



Peace and Justice Commission

INFORMATION CALENDAR

March 10, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Peace and Justice Commission
 Submitted by: Igor Tregub, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
 Subject: FY 2019-2020 Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan

INTRODUCTION

At its January 6, 2020 meeting, the Peace and Justice Commission adopted its Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Work Plan (Attachment 1).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Peace and Justice Commission began discussing updates to its FY 2017-2018 Work Plan (the last time it had been updated) in July 2019. On February 3, 2020, it adopted the attached work plan through the action detailed below.

Approve Final Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Peace and Justice Commission Work Plan

M/S/C: al-Bazian, Morizawa

Ayes: al-Bazian, Bohn, Lippman, Maran, Meola, Morizawa, Pierce*, Tregub

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Askary, Gussman, Pancoast, Rodriguez

Excused: None

*Commissioner was not eligible to participate.

BACKGROUND

In 2016, the City Council adopted direction to commissioners to submit a work plan annually.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental sustainability impact associated with the adoption of this work plan.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The commission is working on several priorities in alignment with this work plan, and may bring them to the Council for action in the future.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Fiscal impacts will depend on the actions recommended and the Council's decision.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachment 1: FY 2019-2020 Work Plan

Appendix 1: Peace and Justice Committee Fiscal Year 2019-2020 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.

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.¹
 - 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, engage with the BUSD student community on issues of common concern, including but not limited to voter registration, sexual

¹ 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.

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.²

- 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.
- 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

² 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.

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.