To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Peace and Justice Commission  
Submitted By: Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission  
Subject: Additional 2009 Meeting for the Peace and Justice Commission  

RECOMMENDATION  
At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 2, 2009, the Commission unanimously adopted the following recommendation:

To request City Council approval for an additional (eleventh) meeting in calendar year 2009 for the Peace and Justice Commission in order to fulfill the Commission’s mandate to plan and convene additional community forums on local peace and justice issues.

M/S/C: (Nicely, M./Lippman, G.)  
Noes: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Marley, J.; Wornick, J. (excused)  

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION  
None, with the limited exception of facility rental costs associated with an additional meeting of the Commission.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS  
Council authorizes the Peace and Justice Commission to meet ten times during any calendar year. This year, on account of a renewed focus and commitment on the part of the Commission to educate and engage the Berkeley community on local peace and justice issues, the Commission met for all ten allotted meetings. One of these meetings, held on October 5th, was a highly successful and well-attended forum on immigration-related issues in the Berkeley community including in the Berkeley Unified School District (Attachment 1).
The Commission’s mandate is specified in B.M.C. Section 3.68 et seq. Specifically, it states that:

“The commission shall perform the following functions:

B. Help create citizen awareness around issues of social justice and develop educational programs for implementation by the City Council and the School Board.

C. Help develop proposals for the City Council and the School Board for actions in furtherance of the goals of peace and justice, and help publicize such actions in the community.

D. Hold public hearings and community forums on issues that fall within the charge of the commission, and call on appropriate witnesses to provide pertinent information.”

H. Act as a liaison between community groups organizing around issues of peace and social justice and City government.”

(B.M.C. Section 3.68.070 (B),(C),(D) and (H)); (Ord. 6017-NS § 1, 1990: Ord. 5705-NS § 7, 1986).

Consistent with this mandate, the Commission requests approval for an additional (eleventh) meeting in order to plan for additional community forums in 2010 focusing on local peace and justice issues.

BACKGROUND
The Commission held two meetings in October (a regular meeting and a special meeting), one of which was a Special Meeting involving a community forum on immigration issues in the Berkeley community. Based on the very positive community response to this forum, the Commission would like to meet again on December 14, 2009, resulting in an eleventh meeting, to plan for additional forums on local peace and justice issues. Topics under consideration include: a) Criminal Justice; b) United Nations Reports (eliciting community input on the draft report pending Council review in May, 2010); and c) community review of the Oppressive States Ordinance, among other topics.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION
The Peace and Justice Commission is eager to move forward with addressing these and related local peace and justice issues by engaging and educating the Berkeley community on the local impact of statewide and national policies. The requested additional meeting is necessary to adequately plan for this 2010 community education and engagement effort.
ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
The Commission does not meet again until January, 2010. Without an additional, authorized meeting in calendar year 2009, it would negatively impact the Commission’s ability to be effective in its mission to engage and educate the Berkeley community on local peace and justice issues.

CITY MANAGER
The City Manager concurs with the Commission’s recommendation.

CONTACT PERSON
Bob Meola, Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission, 644-1102
Wendy, Kenin, Vice Chairperson, Peace and Justice Commission
Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace and Justice Commission, 510-981-5114

Attachments
1. Forum on Human Rights Announcement
Please join the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission for a

Forum on Human Rights for Immigrants in Berkeley

Monday, October 5, 7 - 9 pm
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way) Berkeley, CA 94709
Admission: Free. All are welcome!

Please join and invite others to the roundtable discussion on human rights for immigrants in Berkeley. Let’s build community partnerships to develop Berkeley into a true Sanctuary City model and make Berkeley ready for a new national immigration policy.

Participating community leaders:

Belen Pulido, Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA)
Father Rigoberto Caloca-Rivas, Executive Director, Multicultural Institute
Manuel de Paz, East Bay Sanctuary Covenant
Gabriel Hernandez, Executive Director, Hayward Day Labor Center
Maricruz Manzanara, Organizer, AFSCME Local 3299
Rita Mouton-Patterson, Student Trustee, Peralta Community College District
Igor Tregub, Berkeley Labor Commission

City Councilmembers:

Jesse Arreguin
Laurie Capitelli
Legislative Aid Anna Avellar for Councilmember Susan Wengraf

The members of the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission and others.

The discussion will address these critical issues for immigrants in our city:

- ICE Raids and Deportation
- Berkeley Car Impoundments
- Census 2010
- Municipal Identification Cards: use in other cities and possibilities for Berkeley
- Integration: Access to Education, Health, Employment, Youth, Families, Protection and Safety
- Immigration Reform Models: Region-wide, National, and International Strategies
- Cultural Diversity