



URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE
ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE
CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

Meeting Date: March 11, 2025

Item Description: Urgency Resolution: Condemning the recent incident, along with all acts of Islamophobia in Berkeley, and reaffirming unwavering support for the Muslim community in Berkeley and beyond.

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- ☐ Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)
Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.
- ☒ Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)
There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:

The incident of Islamophobia that has precipitated in this resolution was reported to the Berkeley Police Department on March 1, 2025, following the publication deadline for the March 11, 2025 agenda.



Igor Tregub
Councilmember, District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 11, 2025

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Tregub (Author), Councilmember Taplin (Co- Author) and Councilmember Lunaparra (Co- Author)

Subject: Urgency Resolution: Condemning the recent incident, along with all acts of Islamophobia in Berkeley, and reaffirming unwavering support for the Muslim community in Berkeley and beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt an Urgency Resolution condemning the recent incident, along with all acts of Islamophobia in Berkeley, and reaffirming unwavering support for the Muslim community in Berkeley and beyond.

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2025, at approximately 7 pm, the Berkeley Police Department received a report of vandalism at reputable and valued small business. Photos shared by the owner clearly showed the graffitiing on the business's window, unequivocally suggesting a hate crime targeting the owner because of her Muslim faith. The observation of Ramadan, one of the most holy months in the Muslim faith, also began on March 1, 2025, making this incident particularly hurtful.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

This hate crime is not an isolated incident, and this and other Muslim-owned small businesses in Berkeley have reported several other hate crimes on their businesses over the past year. According to the Berkeley Police Department's Transparency Hub¹, since October of 2023, there has been an uptick in reported Anti-Arab or anti-Muslim hate incidents, with anti-Muslim hate incidents making up 4.65% and Anti-Arab incidents making up 6.98% of the 2024 total. According to the Office of the California Attorney

¹ <https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/>

General, reported Anti-Islamic (Muslim) bias events have increased by a 60% in California between 2022 and 2023.² The City of Berkeley has a long history of standing united against hate in all of its ugly forms³ and it is important that it does so again.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

CONTACT PERSON

- Councilmember Igor Tregub
510-981-7140
itregub@berkeleyca.gov
- Olga Bolotina, Chief of Staff, Council District 4
obolotina@berkeleyca.gov

Attachments:

1: Resolution

² <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-2023-hate-crime-report-highlights-continued>

³ <https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Berkeley-Center-BP.pdf>

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE RECENT INCIDENT, ALONG WITH ALL ACTS OF ISLAMOPHOBIA IN BERKELEY, AND REAFFIRMING UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY IN BERKELEY AND BEYOND.

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2025, at approximately 7 pm, the Berkeley Police Department received a report of vandalism at reputable and valued small business; and

WHEREAS, photos shared by the owner clearly showed the graffiti on the business's window, unequivocally suggesting a hate crime targeting the owner because of her Islamic faith; and

WHEREAS, according to the Berkeley Police Department's Transparency Hub⁴, since October of 2023, there has been an uptick in reported anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate incidents, with anti-Muslim hate incidents making up 4.65% and anti-Arab incidents making up 6.98% of the 2024 total; and

WHEREAS, according to the Office of the California Attorney General, reported anti-Islamic bias events have increased by a 60% in California between 2022 and 2023⁵; and

WHEREAS, the observation of Ramadan, one of the most holy months in the Islamic faith, also began on March 1, 2025, making this incident particularly hurtful; and

WHEREAS, this hate crime is not an isolated incident, and this and other Muslim-owned small businesses in Berkeley have reported several other hate crimes on their businesses over the past year; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley stands united against hate in all of its forms⁶

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it condemns in the strongest terms the hateful incident that took place on or around March 1, 2025, and all instances of Islamophobia that too many of Berkeley's community members have endured; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Berkeley reaffirms its stance that Berkeley stands united against hate and that public officials bear responsibility to take proactive steps to prevent oppression and intolerance, as well as the responsibility to immediately and materially respond to hate crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Berkeley reaffirms its unyielding and unwavering support for members of the Muslim community who have been and continue to be pillars of Berkeley and who, by being part of our city's fabric, make Berkeley a better place.

⁴ <https://bpd-transparency-initiative-berkeleypd.hub.arcgis.com/>

⁵ <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-releases-2023-hate-crime-report-highlights-continued>

⁶ <https://www.usmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Berkeley-Center-BP.pdf>