

Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 25, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

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, the January 25, 2021 meeting of the Peace and Justice Commission 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.

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83506819543>

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 and enter Meeting ID 83506819543. 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 all other rules of procedure and decorum will apply for Commission meetings conducted by teleconference or videoconference.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call
2. Announcements
3. Comments from the Public (*subject to time limits applicable to all speakers as necessary*)
4. Review and approval of meeting minutes (see Attachment B)
5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
6. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Discussion and action on Fiscal Year 2022 Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan (Igor Tregub, George Lippman) (see Attachment C)

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS


8. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. Roster
- B. Minutes of March 2nd, 2020 meeting
- C. Peace and Justice Commission Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan

 Meeting Access: 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 (3) 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

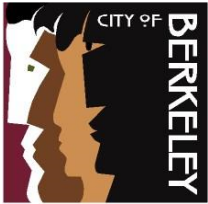
Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Old City Hall located at 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Commission Contact Information

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Peace and Justice Commission Roster

Name	Appointer	District
Omeed Askary	Levy-Cutler	<i>BUSD</i>
VACANT	Alper	BUSD
Zaira Rodriguez	Student Director	BUSD
VACANT	Julie Sinai	BUSD
VACANT		BUSD
Grace Morizawa	Appel	BUSD
Igor Tregub (Chair)	Arreguin	Mayor
Rita Maran	Kesarwani	1
Veta Jacquelin	Taplin	2
J. George Lippman (Vice Chair)	Bartlett	3
Diana Bohn	Harrison	4
Judith Gussmann	Hahn	5
Robert L. Meola	Wengraf	6
Jasmine Perry	Robinson	7
VACANT	Droste	8



Peace and Justice
Commission

**Peace and Justice Commission Meeting
Regular Meeting – March 2nd, 2020
Berkeley City Hall, 2180 Milvia, Berkeley, CA, Cypress Room**

MINUTES (Draft)

AGENDA

The meeting convened at 7:08 pm with Chair Tregub presiding.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call

Present: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez, Taplin, Tregub

Absent: Morizawa

Excused: None

Leave of Absence: None

Commissioner Morizawa arrived at 8:15 p.m.

2. Announcements

3. Comments from the Public

Public Attendance: 1

Public Comments: 1

4. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from the 2/3/20 meeting of the Peace and Justice Commission.

M/S/C: Pierce, Askary

Ayes: al-Bazian, Bohn, Gussmann, Maran, Meola, Pancoast, Pierce, Rodriguez, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: Askary*, Lippman*, Perry**, Taplin**

Absent: Morizawa (arrived later)

Excused: None

* *Did not attend 2/3/20 meeting*

** *Not yet appointed*

5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report **(No Action Taken)**

6. Secretary's Report **(No Action Taken)**

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Adopt a recommendation to the City Council that they pass a revised resolution opposing the new U.S. base construction in Henoko-Oura Bay of Okinawa

Motion: Adopt a recommendation to the City Council that they pass a revised resolution opposing the new U.S. base construction in Henoko-Oura Bay of Okinawa.

M/S/C: Bohn, Meola

Ayes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

8. Adopt a recommendation to the City Council that they pass a resolution opposing war with Iran

Motion: Adopt a recommendation to the City Council that they pass a resolution opposing war with Iran

M/S/C: Bohn, Meola

Ayes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

9. Discuss and approve process for electing Chair and Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission

Motion: Approve the following process for elections of PJC Officers: (1) open nominations; (2) nominate individuals; (3) nominated individuals accept/decline; (4) close nominations; (5) each candidate given up to 2 minutes to describe qualifications and interests; (6) Q & A; (7) roll call majority voting to select candidates.

M/S/C: Maran, Askary

Ayes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

10. Election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission

Motion: Nominate Igor Tregub for Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission

M/S: Meola, Askary

Substitute Motion: Nominate George Lippman for Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission

M/S: Askary, Morizawa

Motion: Close nominations

M/S/C: Pierce, Gussmann

Ayes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Gussmann, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

Motion: Elect Igor Tregub as Chair of the Peace and Justice Commission

M/S/F: Lippman, Tregub

Ayes: Gussmann, Meola, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Lippman, Maran, Morizawa, Rodriguez

Abstain: None

Absent: None

11. Update and discussion of Social Justice Framework on Human Needs in Berkeley (**No Action Taken**)

12. Discussion and possible approval of a letter to the City Council giving feedback on its recent action allowing assignment of commission recommendations to a policy committee

Motion: Send the letter regarding the revision of new rules on handling Commission input to City Council with agreed upon changes to lines 31-33.

M/S/C: Bohn, Meola

Ayes: al-Bazian, Askary, Bohn, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pancoast, Perry, Pierce, Rodriguez

Abstain: Gussmann, Taplin, Tregub

Noes: None

Absent: None

Excused: None

SECTION C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

13. Subcommittee on Socially Responsible Investments and Procurement Policy **(No Action Taken)**
14. BUSD subcommittee discussion and potential appointments **(No Action Taken)**

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS (No Action Taken)

15. 2/16/20 email from Diana Bohn re: petition to Keep East Bay Community Choice Energy Nuclear-Free--Close Diablo Canyon Now
16. 2.21.20 email from Diana Bohn re: Save the Okinawa Dugong
17. 2.18.20 email from George Lippman re: Sanctuary City Task Force Agenda

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION (No Action Taken)

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nina Goldman, Interim Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

Appendix 1: Peace and Justice Committee Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan

Mission Statement

The Peace and Justice Commission advises the Berkeley City Council and the Berkeley Unified School District Board on all matters relating to the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice. (BMC Section 3.68.070.A.) Under its mandate, the Commission also helps create citizen awareness around issues of social justice, holds public hearings and community forums, initiates and encourage research programs, develops ways to resolve conflict which do not involve violence, acts as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government, and assists the Director of Finance in the evaluation of financial institutions for socially responsible investing.

Priority COVID-19 Proximate Focus: Participation in Community Engagement Process to Develop a New Paradigm of Public Safety

The Peace and Justice Commission (PJC) shall focus its work in 2021 on contributing to two priority Council initiatives: “Community Engagement Process to Develop a New Paradigm of Public Safety in Berkeley” and “Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley.”

The Commission brings to bear on this initiative a history of engagement with subjects at the heart of re-imagining public safety, as well as a practice of community engagement. Over the last decade, it has sponsored community roundtables on such issues as “breaking the prison cycle,” sex trafficking, immigration, and the international human rights framework. Our practice has been to bring together stakeholders concerned with a common issue but with diverse perspectives. Using a social justice lens, the PJC views community concerns that are typically stove-piped in a holistic manner. The search for positive, effective, and non-punitive solutions to social problems such as conflict and anti-social behavior, providing healthcare, education, housing, and counseling at the front end rather than policing at the back end, has been fundamental to the Commission dating back to our founding mandate in 1986.

Some elements of the Commission’s participation in the re-imagining process may include, but are not limited to:

1. Participating in the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force if invited, or else in a structured relationship with the Task Force.
2. The PJC recognizes that the Task Force’s charter integrates public safety with the public health. This concept is critical not only because safety and health are integrally connected, and because of the emerging awareness that armed police intervention should be minimized in mental and behavioral health incidents. As well, at the heart of the PJC’s work and, with our support, of this or other Task Forces as well, the PJC will help ensure that a consciousness of the public health shall include the social and racial determinants of health.

This effort is consistent with the interrelatedness of key human needs provisions, advocating for which has been an integral part of the PJC's role.

3. The Commission will pursue an anti-racist approach, recognizing and committing in our proposals to dismantle the institutional and social structures of white supremacy, and committing in our process to, as the Council has stated, "centering the voices of those who are most impacted by our current system of public safety."
4. Per the Council statement Dec. 15, 2020, "it is recommended that Berkeley leverage our commissions and community organizations to provide additional input and research to inform the Task Force's work." The PJC is uniquely situated to assist in coordinated work other civic boards and commissions due to its holistic social justice approach, its long history of work with multiple commissions, and its practice of public education on social issues.
5. Recognizing the City's priority of work on the Covid-19 pandemic, city management has asked that all commissions' work have a focus on efforts to fight the pandemic. Under the Council's "holistic, anti-racist approach to community safety," the public's health is key to community safety. Racial disparities in pandemic infection rates are gravely concerning from a human rights perspective. According to City statistics, infection rates per 100,000 of City population are over five times as high for the Latinx population as for White people, and for African Americans, twice as high as for White people. The holistic approach demands of us who imagine a new paradigm of public safety that we envision an end to racial discrimination in the pandemic. The PJC is prepared to assist the City Council and city staff in leading toward this paradigm shift.
6. The "Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley" proposal (to be considered by Council on January 19 prior to our January 25 Commission meeting) provides an additional framework and greater depth for Peace and Justice participation in the Council initiative for a new paradigm in public safety.¹ The elements of the PJC's discussed above will be used to provide direct and/or indirect support with the implementation of this Council item.

¹ The "Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley" proposal reflects on both the disparate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Latinx, Native American, and Asian American communities, and the heightened understanding of structural and institutionalized racism nationally. The proposal commits the City to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. Specifically, it calls for a series of town hall meetings throughout the sessions to address the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members and to strengthen the anti-racist capacity building; establishment of a working group to promote racial equity; the City Manager to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; to propose a Health in All Policies Ordinance, mandatory anti-racist training for City employees; a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, an anti-racism dashboard; work with BUSD to study whether "race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities."

Balance of Work Plan

I. Resolutions and communications to Council and the Board of Education.

The Commission will continue to discuss and, where appropriate, recommend for action resolutions, letters, and other action items on international, federal, state, and local issues that are consistent with BMC Section 3.68.070.A. Address homelessness, racial and gender justice, policing policy (including external BPD relationships), protection of Ohlone sacred sites, civil liberties, international peace with justice, and other social issues as they arise throughout the year with proposals and communications as appropriate.

II. Other existing responsibilities and subcommittees.

- a. Continue the established responsibility for Nuclear Free Berkeley Act oversight and waiver process, as proposals are submitted to the Commission by City staff. Continue to collaborate with the international movement against nuclear weapons.
- b. Socially Responsible Investing and Procurement Policy Subcommittee (SRIPP).
 - i. Improve and institutionalize the City's commitment to Socially Responsible investing, banking, and procurement.²
 - ii. Implement the Commission-generated resolution – passed by the City Council in July 2019 – to develop a Socially Responsible Investment and Procurement Policy.
 - iii. Work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) Board Policy Committee to establish an effective Sweatshop-Free Berkeley Schools Policy.
- c. Through a subcommittee initiated in 2019 and continued in 2020, engage with the BUSD student community on issues of common concern, including but not limited to voter registration, sexual harassment, relationship between BUSD and the Berkeley Technology Academy, issues of diversity and representation at Berkeley High School, student safety, collaboration with the Berkeley Youth Commission on mutual concerns, and expanding resources for unhoused or housing-insecure youth in Berkeley.³
- d. Regional Sanctuary Community Working Group. The Commission is exploring ways to coordinate with other Sanctuary communities (cities and counties) through the Mayor's Sanctuary City Task Force.

² BMC Section 3.68.070.K: "The [Peace and Justice] Commission shall perform the following functions...K. Assist the Director of Finance in the annual evaluation of financial institutions for qualification of City investments...and 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-NS.

³ The BUSD Subcommittee, comprised largely of commissioners appointed by BUSD Board Members, will be requested to provide a detailed work plan that the Commission can approve in early 2020.

- e. The Commission will continue to support the development of the African American Holistic Resource Center and its acquisition of a permanent home.
- f. The Commission will continue to support the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and to extend the City of Berkeley's long-standing focus on promoting and protecting the legal rights of persons with disabilities. The City has held a leading position in the field of disability rights for many years, and is well-known nationally and internationally as an incubator for grassroots non-profit organizations working in that field. The Commission will continue to partner on this issue with other commissions with overlapping jurisdiction, including the Commission on Disability, Commission on Aging, Mental Health Commission, and Commission on the Status of Women.

III. Proposed new projects.

- a. The Commission will explore a proposal for a "Social Justice Framework on Human Needs in Berkeley."

I. Background:

CRPD

The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Subcommittee) in 2014, in order to institutionalize the City of Berkeley's long-standing focus on promoting and protecting the legal rights of persons with disabilities. The City has held a leading position in the field of disability rights for many years, and is well-known nationally and internationally as an incubator for grassroots non-profit organizations working in that field.

Together with representatives from four other City of Berkeley Commissions: the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Disability, the Commission on Mental Health, and the Commission on Aging, the Subcommittee published its Mission Statement; requested the Peace & Justice Commission to ask the City Council to write to the U.S. Senate urging ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (duly done in 2015); and held public forums on the issue in the spring of 2018 and 2019.

Nuclear-Free Berkeley

The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act came into force in 1986 (Chapter 12.90.070 Section 030D). The Peace & Justice Commission established the Subcommittee on The Nuclear Free Berkeley Act (NFBA) to oversee and reinforce compliance with the terms of the Act. The Subcommittee's activities have included:

- recommendation against a waiver for continuation of the Berkeley Public Library's contracts with 3M (2009-2010);

- consideration of a waiver for the City of Berkeley Public Health Division’s proposal on medical supplies (2012);
- recommendation of a waiver for the SkyDeck Business Incubator-Accelerator Contract (2012);
- recommendation (February 7, 2013) to the Regents of the University of California that it phase out responsibility for operating the Nuclear Weapons Laboratories in Livermore and Los Alamos;
- a letter from the City of Berkeley to President Obama in 2014 urging support of a ban on nuclear weapons.

More recently, in light of the Award of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), whose goal is international adherence to and full implementation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (the Treaty), the Peace and Justice Commission will seek to collaborate further with ICAN on activities of mutual concern. We would note that the California State Senate and the California State Assembly voted affirmatively on a bill in September 2018 to urge U.S. Senate adoption of the Treaty. Strong support comes also from the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement; NuclearBan.US, The City of Los Angeles, California; the City of Takoma Park, Maryland; Physicians for Social Responsibility; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, among others.

Indigenous Peoples

Between December 2015 and January 2016, the Berkeley City Council, upon the recommendation of the Peace and Justice Commission, adopted five important resolutions supporting the treaty rights of indigenous people in Berkeley. The resolutions included: recognition of the Ohlone people as the original inhabitants of Berkeley and the Bay Area, pledging to work in good faith with Ohlone representatives; implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as municipal policy; endorsing the upgrading of the Declaration to a Convention; honoring the Berkeley Shellmound indigenous site; and urging the East Bay Regional Parks District to protect the Ohlone place of origin sacred site.

The resolution on the Berkeley Shellmound mandated that “free, prior, and informed consent of the Ohlone and other indigenous peoples of the region should be integral to any alteration planning for the Berkeley Shellmound site, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

In 2020 the Peace and Justice Commission will support the implementation of these resolutions with particular attention to proposed development of the Berkeley Shellmound site.

Sweatshop-Free Berkeley

The Sweatshop-Free Berkeley Policy now has a zero-dollar threshold per supplier per year for textile products purchased by the City. This threshold is an improvement over the previous minimum of \$1,000 purchase per supplier for the Policy to apply. However, the policy is complaint-driven, so the burden is on community members to research the supply chain for each supplier. The SRIPP Subcommittee proposes to establish a mechanism for suppliers to show that they are using Sweatshop Free products for City purchases.

The Policy governs textile purchases only. The goal is to identify sweat-free alternatives for technology purchases so tech can be covered as well.

The BUSD, through the School Board Policy Committee, is in the process of establishing a Sweatshop-Free Schools Policy for athletic supplies. The SRIPP Subcommittee and the Commission are supporting the BUSD to ensure the development of an effective policy.