

**BERKELEY CITY COUNCIL HEALTH, LIFE ENRICHMENT, EQUITY &  
COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 27, 2020  
10:00 AM**

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Rashi Kesarwani, Ben Bartlett, and Sophie Hahn  
Alternate: Councilmember Rigel Robinson

**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, this meeting will be conducted exclusively through teleconference and Zoom videoconference. Please be advised that pursuant to the Executive 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 using the internet: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Use URL - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83717689869>. 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 on the screen.

To join by phone: Dial **1-669-900-9128** and Enter Meeting ID: **837 1768 9869**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

Written communications submitted by mail or e-mail to the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity, & Community Committee by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the Committee meeting will be distributed to the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting and retained as part of the official record. City offices are currently closed and cannot accept written communications in person.

# AGENDA

**Roll Call:** 10:01 a.m. All present.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters:** 1 speaker.

## Minutes for Approval

*Draft minutes for the Committee's consideration and approval.*

### 1. Minutes - July 13, 2020

**Action:** M/S/C (Bartlett/Kesarwani) to approve the minutes of July 13, 2020.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

## Committee Action Items

*The public may comment on each item listed on the agenda for action as the item is taken up. The Chair will determine the number of persons interested in speaking on each item. Up to ten (10) speakers may speak for two minutes. If there are more than ten persons interested in speaking, the Chair may limit the public comment for all speakers to one minute per speaker.*

*Following review and discussion of the items listed below, the Committee may continue an item to a future committee meeting, or refer the item to the City Council.*

### 2. Listening Session on Homelessness (15 minutes) – 3 speakers

### 3. Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley *(Item contains revised materials)*

**From:** Councilmember Davila (Author), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

**Referred:** June 15, 2020

**Due:** January 30, 2021

**Recommendation:** Declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis, a Threat and Safety Issue in the City of Berkeley, and commit to eliminate all socioeconomic barriers to health equity. In addition:

1. Declare the resolution an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic and it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption.
2. Budget Referral to convene a series of town hall sessions for all community members, City workers, and small business owners to discuss the concerns of people of color and marginalized community members, and develop strategies and programs (especially Mental Health Programs for the unhoused stay housed) for greater inclusivity, understanding, empathy, compassion, and unity. The purpose of these meetings should be to strengthen anti-racist capacity building and commitments within the city. This can be done by discussing the current quantitative and qualitative reality of racial justice and injustice, racism and non-racism in all areas of city life toward developing measures to ensure the achievement racial equity in Berkeley. These town halls, strategies and programs could include: the definition and lived experience of racism in systemic and institutional forms the

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effects and trauma caused by them, and provide resources to combat implicit bias on all levels. Community partners to consider to facilitate such workshops include Beyond Diversity: Courageous Conversations About Race and Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ).

3. City Council will establish a working group to promote racial equity as well as the development of programs to address racial equity in this City.

4. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to record COVID-19 data by race/ethnicity and to explore greater health disparities that have emerged as a result of this crisis.

5. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to hold several fundraisers at town hall sessions for black-owned small businesses, research of state and federal RFPs for the purpose of grants acquisitions for program development in the City of Berkeley that have been affected by Covid-19 and/or recent protests.

6. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to prepare a Health in All Policies Ordinance (see attached City of Richmond Ordinance) for Council review and adoption, critically evaluating the public health impact of all legislative and budgetary proposals, especially upon people of color and marginalized community members.

7. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to adopt a mandatory requirement of 16 hours of ongoing annual online and in-person training on implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and cultural humility for City Employees, commissioners, and community members; and

8. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee in partnership with the Berkeley Public Health Division and the Mental Health Division to develop a Strategic Plan for Health Equity, with the inclusion of a diverse group of staff with expertise in this subject matter and begin immediate implementation of recommendations.

9. Direct the City Manager or his/her designee to have an antiracism dashboard that delineates and tracks progress towards specific antiracist goals. This would involve: 1) tracking and measuring specific data that shows the extent to which racism has become a public health crisis; which would in turn enable 2) the City and the Community to dramatically reduce instances of racism, if not totally eliminate some of them; and 3) demonstrate to constituents that the other recommendations have made, and must continue to make, a tangible difference. The dashboard shall include: analyzing hospital infant mortality by race; tracking food insecurity among Berkeley residents, and correlation to racial demographics; analyzing the effects of biological weathering and resultant mental health challenges on immune strength for black individuals, and studying mental health resource availability and outreach targeting at-risk black communities; analyzing the administration of medications and health therapies by race, in an attempt to understand Berkeley health providers position vis a vis the systemic under-prescription and under-treatment of Black patients pain; tracking violent incidents targeting queer Black residents, and studying the availability of mental health resources and culturally competent healthcare for queer Black patients; identifying the largest sources of corporate environmental or carcinogenic pollution in Berkeley, and the racial demographics of people with prolonged exposure to those regions (i.e. workers and residents within range of toxic substances); identifying the locations of city waste storage/processing and the racial demographics of those most closely exposed; examining property taxes by

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neighborhood, and correlation to school resources and student racial demographics; examining the availability of stable and affordable Internet access, as necessary for all possible student activities offered and required by Berkeley public schools;

10. Collaborate with the Berkeley Unified School District and the Vision 2020 to see how this is correlated to household racial demographics; analyzing students' realistic access to extracurricular activities such as arts and athletics; race-based differential access means that some students have less access to educational opportunities that help with physical and mental health; identifying the levels of lead and other toxins in public school buildings, and correlation to resource allocation and racial demographics among schools.

11. Submit copies of this resolution to State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, as well as various organizations such as the Berkeley NAACP, the African American Holistic Resource Center Steering Committee, and Healthy Black Families.

**Financial Implications:** \$50,000 estimated

Contact: Cheryl Davila, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** 9 speakers. Presentation made and discussion held.

Item continued to next meeting on August 24, 2020.

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### 4a. **Recommendation to Modify Policies Related to the Enforcement of the Berkeley Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance**

**From: Housing Advisory Commission**

**Referred: October 29, 2019**

**Due: September 24, 2020**

**Recommendation:** Approve modifications to policies related to the enforcement of the Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance, as follows:

1. Increase staffing to implement enforcement of the ordinance as part of the next budget;
2. Improve signage related to the ordinance in residential buildings;
3. Make the complaint process less onerous and more user-friendly, including enabling complainants to submit complaints electronically, providing complaint forms in different languages, and removing language requiring the statements to be “sworn,” and considering other, less threatening language that still expects a complaint be provided under the best of appellant’s knowledge;
4. Relax the current requirements around how the Ordinance-based complaint form must be completed in order to be processed (e.g., removing the requirement of providing two separate complaints from different individuals within a six-month period, if the building contains two or fewer units, removing the requirement of providing a sworn statement under penalty of perjury); and
5. Refer to the Community Health and Cannabis Commissions the question of whether the use of recreational (non-medical) cannabis should be incorporated into the Smoke-Free Housing Ordinance.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Mike Uberti, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7400

### 4b. **Companion Report: Recommendation to Modify Policies Related to the Enforcement of the Berkeley Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance**

**From: City Manager**

**Referred: October 29, 2019**

**Due: September 24, 2020**

**Recommendation:** The City Manager appreciates the Housing Advisory Commission’s efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Smoke-free Multi-Unit Housing ordinance and recommends that the proposed modifications be referred to the City Manager Office for an analysis of the financial and legal feasibility of the proposed changes.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Kelly Wallace, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

## Committee Action Items

### 5a. **Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance Policy and Enforcement Modifications**

**From: Housing Advisory Commission**

**Referred: February 24, 2020**

**Due: December 10, 2020**

**Recommendation:** The Commission recommends that City Council:

1. Make a short term referral directing the City Manager to correct current City Policies for enforcing BMC 12.70.035 so that these policies do not contradict the ordinance and BMC 12.70.035 requires that second and third complaints must refer to a violation or violations that occur after the 12.70.035(C) notice has been made.
2. Modify BMC 12.70.035 so that the requirement that signs be posted is enforced as part of the Residential Safety ordinance. Failure to post signage may result in fines, accordingly.
3. Modify BMC 12.70.035 so that repeated failure to provide new tenants with the City's brochure shall be guilty of an infraction. It shall also be an infraction for landlords to tell new tenants, in contradiction to the law, that tobacco smoking by some tenants is permitted.
4. Obtain an analysis of the financial impacts of the recommended modifications to the BMC.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Mike Uberti, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-7400

### 5b. **Companion Report: Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance Policy and Enforcement Modifications**

**From: City Manager**

**Referred: February 24, 2020**

**Due: December 10, 2020**

**Recommendation:** The City Manager appreciates the Housing Advisory Commission's efforts to strengthen the implementation of the Smoke-free Multi-Unit Housing ordinance and recommends that the proposed modifications be referred to the City Manager Office for an analysis of the financial and legal feasibility of the proposed changes.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Kelly Wallace, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

Items 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b continued to next meeting on August 24, 2020.

## Unscheduled Items

*These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Committee may schedule these items to the Action Calendar of a future Committee meeting.*

### 6. **Presentation: Public Health Implications for unsanitary conditions at Aquatic Park**

## Unscheduled Items

### 7. **Service Animals Welcome Training**

**From: Commission on Disability**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council refer to the City Manager a request to implement education and training provisions of the Service Animals Welcome Policy and Program:

a. Work with Business Improvement Districts and Commercial District Organizations to provide opportunities for businesses to learn about their responsibilities regarding service animals in their places of business.

b. Provide information on Service Animals and Access Rights of Persons with Disabilities accompanied by a Service Animal as required staff training on non-discrimination under applicable federal, state and local statutes, regulations and policies.

c. Provide necessary and adequate support to the Disability Compliance Program.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Dominika Bednarska, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-6300

### 8a. **A People's First Sanctuary Encampment**

**From: Homeless Commission**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** The City Council to adopt the People's First Sanctuary Encampment Model incorporating all text in this report, urging best practices for Sanctuary Homeless Encampments with an oversight agency to be named by members of the encampment community and refer to the City Manager to fund liability insurance for the agency chosen by the encampment community.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Brittany Carnegie, Commission Secretary, (510) 981-5400

### 8b. **Companion report: A People's First Sanctuary Encampment**

**From: City Manager**

**Referred: March 30, 2020**

**Due: January 30, 2021**

**Recommendation:** As part of the referral adopted by City Council on January 21, 2020, the City Manager will direct staff to incorporate parts of the Commission's recommendations which do not conflict with guidance already approved by City Council including: providing clean water, sanitation, accessible toilets and trash removal services for the sanctioned encampment, requiring that a future provider of services for the encampment obtain input from residents of the encampment when developing rules for the outdoor shelter and ensure that the privacy and security of residents is respected and maintained.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Lisa Warhuus, Housing and Community Services, (510) 981-5400

## Items for Future Agendas

- **Discussion of items to be added to future agendas**

Report from HHCS on homeless services and outreach efforts during the pandemic. Schedule for the fall.

- **Discussion of future hearings and open forums**

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Bartlett/Kesarwani) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** All Ayes.

Adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct record of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee meeting held on July 27, 2020.

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April Richardson, Assistant City Clerk

## Communications

*Communications submitted to City Council Policy Committees are on file in the City Clerk Department at 2180 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA.*