



4x4 Joint Task Force Committee on Housing
City Council and Rent Board

4 X 4 JOINT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING CITY COUNCIL/RENT STABILIZATION BOARD

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 – 3:00 p.m.
2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Cypress Room, Berkeley

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A HYBRID MODEL WITH BOTH IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AND VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION.

For in-person attendees, face coverings or masks that cover both the nose and the mouth are encouraged. If you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

To access this meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device by clicking on this URL: <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1619359698?pwd=bHRJSHp5Z2MyMTNPOXB0WDIhcEJRUT09>. 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 1-669-254-5252 and enter Webinar ID: 161 935 9698 and Passcode: 435279. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Committee Chair.

To submit a written communication for the Committee's consideration and inclusion in the public record, email btran@cityofberkeley.info with the Subject line in this format: "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM FOR 4 X 4 COMMITTEE." Please observe a 150-word limit. **Email comments must be submitted to the email address above by 1:00 p.m. on the day of the Committee meeting in order to be included.**

Please be mindful that this will be a public meeting and all rules of procedure and decorum will apply for both in-person attendees and those participating by teleconference or videoconference.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with Government Code Section 54953 and all current state and local requirements allowing public participation in meetings of legislative bodies. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to DéSeana Williams, Executive Director of the Rent Board, at (510) 981-7368 (981-RENT). The Committee may take action related to any subject listed on the Agenda.



COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at (510) 981-6418 (voice) or (510) 981-6347 (TDD) at least three (3) business days before the meeting date.

Attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various scents, whether natural or manufactured, in products and materials. Please help the City respect these needs.



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Approved Minutes

1. Roll call. Mayor Arreguín called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.
Present: Mayor Arreguín, CM Hahn, CM Harrison, RBC Johnson, RBC Marrero, RB Chair Simon-Weisberg, RBC Walker.
Staff present: Matt Brown, Lief Bursell, Nate Dahl, Margot Ernst, Ollie Ehlinger, Jen Fabish, Be Tran, Lisa Warhuus, DéSeana Williams.
2. Land Acknowledgment Statement: *The Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board recognizes that the rental housing units we regulate are built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun-(Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochochenyo (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 landlords and tenants have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878 and since the Rent Stabilization Board's creation in 1980. As stewards of the laws regulating rental housing, 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 Land Acknowledgement Statement was read aloud.

3. Approval of the agenda: M/S/C (Robinson/Simon-Weisberg) Approve the agenda as written. Roll call vote. YES: Arreguín, Hahn, Harrison, Johnson, Marrero, Robinson, Simon-Weisberg, Walker; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None. Carried: 8-0-0-0.
4. Public comment on non-agenda matters: There was one speaker.
5. Approval of February 15, 2023 Committee meeting minutes (see attachment): M/S/C (Robinson/Harrison) Approve the minutes as written. Roll call vote. YES: Arreguín, Hahn, Harrison, Johnson, Marrero, Robinson, Simon-Weisberg, Walker; NO: None; ABSTAIN: None; ABSENT: None. Carried: 8-0-0-0.

6. Discussion regarding outreach to property owners and tenants on the Eviction Moratorium (requested by Mayor Arreguín): Rent Board Public Information Unit Manager Nate Dahl provided an overview of the outreach done to date, and outreach currently planned for the future. The committee discussed several additional avenues of outreach and the funding that would be necessary to achieve them. The committee also discussed the requirement that a tenant provide proof of a COVID-related hardship before the expiration of an eviction notice.

There were three public speakers.

7. Discussion and possible recommendations regarding the Housing Retention Program (staff from the Eviction Defense Center): Health Housing and Community Services Department Head Lisa Warhuus introduced Anne Omura, the Executive Director of the Eviction Defense Center, who provided an update on the status of funding for the Housing Retention Program and statistics on who is being served by the program. The committee discussed this information and possibilities for additional funding.

There were two public speakers.

8. Discussion regarding the approval process for messages in the City of Berkeley's Newsletter, such as the recent message to promote short-term rentals (requested by Councilmember Hahn): CM Hahn shared with the committee the explanation she received from the City's Communications Unit on how the short-term rentals message came into being, which prompted a discussion on this and other matters related to short-term rentals.

There were two public speakers.

9. Quick updates on previously discussed items
 - a. Tenant Habitability Plan (Mayor Arreguín): Mayor Arreguín shared that Tenant Habitability Plan will likely go before Council in June with the Land Use Committee's positive recommendation.

There were no public speakers.

10. Discussion of possible future agenda items

11. Confirm next meeting date: The committee agreed to try to meet in June with the specific date to be determined.

12. Adjournment: M/S/C (Harrison/Robinson). The meeting adjourned by unanimous consent of the committee at 4:59 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Mayor Jesse Arreguín

City Councilmember Sophie Hahn

City Councilmember Kate Harrison

City Councilmember Rigel Robinson

Rent Board Chairperson Leah Simon-Weisberg

Rent Board Commissioner Xavier Johnson

Rent Board Commissioner Vanessa Danielle Marrero

Rent Board Commissioner Dominique Walker