



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

AGENDA

Special Meeting

Thursday, March 12, 2015

7:00 PM

South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. (Corner Ellis/Ashby)
Berkeley, CA 94703

Preliminary Matters

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment

Update/Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

1. Approve Minutes from the 2/9/15 Special Meeting and the 2/18/15 Regular Meeting (Attachment A)
2. Conflict in Israel's Impact on the City of Berkeley (Davila) (Attachment B)
3. Join the Commission on Aging in Urging Councilmembers and the Mayor to Pledge to Hold Annual Meetings with their Commission Appointees (Attachment C)
4. Final Review and Recommendation of 2016-17 Community Agency Applications
5. Review and Discuss Proposed Council Report Recommending Actions for the City to Take Regarding Sexual Assaults in Berkeley (Molina/Sood)
6. Review Latest City Council Meeting Agenda (Attachment D)

Adjournment

Attachments

- A. Draft Minutes of the February 9, 2015 and the February 18, 2015 meetings
- B. Draft Report-Conflict in Israel
- C. Draft Commission on Aging Council Item
- D. Review City Council Meeting Agenda at City Clerk Dept. or <http://www.cityofberkeley.info/citycouncil>

Communications

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. 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 Housing and Community Services Department located at 2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor.

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6342 (V) or 981-6345 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. **Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.**

Secretary: Wing Wong

Acting Secretary: Raquel Molina
Health, Housing & Community Services Department
510-981-5412
rmolina@CityofBerkeley.info

Mailing Address:

Human Welfare and Community Action Commission
Wing Wong, Secretary
2180 Milvia Street, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

Special Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2015

7:00 PM

South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. (Corner Ellis/Ashby)
Berkeley, CA 94703

Preliminary Matters

3. Roll Call: 7:10 PM
Present: Luu, Dunner, Davila, McMullan, Omodele, Cross
Absent: Browne, Flanders, Trigueros
Quorum: 5 (Attended: 6)
4. Public Comment: None
Public Present: Praveen Sood
5. Staff Present – Raquel Molina

Update/Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

7. Approve Minutes from January 28, 2015 Special Meeting
Action: M/S/C (Cross/Dunner) to approve the minutes as submitted.
Vote: Ayes – Luu, Dunner, Davila, McMullan, Cross; Noes – None. Absent – Browne, Flanders, Trigueros; Abstain - Omodele
8. Annual Election of the Chair and Vice Chair
Continued to the 2/18/15 regular meeting.
9. Initial Review of 2016-17 Community Agency Applications
Community agencies seek funding from the City every two years. There are 23 programs which submitted applications to provide services to low-income residents for FY 2016 and 2017. Commissioners started reviewing these applications. Continued to the 2/18/15 regular meeting.
10. Discuss Next Steps Regarding the Use of Tasers by Berkeley Police Department (Sood)
Commissioners discussed next steps which included upholding the commission's previous decision to submit a memo to Council in opposition of Taser use by the Berkeley Police Department.
11. Conflict in Israel's Impact on the City of Berkeley (Davila)
Continued to 2/18/15 regular meeting.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 9:10 PM



Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

7:00 PM

South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St. (Corner Ellis/Ashby)
Berkeley, CA 94703

Preliminary Matters

6. Roll Call: 7:10 PM
Present: Dunner, Davila, Sood, McMullan, Browne, Omodele (7:11), Trigueros, Cross
Absent: Luu (excused); Flanders
Quorum: 5 (Attended: 8)
7. Staff Present: Kristen Lee, Raquel Molina
8. Public Comment: Alisa Cooper

Update/Action Items

The Commission may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda, except where noted.

12. Approve Minutes from February 9, 2015 Special Meeting
Continued to the 3/12/15 special meeting.
13. Annual Election of the Chair and Vice Chair
Action: M/S/C (Cross/McMullan) to nominate Praveen Sood for the position of Chairperson.
Vote: Ayes – Dunner, Davila, McMullan, Browne, Omodele, Trigueros, Cross; Noes – None; Abstain – Sood; Absent – Luu, Flanders

M/S/C (McMullan/Omodele) to nominate Belen Trigueros for the position of Vice-Chairperson.
Vote: Ayes – Dunner, Davila, Sood, McMullan, Browne, Omodele, Cross; Noes – None; Abstain – Trigueros; Absent – Luu, Flanders
14. Review of 2016-17 Community Agency Applications
Commissioners continued their review of funding applications.
Action: Speaker(s): 1 – Hope McDonnell-United for Health. Applications reviewed. Discussion held. M/S/C Davila/McMullan to propose the following adjustments to the FY16-17 Community Agency allocations pending the City Manager's report: East Bay Community Law Center-Education Defense and Justice for Youth (\$10,000); United for Health (\$25,000); Berkeley Community Garden Collaborative (\$0). Reduce funding equally for all remaining agencies to match available funding. Continued to 3/12/15 special meeting.
Vote: Ayes – Dunner, Davila, Sood, McMullan, Browne, Omodele, Trigueros; Noes – Cross; Abstain – None; Absent – Luu, Flanders
15. Conflict in Israel's Impact on the City of Berkeley
Continued to the 3/12/15 special meeting.
16. Review Memo to Council Supporting Councilmember Worthington's July 8, 2014 Council Item Addressing the High Suspension/Expulsion Rate for Berkeley High School Students (Flanders). Continued to 3/12/15 special meeting

17. Review and Discuss Proposed council Report Recommending Actions for the City to Take Regarding Sexual Assaults in Berkeley (Molina/Sood). Continued to the 3/12/15 special meeting.

18. Review Latest City Council Meeting Agenda
No reportable action taken.

M/S/C (Davila/Dunner) to reschedule the 3/18/15 regular meeting to Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7 PM.

Vote: Ayes - Dunner, Davila, Sood, McMullan, Browne, Omodele, Cross, Trigueros;
Noes – None; Absent – Luu, Flanders

Announcement

1. The Berkeley Housing Authority administrative plan is available for review and comments online at www.cityofberkeley.info/bha

Adjournment

Adjourned at: 9:30 PM



Human Welfare and
Community Action Commission

ACTION CALENDAR

May 12, 2015

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

Submitted by: Praveen Sood, Chairperson, Human Welfare and Community Action Commission

Subject: Divestment in Israeli's Occupation / Apartheid Policies Towards Palestinians

RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct the City Manager to prepare a Resolution for consideration by the City Council amending the City of Berkeley's investment policy to reflect an official policy of divestment from companies doing business in the Israeli occupied territory. 2. Send a letter urging CalPERS to divest its own holdings of companies doing business in the Israeli occupied territory for statewide pension investments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley has not addressed the Israeli's occupation or the apartheid treatment of Palestinians. There is a growing campaign across the world to make Israel accountable for its crimes against humanity to the Palestinians in Gaza and the Israeli occupation. Countries, universities and citizens around the world including Archbishop Desmond Tutu are encouraging divestment in Israel.

Recently, dockworkers and protesters were successful in blocking Israeli cargo ships from unloading in different ports, around the world including the Port of Oakland. Please consider divesting in Israel in the same way the City divested in the South African Apartheid.

BACKGROUND

Israel's violations of human rights and international law has been persistent and consistent against the people of Palestine. Israel has refused to comply with the UN Security Council Resolutions, The General Assembly Resolution 194, and the 4th Geneva Convention. The economic, legal discrimination and political evidence of these practices echo what we witnessed in South Africa's Apartheid era.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts or opportunities associated the action suggested in this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The City of Berkeley has the opportunity to stand up for international law, human rights and social justice by engaging in non-violent campaign of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law and Palestinian rights. The HWCAC mission is to advise Council of social welfare needs, create citizen awareness and encourage improved standards.

Most recently, Universities of California's student governments on various campuses across our state have urged the UC Regents to divest from corporations that support the Israeli occupation of Palestine. The City of Berkeley should address this injustice by taking a stand in support of human rights, international law and social justice by divesting in the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Palestinian lives matter.

The City of Berkeley opposed the Apartheid in South Africa and divested. The City of Berkeley should direct the City Manager to prepare a resolution to divest in the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Israeli Apartheid.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

CONTACT PERSON

Raquel Molina, Acting Secretary, Health, Housing and Community Services
Department, 510-981-5412

Attachments: [Delete if there are NO Attachments]

1: CalPers letter



Commission on Aging

[CONSENT OR ACTION]
CALENDAR
 [Meeting Date (MM dd, yyyy)]

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Commission on Aging
 Submitted by: George Porter, Commission on Aging, Chairperson
 Subject: Annual Meetings of Commission Appointees

RECOMMENDATION

The Commission on Aging recommends that all City Council members and the Mayor hold annual "working" meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. The purpose of the meetings would be for personal contact, information sharing and networking.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The City will incur minimal costs in the implementation of this recommendation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Currently there is very little established policy, either formal or informal, regarding face-to-face contact between Council members, the Mayor and their appointees to the various City Commissions and none addressing any such contact between a Councilmember (and the Mayor) and his or her full group of commissioners.

As things stand, since appointment to commissions are in general for four (4) years and often overlap Councilmember's (and the Mayor's) terms, if a given district seat changes hands, on occasion new Council members (and Mayor) and their inherited commissioners have never met in person. In addition to this, since reappointment of commissioners to a second term is often a routine matter, it is possible that eight (8) years can pass with little or no direct contact between a Councilmember (or the Mayor) and his or her appointee.

As far as contact between a Councilmember's (or the Mayor's) group of commissioners goes, there is no consistent policy and to the Commission on Aging's (CoA) observation in many, many cases commissioners have no idea of even the name of their counterparts on other commissions much less any understanding of who these people might be and how best to work with them towards common goals. Indeed, though some commissions are in constant contact with one another, since there is little established

policy encouraging broad based communication between commissions, the simple fact that shared interests exist is far too often missed.

BACKGROUND

Over the past couple of years outreach and communication to other commissions has been part of the CoA work plan. A few individual commissioners have sat in on other commissions meetings, introduced themselves, tried to establish lines of communication and then reported back to the CoA, especially as regards issue relating to the aging population. This has proved moderately fruitful, but time consuming and very hit or miss. During that same time period one commissioner had an appointing council member that held annual commissioner meetings and reported back. This practice seemed much more useful and a couple of other commissioners who had had similar experiences before this period confirmed this which started us down the road that led to this action item.

To the best of the CoA's discovery, in the past various Council members (and Mayors) have come up with individual ways of establishing lines of communications with their commissioners and between them. Though the CoA fully appreciates Council members' (and the Mayor's) need for latitude in determining these relationships, the end results are often uneven and sporadic. In the case of the annual commissioners meeting, over the years some Council members have always held such meetings, others only on occasion and some not at all. Over those same years the individual commissions have had memberships with widely varying exposure to and understanding of the broad set of Municipal concerns the effect their work and much of the time in meetings can be spent bringing everyone up to date regarding these.

The CoA voted at its regular meeting of January 21, 2015 to recommend that City Council members (and the Mayor) hold annual "working" meetings that gather together their appointed Commission members. The purpose of the meetings would be for personal contact, information sharing and networking.
M/S/C (Jacquelin/Hallberg) Ayes: Castello-Kramer, Hallberg, Jacquelin, Lazaris,Porter,Ratnum,Schechner,Stross; Noes: None; Abstain: None

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental impacts

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The CoA feels that Council members (and the Mayor) establishing the habit of an annual commissioners meeting is a very simple and cost effective way of both addressing the concerns expressed above and of opening doors to new opportunities insofar as:

- 1) It ensures a basic level of the needed personal contact between Council members

and their commissioners.

2) For all attendees it puts a "human face" on the work of the various commissions and creates the sense of a broader community effort, the value of which should not be underestimated.

3) A well run meeting where each commissioner has a chance to briefly recap the last year's work of the commission he or she sits on establishes a baseline of information regarding Municipal concerns.

4) It encourages greater communication between the commissions which will result in:

- a) greater appreciation of one another's work
- b) greater awareness of the current scope of one another's work
- c) greater appreciation of the complexity of the Council's work
- d) more efficient use of time in commission meetings
- e) equal opportunity for all commissioners for access to useful information
- f) the recognition of and better cooperation in achieving shared goals
- g) more efficient sharing of resources
- h) increased transparency between commissions

5) In general, it will enliven the working relationship between Berkeley's elected officials and its citizen commissions and help ensure that our investment in this cooperative effort will yield greater returns.

Again, the CoA's suggestion here is that these be casual and friendly working meetings, not just social events. Though we fully appreciate that Council members (and the Mayor) already carry a heavy load, the CoA strongly feels that these yearly meetings will be of so much value to the municipality that we unanimously urge individual Council members (and the Mayor) to take this additional, small burden upon themselves.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The CoA had considered that holding the meetings should be done on good faith, that they need not be an official requirement but instead should take the form of a pledge to "do his or her best to hold such yearly events". After further consideration, that language was removed from the recommendation and the accompanying background of the report.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.