

Peace and Justice
Commission

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA Monday, December 13, 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/85439259369>

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 85439259369. 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 A)
5. Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report
6. Secretary's Report (including status of passed items from previous meetings)

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Create Meeting Calendar for 2022 (Chair Lippman and Secretary Vance-Dozier)
8. Normalize Relations with Cuba (Commissioner Bohn)
9. Recognizing the Japanese American Day of Remembrance (Commissioner Morizawa)

SECTION D. COMMUNICATIONS


10. No communications received.

SECTION E. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SECTION F. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

- A. November 2021 Meeting Minutes
- B. Meetings for 2022
- C. Normalize Relations with Cuba Resolution and Supporting Facts Sheet
- D. Recognizing the Japanese American Day of Remembrance Action and Supporting Documents

 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

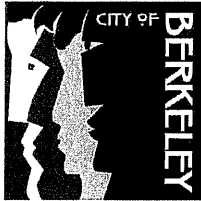
*Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. **Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in 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
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**Peace and Justice Commission Meeting
November 1, 2021**

Pursuant to March 17, 2020 Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, this meeting was held electronically.

MINUTES (Draft)

The meeting convened at 7:25 pm with George Lippmann (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Community Service Specialist, Secretary. Peter Radu, Administrative Assistant to City Manager, was also present.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Roll Call

Present: Leon-Maldonado, Morizawa, Lee, Rodriguez, Maran, Jacquilin, Lippmann, Gussmann, Meola, Bohn

Absent:

Excused: None

Leave of Absence: None

2. Announcements

3. Comments from the Public

Public Attendance: 5

Public Comments: 4

4. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Peace and Justice Commission approved minutes from 10/4/21.

M/S/C: Jacquilin, Morizawa

Ayes: Leon-Maldonado, Morizawa, Lee, Rodriguez, Maran, Jacquilin, Lippmann, Gussmann, Meola

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

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

6. Secretary's Report (No Action Taken)

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

7. Rights of Nature

No Action Taken at this time per Commission Chair Lippmann, no letter will be sent to the council.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

8. Surveillance Ordinance

No Action taken will discuss matter at a later time per Commission Chair Lippmann

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

9. Resolution on Immigration Reform

Recommend Council to compose a humane immigration policy. Commissioner Bohn will clarify Title 42 and provide update. Requesting a copy of the letter be sent to President Biden, Barbara Lee, and Senators of California.

M/S/C: Bohn, Meola

Ayes: Leon-Maldonado, Morizawa, Lee, Rodriguez, Maran, Jacquilin, Lippmann, Gussmann, Meola, Bohn

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

10. Commission letter to BUSD Board and/or City Council on Council's commission reorganization

A letter will be composed by Commissioner Lee, with an update provided by Chair and Commissioners. Document will be signed by all commissioners in approval.

M/S/C: Lee, Maran

Ayes: Leon-Maldonado, Morizawa, Lee, Rodriguez, Maran, Jacquilin, Lippmann, Gussmann, Meola, Bohn

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

11. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

M/S/C:

Ayes: Leon-Maldonado, Morizawa, Lee, Rodriguez, Maran, Jacquilin, Lippmann, Gussmann, Meola, Bohn

Noes:

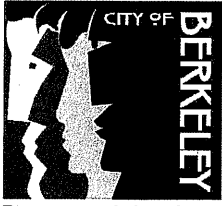
Abstain:

Absent:

Excused:

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission



Peace and Justice
Commission

**Peace and Justice Commission
Approved 2022 Meeting Schedule
Zoom Webinar Meetings**

1. Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7pm
2. Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7pm
3. Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7pm
4. Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7pm
5. Monday, May 2, 2022 at 7pm
6. Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7pm
7. Monday, July 11, 2022 at 7pm
8. Monday, August 1, 2022 at 7pm
9. Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7pm
10. Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7pm
11. Monday, November 7, 2022 at 7pm
12. Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7pm

1 **Normalize Diplomatic and Economic Relations with Cuba**

2
3 WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Commission advises the City Council on all matters relating to
4 the City of Berkeley's role in issues of peace and social justice (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter
5 3.68.070); and
6

7 WHEREAS, beginning in October 1960, the United States government imposed an economic,
8 commercial and financial embargo on Cuba that not only prevents most engagement and trade
9 with the United States, but also punishes other countries that continue to engage with Cuba; and
10

11 WHEREAS, this embargo continues to inflict extreme hardship on the Cuban people by creating
12 shortages of food and medicine, severely restricting financial and trade opportunities and has
13 even prevented Cuba from obtaining medical equipment and supplies to address the COVID-10
14 pandemic; and
15

16 WHEREAS, both the Cuban government and the United Nations have estimated that the
17 embargo has cost the Cuban economy \$130 billion over six decades; and
18

19 WHEREAS, in December 2014, President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raúl Castro
20 announced that they would begin normalizing relations between the two countries and would
21 establish diplomatic relations, an agreement that was enthusiastically embraced by the Cuban
22 people; and
23

24 WHEREAS, President Obama removed Cuba from the United States state sponsors of terrorism
25 list; and
26

27 WHEREAS, most Americans, including Cuban Americans, oppose the United States embargo
28 and tens of thousands have visited the island when travel restrictions were relaxed; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the Trump administration imposed 243 new sanctions upon Cuba, including
31 restrictions on Cuban-Americans to send remittances to families and businesses in Cuba, and
32 reinstated Cuba to the state sponsor of terrorism list; and
33

34 WHEREAS, for each of the last 29 years, the United Nations General Assembly has
35 overwhelmingly voted to support the end of the United States blockade against Cuba; and
36

37 WHEREAS, despite campaign promises, President Biden has failed to reverse the sanctions that
38 former President Trump imposed on Cuba.
39

40 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the
41 Council urges President Biden to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba, including restoring the
42 full operations of the United States Embassy in Havana; and that the well-being of the Cuban
43 people shall be the centerpiece of United States policies towards Cuba.
44

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges President Biden
46 and Congress to remove Cuba from the United States list of state sponsors of terrorism; and to

47 immediately close the United States military base at Guantanamo Bay and return the occupied
48 territory in Guantanamo to Cuba.

49

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley urges President Biden
51 and Congress to immediately reverse all sanctions against Cuba by the United States and end all
52 aspects of the United States embargo against Cuba, including restrictions on travel to Cuba by
53 U.S. citizens and residents, so that the peoples of Cuba and the United States can freely travel
54 between the countries.

55

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley asks the City Clerk send
57 a copy of this resolution to President Joseph R. Biden, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken,
58 Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla, and Representative Barbara Lee.

FACT SHEET ON U.S.-CUBA RELATIONS

THE U.S. ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA

The U.S. embargo and policies operate as a blockade against Cuba. It creates shortages of food, medicine, financial and trade opportunities and continues to inflict hardship on the men, women, and children of Cuba.

In 1960, the United States government imposed an economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba. The 1996 Helms Burton Act extended the extraterritorial application of the initial embargo to apply to foreign companies trading with Cuba.

On December 17, 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and then Cuban President Raul Castro announced a new era of relations between the two countries and agreed to reestablish diplomatic relations. Accordingly, Cuba and the U.S. re-opened their respective embassies in 2015.

The Trump administration reversed course and tightened the blockade by instituting 243 additional sanctions, including many during the pandemic. In the final days of his term, Trump placed Cuba back on the "State Sponsors of Terrorism" list. Being placed on this list exposes countries to numerous other sanctions, including restrictions on U.S. foreign assistance; a ban on defense exports and sales; certain controls over exports of dual use items; and miscellaneous financial and other restrictions.

Despite campaign promises, the Biden administration has failed to reverse any of Trump's actions and has done nothing to alleviate hardship.

On June 23, 2021, in the United Nations General Assembly a total of 184 countries supported Cuba's motion for the end of the U.S. blockade. It was the 29th year that the vote to end the embargo was overwhelming supported by the world's delegates. Only the U.S. and Israel voted to maintain the U.S. embargo. The majority of the people of the United States and the world believe this embargo is ineffective, inhumane and in violation of U.S. laws and international conventions.

CUBA'S HISTORY OF MEDICAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL AID TO OTHER COUNTRIES

Cuba has a long history of providing international medical aid to other countries. Many of its medical personnel are directly involved in the fight against COVID-19 as members of the specially trained Henry Reeve International Medical Brigade against Disasters and Serious Epidemics. One of the first countries to offer aid to the U.S. after Hurricane Katrina, Cuba offered to send 1,586 doctors and 26 tons of medicine. This aid was rejected by the State Department.

Over the past year alone, Cuba has sent 3,700 health workers in 52 international medical brigades to 39 countries overwhelmed by the pandemic. Cuba's international medical brigades have treated patients and saved lives for the past 15 years in 53 countries confronting natural disasters and serious epidemics, such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa. It has assisted in many epidemics around the world, including dengue fever, HIV, swine flu, and hepatitis. Despite the importance of international Cuban medical assistance, the U.S. has attempted to stop other countries from accepting Cuban medical brigades, even claiming that Cuba's medical brigades represent a form of human trafficking.

In 2015 the World Health Organization recognized Cuba's medical system as a worldwide leader in biotechnology, and Cuba has made significant contributions to the international medical field, including a drug that prevents 77% of diabetic amputations.

Early in the pandemic, Cuba developed effective treatment regimens for patients and prevention protocols for health workers, including its drug Interferon Alpha 2B Recombinant and community-based treatment and contact tracing.

Cuba has developed five internationally recognized candidate COVID-19 vaccines. By the end of October 2021 more than 98% of Cuba's 11.3 million people had received at least a first shot of a three-dose immunization regimen with Cuban-made vaccines (Abdala, Soberana-2 and Soberana-plus). More than 60% of the population, ages 2 and older, had been fully vaccinated. Cuba is very likely to reach its goal of 98% fully vaccinated by December 2021. Cuba also plans to produce millions of doses of its vaccines, beyond what is needed domestically, to meet its commitment to sharing its low-cost vaccines with poor countries in the developing world.

There is precedent for collaborative initiatives between Cuba and U.S. cities. A few examples include San Francisco CA, Seattle WA, Minneapolis MN, Chicago IL, Pittsburgh PA, Cambridge, MA, which all overwhelmingly passed a resolution supporting medical collaboration.

There have also been multi-year joint ventures between Cuba's Center for Molecular Immunology and Buffalo's Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center in developing

CIMAvax, the Cuban lung cancer vaccine, as well as a collaboration between medical personnel from Cuba and the University of Illinois on infant mortality in Chicago.

The U.S. blockade of Cuba has severely restricted collaboration on scientific and medical research. The blockade not only causes great harm to Cuba, it also denies U.S. citizens access to Cuban medical technology such as the diabetes drug Heberpot-P, vaccines for meningitis B and hepatitis B, monoclonal antibodies for kidney transplants, as well as the only therapeutic vaccine in the world against advanced lung cancer, called CIMA V AX-EGF.

EFFORTS IN THE U.S. TO END THE BLOCKADE AND PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO CUBA

There are hundreds of organizations throughout the world that are working to end the blockade against Cuba. In the U.S., the National Network on Cuba (NNOC) and its 58 local, state and national organizations throughout the country stand in solidarity with Cuba and have been working diligently to end the blockade:

- Over 40 resolutions have been passed by churches, city councils, labor unions, state legislators and school boards to call for the end of the U.S. blockade against Cuba. These resolutions represent the will of 41 million people in the United States.
- Car and bike caravans in support of Cuba occur monthly in Miami and other cities across the U.S. and around the world.
- The University of Minnesota leaders commenced and continue formal medical collaboration with Cuba to battle COVID-19.
- Federal legislation to end the embargo (S.249, H.R.3625) and other bills in support of Cuba (S.1694, H.R.198) is pending,
- U.S. residents generously donated more than \$680,000 to send over 6 million syringes to Cuba to enable Cuba to administer its COVID-19 vaccines to its people
- U.S. residents are providing humanitarian aid to Cuba by raising funds to purchase and ship food and medical supplies to counter the shortages caused by the blockade and Trump sanctions.
- IFCO/Pastors for Peace, Code Pink, Altruvistas, Marazul Tours, and Building Relations with Cuban Labor have regular delegations to Cuba so that U.S. residents can experience Cuba themselves and see how the U.S. blockade affects the people of Cuba.

Rev.20211108

Sources:

National Network on Cuba::

National Network on Cuba | • Opposing the U.S. embargo and ...

<http://nnoc.info>

IFCO-Pastors for Peace:

IFCO/Pastors for Peace

IFCO/Pastors for Peace

<https://ifconews.org>

DRAFT: Resolution to adopt the recognition of the Japanese American Day of Remembrance

WHEREAS, eighty years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the federal government forcibly removing and incarcerating around 120,000 thousand people of Japanese ancestry, including 75,000 United States citizens and 1,300 Berkeley residents solely because of their Japanese ancestry; and

WHEREAS, this Executive Order was in violation of United States Constitutional rights and human rights, the government removed and incarcerated an entire race claiming it was on the grounds of national security and military necessity; and

WHEREAS, despite thousands of Japanese Americans losing their homes and economic livelihoods, many thousands of young Japanese American people bravely took up arms and sacrificed their lives to defend this country which wrongly incarcerated them; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, the federal Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the incarceration of Japanese Americans was not justified by military necessity and were not based in military analysis; instead, the unjust incarceration was based on "race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership;" and

WHEREAS, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, states that the United States apologizes for the forced removal and incarceration of the Japanese Americans; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City of Berkeley acknowledged a day of remembrance for those affected by Japanese American mass incarceration and recognized the Japanese community's rich history and profound contributions to the City of Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of Japanese Americans is part of a long history of racial prejudice and hate that continues to today, in 2020, there was a rise in anti-Asian hate and violence across the United States, resulting in people of Asian ancestry being killed, beaten, and harassed without provocation; and

WHEREAS, this rise in racial prejudice and hate was due to the media and rhetoric used by passed political leaders resulting in the first spike in hate crimes in March and April 2020 whereas the reported hate crimes against Asians in 16 of the United States' largest cities and counties were up 145% in 2020, which is inconsistent with hate crimes dropping by 6% overall, according to the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino; and

WHEREAS, Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition aimed at addressing anti-Asian discrimination amid the pandemic, documented 10,370 incidents of hate incidents from March 19, 2020, to September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, while racism and scapegoating increased in 2020-21, it is not new and is part of an over 150-year history of violence and hate against Asians and even longer for other communities who continue to be marginalized; and

WHEREAS, for decades, systemic oppression and implicit bias against people of Asian ancestry has resulted in the silencing of Asian voices, the stifling of careers, and contributing to the invisibility of Asian achievements and struggles; and

WHEREAS, in 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act banned all Chinese people from immigrating to the United States, which led to the Immigration Act of 1924, which banned immigration from all Asian countries; and

WHEREAS, throughout the United States' history, this prejudice, discrimination, and violence have impacted all people of Asian descent; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. government, including law enforcement, has discriminated against the Asian, Black, Latin, Native American, LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities, escalating the hate and violence they are supposed to prevent; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of thousands of Japanese American citizens without charge and a fair hearing must serve as a potent reminder that defending this Nation and its ideals starts with how this nation treats its citizens and those seeking safety and refuge from violence, hate, and unlivable places due to climate change in other parts of the world; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley call on local and national media outlets, elected officials, and community leaders to denounce racial discrimination, white supremacy, and xenophobia and continue to highlight stories of achievements and experiences of hate crimes, violence, and harassment based on one's ancestry or appearance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley collaborate with immigrant, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, and other Asian communities, as well as all marginalized communities to create community programs and advocate for policy and legislation that will support community building and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley collaborate with community-based organizations to address systemic barriers for reporting anti-Asian hate crimes by mitigating language or cultural barriers, or fear of immigration status repercussions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Berkeley adopt February 19th as the Japanese American Day of Remembrance in recognition for Japanese Americans who were victims of mass incarceration in this country and urge Berkeley residents to tour the UC Bancroft Library exhibit, *Uprooted: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans* and attend the UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union (<https://nsu.berkeley.edu/>) and the Bay Area annual Day of Remembrance (njahs.org) commemorations.

Sponsored by the Berkeley Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League and the UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union