



Susan Wengraf
Vice Mayor and Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Vice Mayor Wengraf (Author), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Budget Referral: Equipment for Hybrid Commission Meetings

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Budget Process an allocation of \$110,000 for infrastructure costs to conduct hybrid city commission meetings.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$110,000

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

One silver-lining of the COVID-19 pandemic was the utilization of virtual technology to conduct City Council Meetings. The Zoom format allowed Councilmembers to continue their work and the public to remain, or become, civically engaged at a time when in-person meetings could put them at risk. Four years later, Council Meetings remain in hybrid format because of the multitude of benefits, most especially, that residents can watch and participate from their homes. Councilmembers have also benefited, within the limits prescribed by the Brown Act. Hybrid meetings also reduce our carbon footprint. Cars that would likely bring the public to and from evening meetings can remain unused.

Berkeley residents would benefit from shifting the City’s 32 commission meetings to a Hybrid format as well. However, Ethernet ports and AV equipment must be purchased and installed at the 11 unique locations where Commissions meet, besides Council Chambers.

The City Clerk, in collaboration with the IT Department, has worked out the feasibility of the shift and the infrastructure costs:

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Cost per Location</i>	<i>Cost for All 11 Locations</i>
Ethernet Port	\$1,500	\$16,500
AV Equipment	\$8,400	\$92,400

Total: \$108,900

If approved, this \$110,000 budget referral will enable all of the City's Commission Meetings to be conducted in hybrid format in FY 2025. Once the equipment has been purchased and installed, Commission Secretaries will be trained to use the equipment and to manage hybrid meetings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Hybrid meetings reduce the number of miles driven and reduce the spread of illness.

CONTACT PERSON

Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160


Attachments:

1: City of Berkeley Boards & Commissions Meeting Information (Location Legend)

Attachment 1: Boards & Commissions Meeting Information (Location Legend)

LEGEND

Location	
1900 Sixth Street	West Berkeley Family Wellness Center, 1900 Sixth Street
1901 Russoll	South Branch Library
1947 Center	1947 Center, Basement Multi-Purpose Room
1301 Shattuck Ave	Live Oak Cmty Ctr, 1301 Shattuck Ave
Chambers	BUSD Board Room, 1231 Addison Street
Contact Rec.	Meeting daytime/location varies - Contact secretary
F.A.C.C.	Francis Aoner Community Center, 2800 Park Street
F.D.T.F.	Fire Department Training Facility, 997 Cedar Street
N.B.S.C.	North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave
Ratchliff	1326 Allston Way, Corp. Yard, Willow Room
S.B.S.C.	South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street
Shelter	Berkeley Animal Shelter, 1 Bolivar Drive
Youth Center	Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Center, 1730 Oregon Street
Department/Agency	
CAO	City Attorney
CC	City Clerk
CMO	City Manager
ELS	Fire and Emergency Services
HHCS	Health, Housing and Community Services
HR	Human Resources
LIB	Library
OED	Office of Economic Development
ODPA	Office of the Director of Police Accountability
PLD	Planning and Development
P&W	Parks, Recreation and Waterfront
PW	Public Works
E-Mail	
To email secretaries (e-mail address)@berkeleyca.gov	



CITY OF BERKELEY

BOARDS

COMMISSIONS

MEETING

INFORMATION

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