

Commission on the Status of Women
Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 6PM
Zoom Meeting
AGENDA

PUBLIC ADVISORY: THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH VIDEOCONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and the state declared emergency, this meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. The COVID-19 state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and presents imminent risks to the health of attendees. Therefore, no physical meeting location will be available.

To access the meeting remotely, join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89209334255?pwd=MIhueU5JWXhxOGlieIJJcmVTNG1xUT09> **Passcode: 438787** 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 669-900-9128** and enter **Webinar Meeting ID: 892 0933 4255**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit an e-mail comment during the meeting to be read aloud during public comment, email sallen@cityofberkeley.info with the Subject Line in this format: "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM ##." Please observe a 150-word limit. Time limits on public comments will apply.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll call
2. Approval of September 21, 2022 Agenda
3. Approval of August 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. 2022 COSOW Work Plan
6. Report on Abortion Access Resolution passed by City Council
7. Chairperson's Report and Commissioner Updates
8. Adjournment



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 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 the City Manager's Office located at 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor.

Commission Contact Information

Shallon L. Allen, Secretary

Commission on the Status of Women

City of Berkeley

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Commission on the Status of Women

**Commission on the Status of Women
Regular Meeting – August 17, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 6:05pm with Chairperson Deguzman presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Deguzman, Shanoski, Marasovic, Henneman (*arrived 6:15pm*)
Absent: None
Excused: None

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Comments from the Public

- Public attendance: 2
- Public comments: 2

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Action

Item # 2: The Commission on the Status of Women approved the agenda.

M/S/C: Marasovic/Shanoski
Ayes: Deguzman, Shanoski, Marasovic
Absent: None
Excused: None

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Item # 3: The Commission on the Status of Women approved the March 16, 2022 meeting minutes.

M/S/C: Shanoski/Deguzman
Ayes: Deguzman, Shanoski
Abstain: Marasovic
Absent: None
Excused: None

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Item # 11: The Commission on the Status of Women adjourned the meeting at 7:07pm.

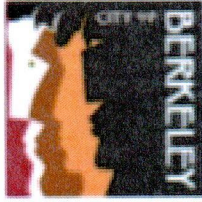
M/S/C: Shanoski/Deguzman
Ayes: Deguzman, Shanoski, Marasovic
Absent: None
Excused: None

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Shallon Allen, Secretary
Commission on the Status of Women**



City of Berkeley
Commission on the Status of Women

DRAFT COPY, NOT FINALIZED

2022 Commission Work Plan

1. Mission Statement

The Commission on the Status of Women seeks to improve the conditions of all women and advocates to the City Council on policies affecting women.

2. Commission's Goals

There are a variety of issues that have surfaced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and repeal of Roe vs Wade by the Supreme Court. It is clear that women have been disproportionately affected especially in areas of reproductive healthcare access, childcare, employment, and domestic violence. This year's work plan will focus on working with the Peace and Justice Commission on a resolution regarding Reproductive Access and Abortion which was referred back to our respective commissions.

3. Resources:

The Commission has no budget and uses no City materials or equipment. The Commission does rely on staff time in several ways: through our Commission secretary, and through the advice of expert staff who we consult about specific policy questions. In the course of surveying, expert support from staff and/or associated consultants may be utilized. Otherwise, we expect our anticipated staff demands to be limited to baseline duties for the duration of the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

4. Program Activities:

Earlier this year, we requested funding of \$100,000 from the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls to conduct research to hire a consultant. We hoped study both quantitative and qualitative data about

economic status, mental and physical health, children and family issues, housing security, and violence.

A second grant request is for direct cash relief aid of \$250,000 made up of \$100 to \$500 for up to 2,500 women who are either unhoused or who are receiving and/or eligible for WIC benefits was also submitted.

This Commission wanted to collect comprehensive data for future recommendations to the City Council and regrant cash aid to those severely economically impacted by the pandemic. Ultimately, the Commission was not selected as a grantee by the California Commission of the Status of Women and Girls. We will plan to submit an application for the next grant cycle for the 2023-2024 period to the statewide commission.

In the interim we will draft the next grant application, work with the Peace and Justice Commission of the Resolution regarding Abortion Access and recruit new Commissioners as many have resigned in the past several months.

5. Outputs:

We hope to present one major, substantive policy recommendation to the City Council based on survey results from the resolution with the Peace and Justice Commission and report back in January 2023. We will continue to hold Commission meetings, either virtual, hybrid, or in person, and as many subcommittee meetings as needed.

6. Outcomes:

The Commission's goals for policy recommendations outside of these grant funded projects will be developed over the remainder of 2022. We hope to suggest useful changes to city policies and ordinances that will positively impact the women in our community, as well as our community as a whole, for many years to come.



Peace and Justice
Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
September 13, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Peace and Justice Commission
Submitted by: George Lippman, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
Subject: Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Minimal impact to staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Roe v. Wade, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision recognizing and confirming the right to privacy in the federal Constitution protects the right for pregnant people to choose to have an abortion prior to viability, is in imminent danger of being overturned

At its regular meeting of June 6, 2022, the Peace and Justice Commission unanimously proposed the attached resolution for the City Council.

M/S/C: (Bohn/Morizawa)

Ayes: Bohn, Gussman, Jacquelin, Lee, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Leon-Maldonado, Rodriguez

Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access
Action Calendar
September 13, 2022

BACKGROUND

On January 18, 2022, the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution entitled "Reaffirming the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Roe v. Wade and Access to Safe Reproductive Health Services," stating its "support for women to be able to exercise their constitutional rights and continue have access to critical health care services, including abortion."

Limiting access to reproductive healthcare, including systematically stripping pregnant people of access to abortion, is not only a transgression against basic human reproductive rights but is also an assault on dignity.

Dozens of states have already taken legal action to limit or ban abortion, potentially stripping millions of people of reproductive care and endangering thousands of healthcare workers, including nurses and doctors who have dedicated their lives to caring for those in need.

California Governor Gavin Newsom has taken a number of steps, in anticipation of a Supreme Court ruling to overturn Roe v. Wade, to protect access to abortion for Californians and others across the country. These actions include the formation of the California Future of Abortion Council (CA-FAB Council), which has issued 45 recommendations including among many others:¹

- Assistance to the expected up to 1.4 million visitors to the state seeking abortion services, as well as to the providers that will serve them.²
- Comprehensive community survey and research to identify unmet educational and health needs of California residents. To accurately assess the needs and preferences of people experiencing barriers to care, a survey must be conducted, and data analyzed on all of the following:
 - The educational and health awareness needs of populations most impacted by lack of access to abortion.
 - Community preferences for types of abortion services and levels of care.
 - How youth/young people access sexual and reproductive health services and education.

¹ "California plans to be abortion sanctuary if Roe overturned," AP News, December 8, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/abortion-california-sanctuary-625a118108bcda253196697c83548d5b>
> https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/uploads/filer_public/d8/e1/d8e17825-72e0-4f6f-9c57-7549bb54261e/ca_fab_council_report_.pdf

² <https://states.guttmacher.org/>

Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access
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– Access to telehealth and preference for various modalities when receiving sexual and reproductive care, including abortion services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No significant impacts.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The East Bay is home to a number of nonprofit healthcare providers that provide free or low-cost reproductive care, including abortion. The demand for abortion access is likely to increase greatly, making cities like Berkeley a destination for individuals seeking care that may be made illegal in their home cities and states.

Research and study that is locally directed, grassroots-oriented, comprehensively diverse, and collaboratively designed by staff, commissions, community members, advocates and other subject matter experts will contribute a great deal to local and state policy-makers.

For this reason the Peace and Justice Commission proposes Council refer to the Commission a request to collaborate with the listed Commissions, Boards, and Departments among others to study what resources exist for reproductive health and educational services, what obstacles residents of Berkeley face in accessing them, and what disparities may exist on the basis of race and class; and give an interim report to the City Council on what actions should be taken to address such limitations on reproductive rights and services for Berkeley's residents, within four months.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

George Lippman, Chair, Peace and Justice Commission

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Commission Secretary, City Manager's Office, (510) 684-0503

Attachments:

1: Resolution

Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access
Action Calendar
September 13, 2022

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###N.S.

Resolution Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access

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

WHEREAS, limiting access to reproductive healthcare, including systematically stripping pregnant people of access to abortion, is not only a transgression against basic human reproductive rights but is also an assault on dignity;¹ and

WHEREAS, *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision recognizing and confirming the right to privacy in the federal Constitution protects the right for pregnant people to choose to have an abortion prior to viability, is in imminent danger of being overturned; and

WHEREAS, dozens of states have already taken legal action to limit or ban abortion, potentially stripping millions of people of reproductive care and endangering thousands of healthcare workers, including nurses and doctors who have dedicated their lives to caring for those in need; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay is home to a number of nonprofit healthcare providers that provide free or low-cost reproductive care, including abortion; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley City Council passed a resolution on January 18, 2022, reaffirming Berkeley's commitment to *Roe v. Wade*, stating its "support for women to be able to exercise their constitutional rights and continue have access to critical health care services, including abortion;"³ and

WHEREAS, the demand for abortion access is likely to increase greatly, making cities like Berkeley a destination for individuals seeking care that may be made illegal in their home cities and states;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley declares Berkeley to be a Right-To-Choose Sanctuary City, recognizing that anyone should have a right to abortion, on-demand, and without question.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges the State of California and Alameda County to increase funding for reproductive rights and

³ <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/city-council-meetings/2022-01-18%20Agenda%20Packet%20-%20Council%20-%20WEB.pdf>

Taking Action on the City of Berkeley's Commitment to Abortion Access
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abortion access.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley refers this resolution to the Peace and Justice Commission requesting it to collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District, the Health Department, the Community Health Commission, and the Commission on the Status of Women to study what resources exist for reproductive health and educational services, what obstacles residents of Berkeley face in accessing them, and what disparities may exist on the basis of race and class; and give an interim report to the City Council on what actions should be taken to address such limitations on reproductive rights and services for Berkeley's residents, within four months.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley reaffirms its support for codifying the right to an abortion into federal law via HR 3755, The Women's Health Protection Act of 2021 (Lee & Chu).⁴

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the copies of this Resolution be sent to Berkeley's county, state, and federal legislative representatives, Rep. Judy Chu, Governor Newsom, State Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins, and the BUSD.

⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3766>