



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
February 13, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services

Subject: Dissolution of the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission and the Peace and Justice Commission; and, establishment of the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt first reading of an Ordinance to:

1. Repeal Chapter 3.68, Peace and Justice Commission; and,
2. Repeal Chapter 3.78, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission; and,
3. Establish the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission with Chapter 3.70

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley receives approximately \$300,000 of CSBG funding per calendar year to support programs and services that combat poverty for Berkeley residents. Currently, the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission (HWCAC) acts as the federally mandated tripartite board for CSBG funding and advises the Council on how to use these funds. The duties associated with CSBG funding will be transferred to the newly-established Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission (BCAA), which will take on the advisory responsibilities previously held by the HWCAC. The City Council will continue to be the decision-making body and will be responsible for all final CSBG funding decisions.

The dissolution of two commissions and establishment of one commission may reduce staffing and operating costs associated with running commission meetings, because the total number of commissions will be decreased by one. This staff cost saving was identified in the June 15, 2021 Council item, "Commission Reorganization for Post-COVID19 Budget Recovery" (Attachment 2).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In order to sustain civic engagement and remain fiscally responsible, in June 2021 the City Council directed the City Manager to consolidate several City commissions, including the HWCAC and Peace and Justice Commission (PJC). Additionally, as of this writing, the HWCAC has two commissioners and has not achieved a commission meeting quorum since June 21, 2023. This is a significant problem for both the City

commission meeting requirements as well as CSBG funding requirements, for which the HWCAC serves as an advisory board to Council. Without regular meetings of the HWCAC, the City is in violation of the contract requirements for CSBG funding, which include approval of CSBG revenue contracts, regular review of community agency performance reports, public hearings on community needs, and funding recommendations to City Council. With over half of the seats currently vacant, the PJC has also struggled to maintain its membership.

The proposed Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission (BCAA) would adopt all CSBG-related requirements, ensuring contract compliance and preservation of the approximate \$300,000 per calendar year that the City receives in CSBG funding for anti-poverty programs and services for Berkeley residents.

The proposed change from 15 members of the HWCAC to a nine-member structure for the BCAA would achieve a balance between the strict federal funding requirement to have a tripartite board, and the ability to keep the seats on the commission filled. The three parts of the tripartite board are one-third elected public officials (or their designees), at least one-third elected low-income individuals residing in the CSBG agency's designated service area (in this case, the City of Berkeley), and the remaining members from the private sector (such as representatives from business, industry, labor, religious, human services, education, or other groups with interest in the community). City staff received technical assistance from the California Community Action Partnership Association (CalCAPA), which supports Community Action Agencies and CSBG funding recipients with HUD compliance, to ensure that the new commission structure will be CSBG compliant.

The new BCAA municipal code chapter will include the key responsibilities and requirements from both the HWCAC and PJC.

BACKGROUND

On June 15, 2021, City Council directed the City Manager to examine a multi-phased approach to the consolidation of City commissions, including a merger of the HWCAC and the PJC. The merging of these two commissions was delayed due to conflicting municipal code requirements, as well as challenges to ensuring CSBG funding compliance. City staff have now determined that the commissions are able to be merged without disrupting the responsibilities of each respective commission. City staff shared a memo with both commissions that included a description and timeline for the merger, as well as staff contact information for any questions, concerns, or feedback.

The HWCAC was established to identify social welfare needs of the community and to advise City Council on the use of CSBG funds for services that benefit low-income Berkeley residents, acting as a tripartite board for the City of Berkeley's CSBG funding.

The PJC was established to advise 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental sustainability or climate impacts associated with this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The proposal to dissolve the HWCAC and PJC and establish the BCAA is consistent with Council's directive to consolidate those two commissions. The new commission (BCAA) will be responsible for all CSBG-related requirements, which are currently not being met by the HWCAC due to ongoing commissioner vacancies and a lack of commission meeting quorum. The formation of the BCAA addresses these issues explicitly, by introducing new strategies and configurations for the tripartite board. In addition, the PJC has struggled to maintain its membership as well with over half of the seats currently vacant. Combining the two commissions will help maintain a more robust membership and public participation, and will support carrying out the assigned duties.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Due to the ongoing commission vacancies in the HWCAC and PJC, as well as Council's directive to consolidate the HWCAC and PJC, no alternative actions were considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Mary-Claire Katz, Associate Management Analyst, HHCS, 981-5414

Attachments:

- 1: Ordinance
2. "Commission Reorganization for Post-COVID19 Budget Recovery", June 15, 2021

ORDINANCE NO. -N.S.

ADDING CHAPTER 7.26 TO THE BERKELEY MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY COMMISSION AND REPEALING CHAPTERS 3.68 AND 3.78

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Berkeley as follows:

Section 1. That a new Chapter 3.70 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is added to read as follows:

Chapter 3.70

BERKELEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY COMMISSION

Sections:

3.70.010 Creation of the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission

3.70.020 Membership

3.70.030 Term of office

3.70.040 Vacancy and removal

3.70.050 Temporary vacancies

3.70.060 Officers, meetings and procedures

3.70.070 Social welfare defined

3.70.080 Social justice defined

3.70.090 Functions of the commission

3.70.100 Elections for low-income representatives

3.70.110 Bylaws of the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission

Section 3.70.010 Creation of the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission

The Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission is hereby created with an effective date of May 1, 2024.

Section 3.70.020 Membership

A. The commission shall consist of nine members. This commission is not subject to BMC Sections 2.04.030–2.04.130, the Fair Representation Ordinance, due to the Community Action Agency membership regulations in state and federal law.

B. Three of the members shall be appointed by the Berkeley City Council by majority vote.

C. Three of the members shall be low-income representatives, subject to the eligibility requirements of this paragraph, and elected to the commission using one of the methods in Section 3.70.100:

i. An individual who is at or below the federal poverty line, and who resides within the City of Berkeley; or

ii. An individual from a group(s) or organization(s) composed primarily of low-income persons and representing the interest of the low-income population in the City of

Berkeley, whose membership duly select a representative chosen in accordance with a democratic selection procedure.

D. Three of the members shall be members or officials of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or major groups and interests in the community, as required by California Government Code Sections 12736(e), 12750(a)(2), and 12751 (and its successors), the language of which is incorporated herein by reference. These members should be identified and nominated for Council approval by the existing commissioners.

E. For the purpose of members appointed pursuant to paragraph C and D, the community service block grant (CSBG) target area is within the boundary of the City of Berkeley.

Section 3.70.030 Term of office.

For purposes of determining term limits under Section 3.02.040, a commissioner's service on the Human Welfare & Community Action Commission or the Peace & Justice Commission shall be counted toward their service upon their appointment to the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission.

Section 3.70.040 Vacancy and removal of elected members

Elected members of the commission are subject to the same membership and attendance requirements as appointed members except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

A. A vacancy shall exist when an elected board member moves and establishes residence outside of their election district or otherwise no longer meets the eligibility requirements of Section 3.70.020.C.

B. Vacancies in any elected commission position shall be filled by a new election pursuant to Section 3.70.100.

Section 3.70.050 Temporary vacancies

An elected member of the commission may take a temporary leave of absence of up to three months in duration by notifying the City Clerk and the commission secretary in writing in advance of the absence, during which time a temporary vacancy shall exist. During the period of such temporary vacancy in an elected position, a temporary appointment shall be made by the remaining low-income representatives subject to the eligibility requirements of Section 3.70.020.C.

Section 3.70.060 Officers, meetings and procedures

A. The commission shall elect one of its members chairperson and one of its members vice-chairperson.

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. A majority of the members appointed to the commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed is required to take any action.

D. All subcommittees of this commission should fairly reflect the composition of the commission.

Section 3.70.070 Social welfare defined

"Social Welfare" as used in this chapter, means that endeavor which is concerned with community-wide and group interests rather than with needs of individual residents and embraces such areas, among others, special needs of the family, children, youth and the aged, and the way in which people live and work together.

Section 3.70.080 Social justice defined

"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.

Section 3.70.090 Functions of the commission

The functions of the commission shall be as follows:

A. The commission shall function as the Board of the Community Action Agency as set forth in California Government Code Sections 12750 - 12763 and its successors, the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference;

B. Identify social welfare needs of the Berkeley community and create awareness of these needs among residents;

C. Review and accept the Community Needs Assessment as outlined in the Community Service Block Grant Organizational Standards and create a citizen awareness of these needs;

D. Encourage the development of programs designed to improve the social welfare of the Berkeley community;

E. Advise the Berkeley City Council 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;

F. Create citizen awareness around issues of social justice;

G. 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-N.S. and its successors.

H. Act in an advisory role to City Council on Socially Responsible Investment for the City of Berkeley as prescribed in B.M.C. Section 3.68.070.K, including socially responsible procurement policy, Nuclear Free Berkeley Act Waivers, and Oppressive States Contracting Prohibition (per Resolution 59,853-N.S. and its successors);

I. Perform such other functions and duties as may be directed by the City Council or prescribed or authorized by any ordinance of the City;

J. 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 assistance and advice to such board, commission or department as may be requested.

Section 3.70.100 Elections for low-income representatives

Low-income representatives shall be chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they represent the low-income persons in the geographic service area of the City of Berkeley. Among the selection procedures which may be employed, as determined by the commission secretary, either separately or in combination, are the following: (a) nominations and elections, whether within the neighborhoods, community, or service area as a whole; (b) selection at a meeting or conference of low-income persons such that the date, time, and place of such a meeting or conference have been adequately publicized; (c) selection of a small area basis (such as a neighborhood) of representatives who in turn select members for the commission; (d) the commission may recognize a group(s) or organization(s) composed primarily of low-income persons and representing the interest of the low-income population, whose membership may select one or more representatives to the commission. Persons at or below the federal poverty line shall be permitted to vote in the selection processes. The commission may request a waiver for the federal poverty line eligibility in order to establish residency or other relevant criteria as a basis for eligibility, which will be provided to and reviewed by the commission secretary for CSBG compliance

Section 3.70.110 Bylaws of the Berkeley Community Action Agency Commission

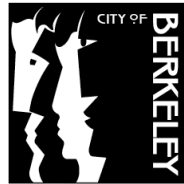
The commission shall prepare and maintain bylaws for the community action agency. These bylaws and amendments thereto shall be consistent with City, state and federal policies governing community action agencies.

Section 2. That Chapter 3.68 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is hereby repealed effective May 1, 2024.

Section 3. That Chapter 3.78 of the Berkeley Municipal Code is hereby repealed effective May 1, 2024.

Section 4. Posting

Copies of this Ordinance shall be posted for two days prior to adoption in the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Within 15 days of adoption, copies of this Ordinance shall be filed at each branch of the Berkeley Public Library and the title shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation.



PROCLAMATION CALLING A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the authority in me vested, I do hereby call the Berkeley City Council in special session as follows:

**Tuesday, June 15, 2021
4:00 PM**

JESSE ARREGUIN, MAYOR

Councilmembers:

DISTRICT 1 – RASHI KESARWANI
DISTRICT 2 – TERRY TAPLIN
DISTRICT 3 – BEN BARTLETT
DISTRICT 4 – KATE HARRISON

DISTRICT 5 – SOPHIE HAHN
DISTRICT 6 – SUSAN WENGRAF
DISTRICT 7 – RIGEL ROBINSON
DISTRICT 8 – LORI DROSTE

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 City Council will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive Order and the Shelter-in-Place 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.

Live audio is available on KPFB Radio 89.3. Live captioned broadcasts of Council Meetings are available on Cable B-TV (Channel 33) and via internet accessible video stream at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/CalendarEventWebcastMain.aspx>.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908681987>. 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 by rolling over the bottom of the screen.

*To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-9128 or 1-877-853-5257 (Toll Free) and enter Meeting ID: 879 0868 1987. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.*

Please be mindful that the teleconference will be recorded as any Council meeting is recorded, and all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Council meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference.

To submit a written communication for the City Council's consideration and inclusion in the public record, email council@cityofberkeley.info.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Mark Numainville, City Clerk, (510) 981-6900. The City Council may take action related to any subject listed on the Agenda. Meetings will adjourn at 11:00 p.m. - any items outstanding at that time will be carried over to a date/time to be specified.

Preliminary Matters

Roll Call:

Action Calendar

The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. For items moved to the Action Calendar from the Consent Calendar or Information Calendar, persons who spoke on the item during the Consent Calendar public comment period may speak again at the time the matter is taken up during the Action Calendar.

The Presiding Officer will request that persons wishing to speak use the "raise hand" function to determine the number of persons interested in speaking at that time. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Presiding Officer may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker. The Presiding Officer may, with the consent of persons representing both sides of an issue, allocate a block of time to each side to present their issue.

Action items may be reordered at the discretion of the Chair with the consent of Council.

Action Calendar – Old Business

- 1. Commission Reorganization for Post-COVID19 Budget Recovery**
From: Councilmember Droste (Author), Councilmember Robinson (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor), Mayor Arreguin (Co-Sponsor) (Reviewed by the Agenda & Rules Committee) (Continued from May 25, 2021)

Recommendation:

1. Refer to the City Manager and City Attorney to bring back changes to the enabling legislation to reorganize existing commissions as proposed below in a phased approach. Phase 1: Prioritize merging the Homeless Commission/Homeless Services Panel of Experts and Housing Advisory Commission/Measure O Bond Oversight Committee first, and request that the City Manager bring back changes to the enabling legislation to implement these consolidated commissions. Phase 2: All other Commissions as proposed in the report. As staff is able to make recommendations on consolidation, they can bring those recommendations forward one by one.
2. Refer to staff to develop recommendations on the transition to new consolidated commissions and the effective date of the changes.
3. Consider establishing 18 members on the new Climate and Environment Commission and establishing specific subcommittees focused on the policy areas of the merged commissions.
4. The Peace, Justice and Human Welfare Commission will be composed of only Mayor and Council appointees.
5. Refer to City Manager and Commissions the following additional considerations:
 - Federal, state or other external mandates that might be impacted, and determine how to handle.
 - Whether charters of to-be-merged Commissions were adopted by City Council, through measures or initiatives passed by voters, or are by Charter, and by what means they might be merged/adjusted.
 - What elements of each Commission to keep, update, or retire, as well as relevant topics/issues not currently covered that might be added to a more comprehensive and/or relevant merged Commission's charter.
 - Whether the merged Commission might include 9, or a greater number of members.
 - The possibility of requiring specific qualifications for

Action Calendar – Old Business

appointment to the merged Commission. - The possibility of recommended or required Standing Committees of the Merged Commission. - Volunteer workload and capacity given scope of Commission's charter

Policy Committee Recommendation: Make a Qualified Positive Recommendation to City Council to: 1. Refer to the City Manager and City Attorney to bring back changes to the enabling legislation to reorganize existing commissions as proposed below in a phased approach. Phase 1: Prioritize merging the Homeless Commission/Homeless Services Panel of Experts and Housing Advisory Commission/Measure O Bond Oversight Committee first, and request that the City Manager bring back changes to the enabling legislation to implement these consolidated commissions. Phase 2: All other Commissions as proposed in the report. As staff is able to make recommendations on consolidation, they can bring those recommendations forward one by one. 2. Refer to the Commissions impacted a process to determine the charge/responsibilities of the newly merged commissions, and bring Commission input to the appropriate Policy Committees (as proposed by Vice-Mayor Droste in 4/5/21 submittal) for further recommendations to the City Manager on revised charge/responsibilities of merged commissions. 3. Refer to staff to develop recommendations on the transition to new consolidated commissions and the effective date of the changes. 4. Consider establishing 18 members on the new Climate and Environment Commission and establishing specific subcommittees focused on the policy areas of the merged commissions. 5. The Peace, Justice and Human Welfare Commission will be comprised of only Mayor and Council appointees. 6. Refer Councilmember Hahn questions to City Manager and Commissions: "Commissions to Combine/Merge - Suggested Considerations" - Federal, state or other external mandates that might be impacted, and determine how to handle. - Whether charters of to-be-merged Commissions were adopted by City Council, through measures or initiatives passed by voters, or are by Charter, and by what means they might be merged/adjusted. - What elements of each Commission to keep, update, or retire, as well as relevant topics/issues not currently covered that might be added to a more comprehensive and/or relevant merged Commission's charter. - Whether the merged Commission might include 9, or a greater number of members. - The possibility of requiring specific qualifications for appointment to the merged Commission. - The possibility of recommended or required Standing Committees of the Merged Commission - Volunteer workload and capacity given scope of Commission's charter.

Financial Implications: See report

Contact: Lori Droste, Councilmember, District 8, (510) 981-7180

Public Comment - Items on this agenda only

Adjournment

I hereby request that the City Clerk of the City of Berkeley cause personal notice to be given to each member of the Berkeley City Council on the time and place of said meeting, forthwith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Berkeley to be affixed on this 3rd day of June, 2021.

Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Public Notice – this Proclamation serves as the official agenda for this meeting.

ATTEST:

Date: June 3, 2021
Mark Numainville, City Clerk

NOTICE CONCERNING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS: *If you object to a decision by the City Council to approve or deny a use permit or variance for a project the following requirements and restrictions apply: 1) No lawsuit challenging a City decision to deny (Code Civ. Proc. §1094.6(b)) or approve (Gov. Code 65009(c)(5)) a use permit or variance may be filed more than 90 days after the date the Notice of Decision of the action of the City Council is mailed. Any lawsuit not filed within that 90-day period will be barred. 2) In any lawsuit that may be filed against a City Council decision to approve or deny a use permit or variance, the issues and evidence will be limited to those raised by you or someone else, orally or in writing, at a public hearing or prior to the close of the last public hearing on the project.*

Live captioned broadcasts of Council Meetings are available on Cable B-TV (Channel 33), via internet accessible video stream at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/CalendarEventWebcastMain.aspx> and KPFB Radio 89.3.

Archived indexed video streams are available at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/citycouncil>. Channel 33 rebroadcasts the following Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Communications to the City Council 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 the City Council, 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 to the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street. 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 City Clerk Department for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the City Council regarding any item on this agenda will be posted on the City's website at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info>.

Agendas and agenda reports may be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/citycouncil>

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at (510) 981-6418 (V) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date.



Captioning services are provided at the meeting, on B-TV, and on the Internet.

Communications

Council rules limit action on Communications to referral to the City Manager and/or Boards and Commissions for investigation and/or recommendations. All communications submitted to Council are public record. Copies of individual communications are available for viewing through [Records Online](#).

Item #1: Commission Reorganization for Post-COVID19 Budget Recovery

1. Holly Scheider



Lori Droste
Berkeley Vice Mayor

ACTION CALENDAR

June 15, 2021

(Continued from May 25, 2021)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Lori Droste (Author), Councilmembers Rigel Robinson (Co-Sponsor), Rashi Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor) and Mayor Jesse Arreguín (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Commission Reorganization for Post-COVID19 Budget Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

1. Refer to the City Manager and City Attorney to bring back changes to the enabling legislation to reorganize existing commissions as proposed below in a phased approach.

Phase 1: Prioritize merging the Homeless Commission/Homeless Services Panel of Experts and Housing Advisory Commission/Measure O Bond Oversight Committee first, and request that the City Manager bring back changes to the enabling legislation to implement these consolidated commissions.

Phase 2: All other Commissions as proposed below.
As staff is able to make recommendations on consolidation, they can bring those recommendations forward one by one.

New Commission Name	Former Commissions to be Reorganized
Commission on Climate and the Environment	Zero Waste, Energy, Community Environmental Advisory, and Animal Care

Parks, Recreation, Waterfront (special Marina subcommittee)	Children, Youth, and Recreation and Parks and Waterfront
Peace, Justice, and Human Welfare ¹	Peace and Justice and Human Welfare, Community Action Commissions
Public Health Commission & Sugar Sweetened Beverage Panel of Experts	Community Health Commission and Sugar Sweetened Beverage Panel of Experts
Housing Advisory Commission	Measure O and Housing Advisory Commission
Homeless Services Panel of Experts	Homeless Commission and Measure P Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Public Works and Transportation	Public Works and Transportation
Planning	Planning and Cannabis
<p>All other commissions will maintain their current structure: Aging, Library Board of Trustees, Civic Arts, Disability, Commission on the Status of Women, Design Review Committee, Disaster and Fire Safety, BIDs, Fair Campaign Practices and Open Government, Redistricting, Landmarks Preservation, Labor, Loan Adjustments Board, Personnel, Planning, Police Review/Accountability, Reimagining Public Safety, Mental Health, Zoning Adjustments Board, and Youth</p>	

2. Refer to staff to develop recommendations on the transition to new consolidated commissions and the effective date of the changes.
3. Consider establishing 18 members on the new Climate and Environment Commission and establishing specific subcommittees focused on the policy areas of the merged commissions.
4. The Peace, Justice and Human Welfare Commission will be composed of only Mayor and Council appointees.
5. Refer to City Manager and Commissions the following additional considerations:
 - Federal, state or other external mandates that might be impacted, and determine how to handle.
 - Whether charters of to-be-merged Commissions were adopted by City Council, through measures or initiatives passed by voters, or are by Charter, and by what means they might be merged/adjusted

¹ Members will be appointed by Council and membership should adhere to Government Code Section 12736(e); 12750(a)(2) and 12751.

- What elements of each Commission to keep, update, or retire, as well as relevant topics/issues not currently covered that might be added to a more comprehensive and/or relevant merged Commission’s charter.
- Whether the merged Commission might include 9, or a greater number of members.
- The possibility of requiring specific qualifications for appointment to the merged Commission.
- The possibility of recommended or required Standing Committees of the Merged Commission
- Volunteer workload and capacity given scope of Commission’s charter

Policy Committee Oversight ²	Commissions
Agenda and Rules	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fair Campaign Practices/Open Government Commission 2. Personnel Board
Budget and Finance	(Any legislation that requires funding)
Public Safety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disaster and Fire Safety Commission 2. Police Accountability Board/Police Review Commission 3. Reimagining Public Safety Task Force
Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation and the Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commission on the Environment 2. Parks, Recreation and Waterfront with Marina subcommittee 3. Public Works and Transportation
Land Use and Economic Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measure O Housing Commission 2. Planning Commission 3. Labor 4. Civic Arts Commission
Health, Equity, Life Enrichment, and Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peace, Justice, and Civil Rights 2. Health and Sugar Sweetened Beverage Panel of Experts 3. Homeless Services Panel of Experts 4. Mental Health Commission (state/federal mandate) 5. Commission on the Status of Women 6. Disability Commission

² Primary policy committee oversight but legislation may be referred to multiple policy committees.

Other Commissions: Zoning Adjustments Board (DRC), Landmarks Preservation, Board of Library Trustees, BIDs, Independent Redistricting Commission, Loan Administration Board

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On April 5, 2021, the Agenda and Rules Committee made a qualified positive recommendation to City Council to:

1. Refer to the City Manager and City Attorney to bring back changes to the enabling legislation to reorganize existing commissions as proposed below in a phased approach.

Phase 1: Prioritize merging the Homeless Commission/Homeless Services Panel of Experts and Housing Advisory Commission/Measure O Bond Oversight Committee first, and request that the City Manager bring back changes to the enabling legislation to implement these consolidated commissions.

Phase 2: All other Commissions as proposed below.
As staff is able to make recommendations on consolidation, they can bring those recommendations forward one by one.

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Parks, Recreation, Waterfront (special Marina subcommittee)	Children, Youth, and Recreation and Parks and Waterfront
Peace, Justice, and Human Welfare	Peace and Justice Commission and Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
Public Health Commission & Sugar Sweetened Beverage Panel of Experts	Community Health Commission and Sugar Sweetened Beverage Panel of Experts
Housing Advisory Commission	Measure O and Housing Advisory Commission
Homeless Services Panel of Experts	Homeless Commission and Measure P Homeless Services Panel of Experts

Public Works and Transportation	Public Works and Transportation
Planning	Planning and Cannabis
<p>All other commissions will maintain their current structure: Aging, Library Board of Trustees, Civic Arts, Disability, Commission on the Status of Women, Design Review Committee, Disaster and Fire Safety, BIDs, Fair Campaign Practices and Open Government, Redistricting, Landmarks Preservation, Labor, Loan Adjustments Board, Personnel, Planning, Police Review/Accountability, Reimagining Public Safety, Mental Health, Zoning Adjustments Board, and Youth</p>	

2. Refer to the Commissions impacted a process to determine the charge/responsibilities of the newly merged commissions, and bring Commission input to the appropriate Policy Committees (as proposed by Vice-Mayor Droste in 4/5/21 submittal) for further recommendations to the City Manager on revised charge/responsibilities of merged commissions.

3. Refer to staff to develop recommendations on the transition to new consolidated commissions and the effective date of the changes.

4. Consider establishing 18 members on the new Climate and Environment Commission and establishing specific subcommittees focused on the policy areas of the merged commissions.

5. The Peace, Justice and Human Welfare Commission will be comprised of only Mayor and Council appointees.

6. Refer Councilmember Hahn questions to City Manager and Commissions: “Commissions to Combine/Merge - Suggested Considerations”

- Federal, state or other external mandates that might be impacted, and determine how to handle
- Whether charters of to-be-merged Commissions were adopted by City Council, through measures or initiatives passed by voters, or are by Charter, and by what means they might be merged/adjusted
- What elements of each Commission to keep, update, or retire, as well as relevant topics/issues not currently covered that might be added to a more comprehensive and/or relevant merged Commission’s charter.
- Whether the merged Commission might include 9, or a greater number of members.
- The possibility of requiring specific qualifications for appointment to the merged Commission.
- The possibility of recommended or required Standing Committees of the Merged Commission
- Volunteer workload and capacity given scope of Commission’s charter

PROBLEM/SUMMARY STATEMENT

Commissions provide an important mechanism for residents to shape public policy and provide input on City business. However, the City of Berkeley maintains far more commissions than other cities of similar size, with a significant investment of City resources to staff all 37 commissions. Some commission secretaries report spending upwards of 20+ hours per week on commission business, which takes valuable time away from addressing other pressing City priorities. The local public health emergency created by the global COVID-19 pandemic has required City staff to shift to new roles and maintain an Emergency Operations Center since January 2020; recovery from the pandemic will continue to demand the full attention of our City staff for the foreseeable future. Given the uncertainties that our City faces in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and the demands that this recovery places on our City staff, it is an appropriate time to consider how best to consolidate our commissions in a manner that helps the City to achieve its core mission.

REITERATION OF PRINCIPLES

Commissions are a fundamental part of the City's policymaking process. Members of boards and commissions provide an invaluable service to our City. They advise the City Council on a wide variety of subjects by making recommendations on important policy matters. Without the assistance of the various boards and commissions, the City Council could give many complex and significant matters only a perfunctory review. The detailed studies and considered advice of boards and commissions are often catalysts for innovative programs and improved services. Serving on a board or commission can be a rewarding experience for community service-minded residents. It is an excellent way to participate in the functioning of local government and to make a personal contribution to the improvement of our community. Making local government effective and responsive is everybody's responsibility.

- The Public Works Commission, for example, develops the City's five year paving plan which they then present to City Council for approval. Through extensive community outreach and research, the Commission identifies the streets most in need of repaving.
- With the passage of Measure D in 2014, a Panel of Experts on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages has guided the City's spending of over \$5 million in revenue generated from the Measure. Those dollars have bolstered local public campaigns and education initiatives.

These are merely two examples of the powerful role that Commissions play in City policymaking.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Current Commission Structure

The City of Berkeley has approximately thirty-seven commissions overseen by city administration, most of which have at least nine members and who are appointed by individual councilmembers. These commissions were intended to be a forum for public participation beyond what is feasible at the City Council, so that issues that come before the City Council can be adequately vetted.

Some commissions are required by charter or mandated by voter approval or state/federal mandate. Those commissions are the following:

1. Board of Library Trustees (charter)
2. Business Improvement Districts (state mandate)
3. Civic Arts Commission (charter)
4. Community Environmental Advisory Commission (state/federal mandate--CUPA)
5. Fair Campaign Practices Commission/Open Government (ballot measure)
6. Homeless Services Panel of Experts (ballot measure)
7. Housing Advisory Commission (state/federal mandate)
8. Human Welfare and Community Action (state/federal mandate)
9. Measure O Bond Oversight Committee (ballot measure)
10. Mental Health Commission (state/federal mandate)
11. Personnel (charter) Police Review Commission (ballot measure)
12. Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (ballot measure)

Berkeley must have its own mental health commission because of its independent Mental Health Division. In order to receive services, the City needs to have to have an advisory board. Additionally, Berkeley's Community Environmental Advisory Commission is a required commission in order to oversee Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) under California's Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, some commissions serve other purposes beyond policy advisories. The Children, Youth and Recreation Commission, Housing Advisory Commission, and the Human Welfare and Community Action Commission advise Council on community agency funding. However, some of the aforementioned quasi-judicial and state/federal mandated commissions do not need to stand independently and can be combined to meet mandated goals.

The Importance of Commissions

Commissions serve a vital role in the City of Berkeley’s rich process of resident engagement. An analysis of agendas over the past several years shows that the commissions have created policy that have benefited the community in meaningful and important ways. In 2020, 14 of the 16 commission items submitted to Council passed. From 2016-2020, an average of 34 items were submitted by commissions to Council for consideration.

The City’s Health, Housing and Community Development department serves an important role in addressing COVID-19, racial disparities, inequitable health outcomes, affordable housing, and other important community programs. Additionally, Health, Housing, and Community Development also staffs ten commissions, more than many cities of Berkeley’s size. Council needs to wrestle with these tradeoffs to ensure that we seek the maximum benefit for *all* of the Berkeley community, particularly our most vulnerable.

Commission Structures in Neighboring Jurisdictions

In comparison to neighboring jurisdictions of similar size, Berkeley has significantly more commissions. The median number of commissions for these cities is 12 and the average is 15.

Comparable Bay Area City	Population (est.)	Number of Commissions	Links
Berkeley	121,000	37	https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_Commissions/External%20Roster.pdf
Antioch	112,000	6	https://www.antiochca.gov/government/boards-commissions/
Concord	130,000	14	https://www.cityofconcord.org/264/Applications-for-Boards-Committees-Commi
Daly City	107,000	7	http://www.dalycity.org/City_Hall/Departments/city_clerk/Commissions_Information/boards.htm
Fairfield	117,000	7	https://www.fairfield.ca.gov/gov/comms/default.asp
Fremont	238,000	15	https://www.fremont.gov/76/Boards-Commissions-Committees
Hayward	160,000	12	https://www.hayward-ca.gov/your-government/boards-commissions

Richmond	110,000	29	https://www.ci.richmond.ca.us/256/Boards-and-Commissions
San Mateo	105,000	7	https://www.cityofsanmateo.org/60/Commissions-Boards
Sunnyvale	153,000	10	https://sunnyvale.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?blobid=22804
Vallejo	122,000	17	http://www.ci.vallejo.ca.us/cms/one.aspx?pagelid=22192

To understand the impact on various departments and staffing capacity, the following table shows which departments are responsible for overseeing various commissions.

Staffing and Resources Supporting Berkeley’s Current Commission Structure

Commission Name	Overseeing Department (Total Commissions in Department)
Animal Care Commission	City Manager (8)
Civic Arts Commission	City Manager (8)
Commission on the Status of Women	City Manager (8)
Elmwood BID Advisory Board	City Manager (8)
Loan Administration Board	City Manager (8)
Peace and Justice Commission	City Manager (8)
Solano Ave BID Advisory Board	City Manager (8)
Cannabis Commission	Planning (7)
Community Environmental Advisory Commission	Planning (7)
Design Review Committee	Planning (7)
Energy Commission	Planning (7)
Landmarks Preservation Commission	Planning (7)
Planning Commission	Planning (7)
Zoning Adjustments Board	Planning (7)

Children, Youth, and Recreation Commission	Parks (3)
Parks and Waterfront Commission	Parks (3)
Youth Commission	Parks (3)
Commission on Aging	Health, Housing, and Community Services (HHCS) (10)
Commission on Labor	HHCS (10)
Community Health Commission	HHCS (10)
Homeless Commission	HHCS (10)
Homeless Services Panel of Experts	HHCS(10)
Housing Advisory Commission	HHCS (10)
Human Welfare & Community Action Commission	HHCS (10)
Measure O Bond Oversight Committee	HHCS (10)
Mental Health Commission	HHCS (10)
Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Product Panel of Experts	HHCS (10)
Disaster and Fire Safety Commission	Fire (1)
Commission on Disability	Public Works (4)
Public Works Commission	Public Works (4)
Transportation Commission	Public Works (4)
Zero Waste Commission	Public Works (4)
Fair Campaign Practices Commission/Open Government Commission	City Attorney (1)
Personnel Board	Human Resources (1)

Police Review Commission/Police Accountability Board	Police Review Commission/Police Accountability Board Staff
Reimagining Public Safety Task Force	City Manager *(8) and BPD (2)
Board of Library Trustees	Library (1)

Gray=charter
 Red=state/federal mandate
 Yellow=quasi-judicial
 Blue=ballot initiative
 Orange=state/federal mandate and quasi-judicial
 Green=quasi-judicial and ballot initiative

The departments that staff more than five commissions are Health, Housing, and Community Services (10 commissions), Planning (7 commissions), and the City Manager’s department (8 commissions). At the same time, some smaller departments (e.g. the City Attorney’s office) may be impacted just as meaningfully if they have fewer staff and larger individual commission workloads.

Policy Committee Structure Expands Opportunities for Public Input

With the recent addition of policy committees, proposed legislation is now vetted by councilmembers in these forums. Each policy committee is focused on a particular content area aligned with the City of Berkeley’s strategic plan and is staffed and an advisory policy body to certain city departments. Members of the public are able to provide input at these committees as well. The policy committees currently have the following department alignment:

Department and Policy Committee alignment

1. **Agenda and Rules**—all departments
2. **Budget and Finance**—City Manager, Clerk, Budget, and Finance
3. **Land Use and Economic Development**—Clerk, Planning, HHCS, City Attorney, and City Manager (OED)
4. **Public Safety**—Clerk, City Manager, Police, and Fire
5. **Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment and Sustainability** (Clerk, City Manager, Planning, Public Works, and Parks)
6. **Health, Equity, Life Enrichment, and Community** (Clerk, City Manager, HHCS)

Staffing Costs

Based upon preliminary calculations of staff titles and salary classifications, the average commission staff secretary makes roughly \$60-\$65/hour. Based upon recent interviews with secretaries and department heads, individual commission secretaries work

anywhere from 8-80 hours a month staffing and preparing for commission meetings. To illustrate this example, a few examples are listed below.

Commission	Step 5 Rate of Pay	Reported Hours a Month	Total Direct Cost of Commission per Month
Animal Care	\$70.90	8	\$567.20
Landmarks Preservation Commission	\$57.96	80	\$4,636.80
Design Review Commission	\$52.76	60	\$3,165.60
Peace and Justice	\$60.82	32	\$1,946.24

It is extremely challenging to estimate a specific cost of commissions in the aggregate because of the varying workload but a safe estimate of salary costs dedicated to commissions would be in the six-figure range.

Many commissions--particularly quasi-judicial and land use commissions-- require more than one staff member to be present and prepare reports for commissions. For example, Zoning Adjustment Board meetings often last five hours or more and multiple staff members spend hours preparing for hearings. The Planning Department indicates that *in addition* to direct hours, additional commission-related staff time adds an extra 33% staff time. Using the previous examples, this means that the Landmarks Preservation Commission would cost the city over \$6,000 in productivity while the Design Review Commission would cost the City over \$4,000 a month.

Productivity Losses and Administrative Burden

Current productivity losses are stark because of the sheer amount of hours of staffing time dedicated to commissions. As an example, in 2019 one of the City of Berkeley’s main homeless outreach workers staffed a commission within the City Manager’s department. She spent approximately 32 hours a month working directly on commission work. While this is not a commentary on a particular commission, this work directly impacted her ability to conduct homeless outreach.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

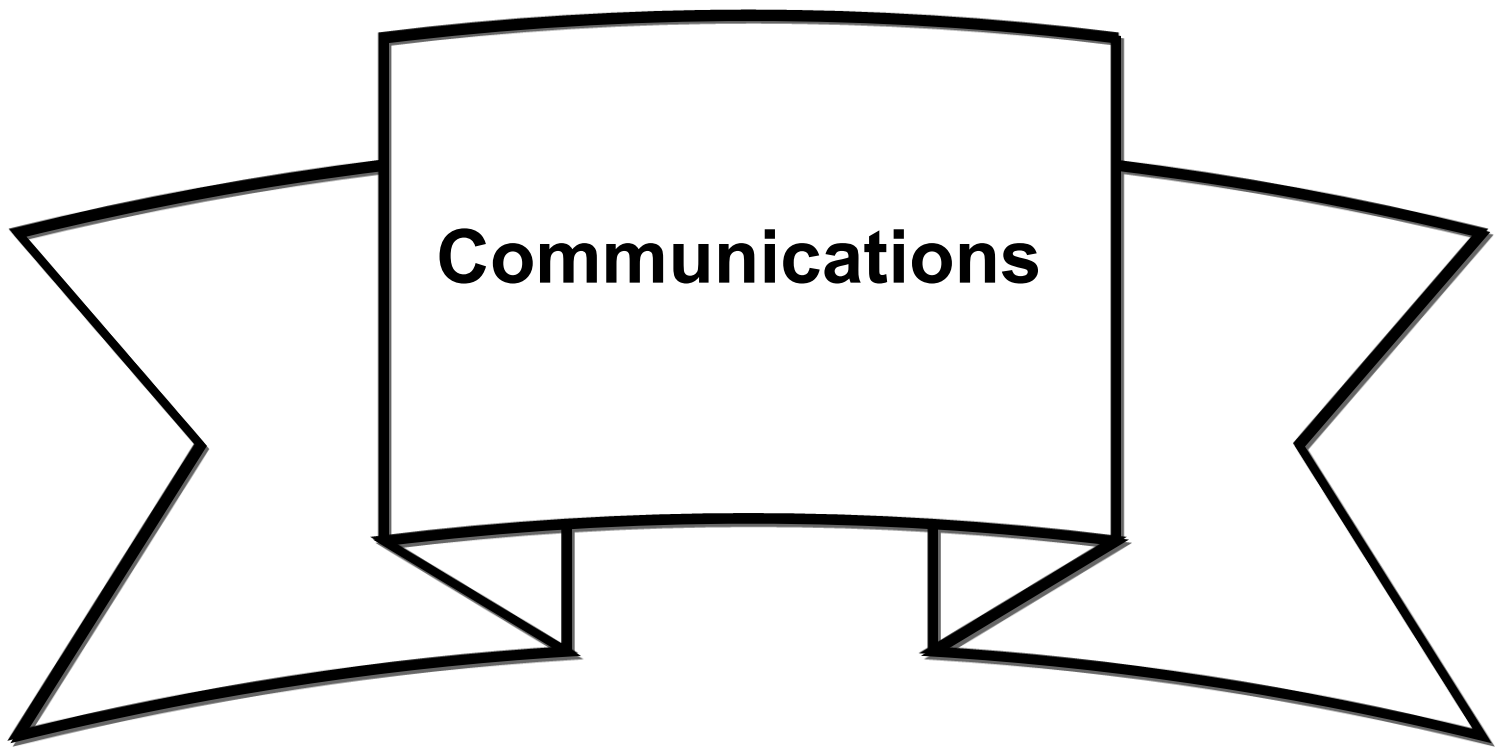
At a time when the City needs to demonstrate efficiency and fiscal restraint, the current commission structure is costly and duplicative. At the same time, civic engagement and commission work absolutely deserve an important role in Berkeley. Consequently, this legislation retains commissions but centers on overall community benefit, staff productivity, and associated costs. This is imperative to address, especially in light of COVID-19 and community demands for reinvestment in important social services.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Significant savings associated with reduced staffing.

CONTACT

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All communications submitted to the City Council are public record. Communications are not published directly to the City's website. Copies of individual communications are available for viewing at the City Clerk Department and through Records Online.

City Clerk Department

2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 981-6900

Records Online

<http://www.cityofberkeley.info/recordsonline>

To search for communications associated with a particular City Council meeting using Records Online:

1. Select Search Type = “Public – Communication Query (Keywords)”
2. From Date: Enter the date of the Council meeting
3. To Date: Enter the date of the Council meeting (this may match the From Date field)
4. Click the “Search” button
5. Communication packets matching the entered criteria will be returned
6. Click the desired file in the Results column to view the document as a PDF

