest from

¹ “Fact Sheet | Climate, Environmental, and Health Impacts of Fossil Fuels,” Dec. 17, 2021,

<https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-climate-environmental-and-health-impacts-of-fossil-fuels-2021>

² “Fossil fuel air pollution responsible for 1 in 5 deaths worldwide,” Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Center for Climate Change and the Global Environment, Feb. 9, 2021, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/c-change/news/fossil-fuel-air-pollution-responsible-for-1-in-5-deaths-worldwide/>

³ “Economic value of U.S. fossil fuel electricity health impacts,” NIH National Library of Medicine, Feb. 2013, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23246069/>

⁴ “Inequity in consumption of goods and services adds to racial–ethnic disparities in air pollution exposure,” National Academy of Sciences, March 11, 2029 <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1818859116>

⁵ <https://www.whistleblowers.org/the-role-of-banking-in-climate-change/>

⁶ “The Role of Banking in Climate Change,” Published by a consortium of environmental groups including the Sierra Club, Indigenous Environmental Network and Rainforest Action among others. March 24, 2021. <https://www.bankingonclimatechaos.org/bankingonclimatechaos2021/>

⁷ <https://www.clientearth.org/media/w1qdlmk/clientearth-position-paper-to-the-ec-deforestation-public-consultation.pdf>

32 Wells Fargo and to re-invest in like good financial institutions;⁸ and

33
34 WHEREAS, the national group Third Act, founded by activist Bill McKibben to rally older
35 Americans against climate change, will hold a series of intergenerational rallies on Tuesday,
36 March 21, 2023 to which the general public is invited, with the following purpose: to “make
37 visible the invisible connection between cash and carbon. We will pressure the big, dirty
38 fossil-fueled banks – Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo – to move their
39 investments out of fossil fuels by moving our money out of their banks;”⁹ and nearby rallies
40 will take place at Piedmont Avenue and 41st Street in Oakland at 9:30 AM and in Albany, San
41 Francisco, Sacramento, San Rafael, Sebastopol, and other locations;¹⁰ and

42
43 WHEREAS, 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations is among the groups participating in the
44 March 21 rallies, and the Grandmothers state: “We are elder women and allies stepping up to the
45 urgency of the climate crisis. We act in support of the rights of Native Americans and other
46 frontline communities. We believe that we cannot address the climate crisis without addressing
47 systemic racism. That is what climate justice means to us;”¹¹ and

48
49 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley supports the
50 Tuesday March 21, 2023 nation-wide day of action to tell banks to divest from fossil fuel
51 projects, and encourages Berkeley’s residents to support and participate in local rallies.

⁸ “Policy not to do business with financial institutions that employ unethical practices, invest in environmentally unsustainable endeavors and practices that undermine the health and rights of Indigenous people and those of disadvantaged populations, and to end all financial relationships with Wells Fargo,” May 30, 2017, Berkeley City Council, <https://records.cityofberkeley.info/PublicAccess/paFiles/cqFiles/index.html>

⁹ <https://thirdact.org/>

and

<https://vtdigger.org/2021/09/02/bill-mckibben-launches-third-act-to-rally-older-americans-around-climate-change/>

¹⁰ <https://thirdact.org/national-day-of-action/>

¹¹ 1000 Grandmothers for Future Generations,

<https://www.1000grandmothers.com/#:~:text=1000%20Grandmothers%20for%20Future%20Generations&text=We%20are%20elder%20women%20and,crisis%20without%20addressing%20systemic%20racism>