

Commission on the
Status of Women

Commission on the Status of Women
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 – 7:00pm
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

**REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA**

Mayor Adena Ishii:

Rashi Kersarwani:

Terry Taplin:

Ben Bartlett:

Kameka Goodwin

Igor Tregub

Shirley Posey

Shoshana O’Keefe

Kera Binns

Brent Blackaby:

Dianna Mullins

Cecilia Lunaparra:


Najuna Kiggundu

Mark Humbert

Peggy Scott

All items are for discussion and possible action.

1. Roll Call.
2. Reading of Land Acknowledgment.
3. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda.
4. Approval of the Agenda. Discussion Only.
5. Approval of the April 16, 2025 minutes. Discussion and Action.
6. Presenter: Babalwa Kwanele- Discussion on the African American Holistic Resource Center
7. Chair Update Discussion Only.
8. Leaders Provide Update on the Work Plan Focus Areas and Goals. Discussion Only.
9. Discussion and Possible Action on Commissioner Scott’s Recommendation to Council Regarding Encampments near School Properties.
10. Adjourn.

 **ADA Disclaimer** “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 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least five business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.”

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SB 343 Disclaimer

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 the City Manager's Office located at 2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor.

Commission Contact Information

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary

Commission on the Status of Women

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Commission on the Status of Women

Commission on the Status of Women
April 16, 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting convened at 7:07 pm with Kera Binns (Chair) presiding. Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary.

SECTION A. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Binns, Mullins, Posey, Scott, Goodwin

Absent:

Excused:

Leave of Absence: Kiggundu

2. **Announcements**

None

3. **Comments from the Public**

Public Attendance: 4

Public Comments: 2

4. **Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Approved minutes from 03/19/25.

M/S/C: Scott, Binns

Ayes: Binns, Mullins, Posey, Scott, Goodwin

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Kiggundu

5. **Commission Updates & Chairperson's Report (No Action Taken):**

Current commission vacancies.

Updates on previous council meetings as it relates to items submitted by COSOW. The recommendation on human sex trafficking has been sent back to the commission to further develop.

Reconfiguring the work plan focus groups.

SECTION B. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

6. **Presenter: Jasmina Viteskic (District Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer)**
Discussion and Possible on Action Creating a Safe and Supportive
Environment: Title IX and Student Safety in BUSD

No Action Taken.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Kiggundu

7. **Presenter: Carole Marasovic (Discussion and Possible Action/Update on**
Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Recommendation.

Motion brought forth by Commissioner Scott for the Chair to speak on behalf of the commission when the companion report is presented at a future Council Meeting. A response letter will be finalized in support of the SB1343 recommendation.

M/S/C: Scott, Mullins

Ayes: Binns, Mullins, Posey, Scott, Goodwin

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Kiggundu

8. **Leaders Provide Update on the Work Plan Focus Areas and Goals.**
Discussion Only

No Action Taken.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Excused: Kiggundu

9. **Discussion and Possible Actions on Commission on the Status of Women**
Bylaws.

M/S/C:

Ayes:

Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:
Excused:

SECTION C. COMMUNICATIONS

10. No communications received prior to meeting.

SECTION D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9: PM.

M/S/C:
Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent: Excused:
Kiggundu

Respectfully Submitted,

Okeya Vance-Dozier, Secretary
Peace and Justice Commission

Land Acknowledgement Statement

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of xučyun (Huchiun (Hooch-yoon)), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (Cho-chen-yo)-speaking Ohlone (Oh-low-nee) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. As we begin our meeting tonight, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley's residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley's incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan Tribe and to create meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this land acknowledgement.



Commission on the Status of Women

To: Mayor and Members of the Berkeley City Council
From: Commission on the Status of Women
Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair
Subject: Letter of Support for African-American Holistic Resource Center

On May 17, 2023, the Commission on the Status of Women recommended that Council fully fund the African-American Holistic Resource Center, under the current budget process, so that further planning to implement the AAHRC, at 6,000 feet, move ahead as expeditiously as possible and that this letter in support be submitted to Council.

The Commission supports the African-American Holistic Resource Center, as a vital community need, having been so advised that the following services for women and girls will be provided:

Information on African-American Holistic Resource Center as to Services to be Provided for Women

The AAHRC plans to provide classes/educative training learning experiences specifically for women and girls in the following area:

- * Breast and ovarian cancer awareness
- * The correlation between trauma, racism, sexism, and autoimmune diseases in women of color: our health is our wealth
- * Taking care of our bodies, mind, and soul- movement and healing classes for women of color
- * Generational wealth, financial literacy, and grant-writing workshop series for women and girls of color
- * Civic engagement women leaders workshop series (for all genders): learning about past and present women leaders, such as Shirley Chisholm, Sarah Eagle Heart, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, etc.
- * Exploring the creative arts classes
- * Leadership Excellence program for women and girls

This is a partial list to give you an idea of the full-array of community-led and grounded services, programs, and trainings that will be provided within the AAHRC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Marasovic, Chair

Commission on the Status of Women



CONSENT CALENDAR
April 29, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author) Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Bartlett (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral Funding Afterschool Program Expansion

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$300,000 to fund afterschool program expansion to the Fiscal Year 26 Mid-Biennial Budget Update.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$300,000 and staff time.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Community members have reached out to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) and the 2x2 Committee about insufficient aftercare. With the demand exceeding supply, students and families are subject to competitive enrollment and waitlists. In August, our office was informed by school board directors that there were 25 staff vacancies and hundreds of students on waitlists. With no guaranteed universal childcare, limited subsidized options, and a lack of adequate after school care, low- and middle-income families struggle to meet their childcare needs. This can cause immense and undue stress, put needed jobs at risk, and force desperate families to turn to substandard childcare arrangements. No family in Berkeley should have to sacrifice security for lack of high quality, affordable childcare.

BACKGROUND

The City of Berkeley provides quality elementary afterschool programs at multiple locations that currently serve 245 BUSD youth. The programs are subsidized by the General Fund and offer 50% and 100% scholarships to those who need them. The programs are staffed by full- and part-time employees in the Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront Department's Recreation Division.

The city's current afterschool program is at the following sites:

Live Oak Community Center (60)
James Kenney Community Center (75, includes Therapeutic Recreation Program)
Frances Albrier Community Center (65)
Willard Clubhouse (45)

The current cost per pupil is just under \$3,000 per school year. With the new Willard Clubhouse, the planned MLK Jr. Youth Services Center expansion, and an additional \$300,000, the city can serve an additional 100 elementary age youth.

Live Oak Community Center (80)
James Kenney Community Center (85, includes Therapeutic Recreation Program)
Frances Albrier Community Center (75)
Willard Clubhouse (65)
MLK Jr. Youth Services Center (40)

Additionally, the city would need to come up with a plan to expand its transportation program in order to ensure students can get from their school to the program site. Attached is a press release from Zum, a student transportation provider, who announced in August that they deployed an all-electric fleet of school buses in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), making it the first major school district in the U.S. to transition to a 100% electrified school bus system.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

N/A.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin, District 2, 510-981-7120.

Attachments:

1 - Press Release: Zum Deploys Nation's First 100% Electric School Bus Fleet in Oakland, California for the 2024-2025 School Year

We're hiring bus drivers and attendants for St Louis, MO and Millard, NE. Apply now!



Press Release

Share:



Zum Deploys Nation's First 100% Electric School Bus Fleet in Oakland,

California for the 2024-2025 School Year

By: Zum Community Team | August 27, 2024

Historic achievement in Oakland Unified School District will improve children's health and return energy to the grid

Oakland, Calif., August 27, 2024 – Zum, the leader in modern student transportation, today announced that it has deployed an all-electric fleet of school buses in Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), making it the first major school district in the U.S. to transition to a 100% electrified school bus system. This first-in-the-nation EV fleet is also equipped with groundbreaking vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology, enabling the buses to return energy to the grid at scale when not in use.

Zum is deploying a fleet of 74 electric school buses in Oakland, each with its own bidirectional charger, managed via an AI-enabled Virtual Power Plant (VPP). The all-EV fleet will decarbonize student transportation while sending 2.1 gigawatt hours of energy back to the grid annually.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in student transportation," said Ritu Narayan, Founder and CEO of Zum. "By converting Oakland Unified's school bus fleet to 100% electric, we are showing that sustainability solutions are here – and can positively impact an entire community. Electric school buses with V2G capability create cleaner transportation and send untapped energy from bus batteries back to the grid. It's a win-win for children, families, schools and drivers."

Student transportation is the largest mass transit system in the nation, moving 27 million students twice daily. Today, over 90% of the nation's 500,000 school buses run on carbon-based fuels, releasing over 8.4 million tons of greenhouse gases annually,

exposing students and communities to harmful fumes every day. Oakland's EV fleet will help remove 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases from the environment, which will have a major impact on the community.

"OUSD is proud to lead the way with safe and sustainable transportation for our students," said Superintendent Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell of Oakland Unified School District. "This is a landmark achievement, especially in Oakland, where families are disproportionately impacted by exposure to air pollution and high rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments. Zum's electric school buses provide our students quieter, cleaner rides to and from school, giving them a better chance at success in the classroom, while ensuring the District is doing its part to cut down on air pollution to the benefit of all Oakland residents."

Zum's utility partner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, worked closely with Zum to complete the site, which involved extensive infrastructure upgrades and other equipment to power 74 bi-directional EV chargers. PG&E was able to provide 2.7 megawatts of load to Zum's Oakland EV-ready facility in record time, allowing this project to be deployed one year ahead of schedule.

"Converting to electric transportation reduces the leading cause of emissions and has the potential to offer a flexible power supply that benefits all customers. Our partnership with Zum and Oakland Unified on its fully electric school bus fleet is a blueprint for schools across California and the nation to better serve our students, local communities and, ultimately, our planet," said PG&E Corporation CEO Patti Poppe.

Other partners that have been critical to the electrification of the OUSD fleet include the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean School Bus program, California Air Resources Board (CARB), Heavy Vehicle Incentive Program (HVIP) vouchers, Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and Clean Mobility Options (CMO) programs.

"With funding to Zum of over \$35 million for California school districts, EPA is proud to be advancing the rollout of electric school buses here in Oakland and across our state,

helping create a future where our children can breathe cleaner air,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Deputy Regional Administrator Cheree Peterson. “I’ve seen firsthand the advantages of these electric buses, with the absence of noxious diesel emissions benefiting students, school staff, and neighboring communities. Thanks to the unprecedented federal investments in this technology, more zero-emissions school buses will be on the road in Oakland.”

Zum has set a goal of electrifying 10,000 bidirectional school buses which will create the potential to supply 300 gigawatt hours of energy to local power grids annually. Plans are already underway for Zum to deploy 100% electric fleets across the country in the coming years.

About Zūm

Zum is a modern transportation solution transforming school transportation, the largest mass transit system in the U.S. Today, the company provides turnkey modern transportation solutions to school districts in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Utah, and Virginia, and is expanding rapidly nationwide. Recognized globally for its innovative transportation and energy as a service platform, Zum has been featured among Fast Company’s World Changing Ideas, CNBC Disruptor 50, CNBC Changemakers, World Economic Forum and Financial Times’ Fastest Growing Companies. Learn more about Zum at www.ridezum.com.

CONTACT:

Jenny Mayfield, Vice President of Communications – press@ridezum.com

RE: Homeless encampments near schools/initial fact-finding meeting

TO: Peter Radu, Okeya Vance-Dozier

FROM: Peggy Scott, Berkeley COSOW

May 6, 2025

Goal: That the City of Berkeley issue a new ordinance to the effect:

- **There will be no overnight camping within 500 feet of any school property.**

Background:

In the winter of 2025, the homeless encampment that grew in Civic Center Park was controversial and posed a potential risk to schoolchildren. It also robbed Berkeley High students of the area where they have lunch. It is my understanding that at the time, the city did not have at its disposal any ordinance that would allow them to remove this encampment.

Civic Center Park has served as an auxiliary part of Berkeley High's extremely dense, urban campus for years. It was a basis for Berkeley High's outstanding social fluidity. Lunchtime was not a time plagued by popular kids having their own table in the lunchroom. This year students have been trained to do without but a large component of the school's social and community life has been destroyed by not having this meet-up area for clubs, bake sales, social groups, etc. This has negatively impacted the quality of student life.

Also, BUSD has a terrible history of failing to keep students safe from sexual harassment and harm. (I can furnish more information if requested.) The latest proof of this was a recent \$13.5 million settlement of a sexual misconduct case with 9 plaintiffs. Things seem to be better but that remains to be seen.

(<https://www.berkeleyside.org/2024/10/02/busd-sexual-misconduct-lawsuit-settled>)

There was some debate as to whether or not the homeless encampment posed an actual safety threat to students but the general sentiment of parents and community members alike was that the high school students should not have to walk through a homeless encampment in front of their school in order to simply enter the building. Students, especially those who had to suffer catcalls and verbal abuse from people in and around the encampment, felt threatened.

Berkeley needs an ordinance at its disposal that would prevent this situation from happening again.

Hopefully it won't, and the city will not need to enforce it. But better to be prepared.

Berkeley Parks Dept. ordinance specifies

- No overnight camping (BMC 6.32.020) <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/Park-rules.pdf>

This was my original basis for developing an additional ordinance, to wit:

- There will be no overnight camping within 500 feet of any school property.

Such an ordinance would necessitate having proper signage posted around school properties. This is the only cost I can foresee being incurred by such an ordinance.

Currently, schools are posted with a notice stating: "No trespassing when school grounds are closed." (Ed. Code sections 32210, 32211, & 32212, 627.7 P.P.) Because I live across the street from a school and took my daughter over there to play many days after work, I inquired about this rule. I was told it was posted just in case they needed to use it to remove a person who was deemed unsafe. This "just in case" scenario gave me the idea that the city needed an ordinance that would keep encampments away from school properties in Berkeley in the future.

The Civic Center Park situation demanded that the city make a choice – either in favor of homeless people or students. There was no middle ground. **The mark of a healthy society is choosing to protect its children first.** We should make sure that all of Berkeley's students feel that their school is safe, and ensure that they can walk safely in to school, get comfortable, and learn there, in a protected environment.