



# Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

## MINUTES

Wednesday, May 19, 2021  
6:30 PM

### **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 Housing Advisory Commission will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive 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.

### **To access the meeting remotely using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL –<https://zoom.us/j/4863098496>**

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 on the screen. **To join by phone: Dial 1-669-900-6833 and Enter Meeting ID: 486 309 8496.** If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

### **Preliminary Matters**

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Dunner, Hill, Sood, Kohn, Omodele, Behm-Steinberg, Romo, Pelley

Absent: Yun, Bookstein, Sim

Quorum: 7 (Attended: 8)

Staff Present: Mary-Claire Katz

Public Present: Jon Bendich, two unknown attendees

#### 2. Agenda Approval

**Action:** M/S/C (Behm-Steinberg/Romo) to reorder agenda to discuss item 9 before item 8.

**Vote:** Ayes – Dunner, Sood, Kohn, Omodele, Behm-Steinberg, Hill, Pelley, Romo; Noes - None; Abstain - None; Absent – Yun, Bookstein, Sim.

#### 3. Public Comment

Jon Bendich asks how Berkeley plans to use state funding to address homelessness, and asks about the pending Alta Bates closure and whether Berkeley has a plan in place to continue providing access to healthcare.

### **Update/Action Items**

***The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.***

### **Berkeley Community Action Agency Board Business**

4. Approve minutes from the 4/21/2021 Regular Meeting (Attachment A)  
**Action:** M/S/C (Omodele/Kohn) to approve the minutes from the 4/21/21 meeting with edits.  
**Vote:** Ayes – Dunner, Sood, Kohn, Omodele, Behm-Steinberg, Hill, Pelley, Romo; Noes - None; Abstain - None; Absent – Yun, Bookstein, Sim.
5. Review City of Berkeley funded agency Program and Financial reports — Staff (Attachment B)  
Easy Does It – Disabled Services  
Commissioners review the Easy Does It reports.

#### **Other Discussion Items**

6. Review and discuss City of Berkeley Commission minutes – All  
Commissioners review Homeless Commission and Commission on Disability minutes.
7. Update on the closure of Alta Bates Hospital – Commissioner Omodele  
Commissioner Omodele will give public comment at a Council meeting regarding the Alta Bates closure and the lack of updates.
8. Discussion and possible action on accessibility issues, including Pathways and new facility at Grayson St. Staff v. Consultants; Ombudsman; and new liability concerns over Justice Department ruling on Mental Health – Behm-Steinberg (Attachments C and D)  
Commissioners discuss commissioner Behm-Steinberg's draft letter.
9. Discuss TOPA implications on Rent Control and possible rent control reforms (Commissioners Omodele and Behm-Steinberg)  
Commissioners Behm-Steinberg discusses concerns regarding TOPA.
10. Discuss report regarding homeless encampment in South Berkeley near Here/There sign – Commissioner Romo  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
11. Discuss report on the South Adeline Corridor Plan – Commissioner Romo  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
12. Discuss citywide public restrooms report (All)  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
13. Discuss disabled accessibility in high-density corridors – Commissioner Behm-Steinberg  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.

14. Discuss possible improvements to the HWCAC request for proposal review process – Commissioner Kohn  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
15. Discuss City grant writer procurement – Commissioner Behm-Steinberg  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
16. Discuss potential questionnaire to City Council regarding HWCAC priorities – Commissioner Bookstein  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
17. Discuss current state of homelessness in Berkeley – Commissioner Omodele  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
18. Review latest City Council meeting agenda  
Continued to 6/16/21 meeting.
19. Announcements  
None.
20. Future Agenda Items  
Commissioner Omodele will provide Alta Bates draft Council public comment for commission review and approval.  
Commissioner Behm-Steinberg will provide a draft letter to Council regarding rent control and TOPA for commission review and approval.

### **Adjournment**

**Action:** M/S/C (Omodele/Kohn) to adjourn at 8:30PM.

**Vote:** Ayes – Dunner, Sood, Kohn, Omodele, Behm-Steinberg, Hill, Pelley, Romo; Noes - None; Abstain - None; Absent – Yun, Bookstein, Sim.

Minutes approved on: June 16, 2021

Commission Secretary: Marie-Claire Katz