

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

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026  
2:00 PM**

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia Street, 6th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704

Committee Members:

Councilmembers Ben Bartlett, Igor Tregub, and Shoshana O’Keefe

Alternate: Councilmember Terry Taplin

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both in-person and virtual attendance. Attend this meeting remotely using [Zoom](#). To request to speak, use the “raise hand” function in Zoom. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** or **1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free)** and enter **Meeting ID: 161 265 8355**. To provide public comment, Press \*9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair. To submit a written communication for the Committee’s consideration and inclusion in the public record, email [policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov). All Committee meetings are recorded.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting, however, if you are feeling sick, please do not attend the meeting in person.

Pursuant to the City Council Rules of Procedure and State Law, the presiding officer may remove, or cause the removal of, an individual for disrupting the meeting. Prior to removing an individual, the presiding officer shall warn the individual that their behavior is disrupting the meeting and that their failure to cease their behavior may result in their removal. The presiding officer may then remove the individual if they do not promptly cease their disruptive behavior. “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes, but is not limited to, a failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body, or engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

**California Government Code Section 84308 (Levine Act)** Parties to a proceeding involving a license, permit, or other entitlement for use are required to disclose if they made contributions over \$500 within the prior 12 months to any City employee or officer. Parties and participants with a financial interest are prohibited from making more than \$500 in contributions to a decisionmaker for the 12 months after the final decision is rendered on the proceeding. The above contribution disclosures and restrictions do not apply when the proceeding is competitively bid, or involves a personnel or labor contract. For more information, see Government Code Section 84308.

# MINUTES

**Roll Call:** 2:02 p.m.

**Present:** Bartlett, O'Keefe, Tregub

**Absent:** None

## Election of Chairperson

**Action:** M/S/C (O'Keefe/Bartlett) to elect Councilmember Tregub as Chairperson.

**Vote:** All Ayes

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

## Minutes for Approval

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

### 1. Minutes - September 25, 2025

**Action:** M/S/C (Tregub/O'Keefe) to approve the September 25, 2025 minutes.

**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. Discussion Item: Berkeley Food Network Presentation

**From:** Councilmember O'Keefe

Contact: Shoshana O'Keefe, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150

**Action:** 3 speakers. Presentation made. Discussion held. The Committee completed its consideration of this item.

## Committee Action Items

3. **The Berkeley Rule: Artificial Intelligence Municipal Use Policy**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author), Councilmember Tregub (Author)**  
**Referred: August 25, 2025**  
**Due: February 23, 2026**

**Recommendation:** 1. Refer to the City Manager to initiate a municipal use policy governing the deployment of Artificial Intelligence Systems AKA “The Berkeley Rule”.  
2. Refer to the City Manager to develop artificial intelligence municipal use policies incorporating the following guidelines: Put Residents First; Modernize City Services; Empower the Community; Ensure Transparency and Accountability; Standardize Operations; Certify Ethical Use; Protect and Prepare Our Workforce; Defend Civil Liberties; Social Advancement and Accessibility; and Catalyze Civic Wealth.  
3. Refer to the City Manager to explore establishing a Risk-Based Tiering Framework to classify AI systems as Low, Medium, or High-Risk based on their potential public impact, ensuring that the oversight and procedural requirements scale with the level of risk.  
4. Refer to the City Manager to consider creating an AI Working Group composed of representatives from all departments to foster interdepartmental collaboration, providing the internal expertise needed to create workable use cases and practices and providing support in developing and implementing the City's AI policies.  
5. Adopt a resolution establishing “The Berkeley Rule” to steward the municipal use of artificial intelligence in service of the public good.

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130

**Action:** 4 speakers. M/S/C (Taplin/Tregub) to send the item to Council with a positive recommendation, and that items 3 and 4 in the recommendation be amended to be less prescriptive.

**Vote:** All Ayes

Councilmember Tregub exited the meeting for consideration of Item 3 at 3:02 p.m. due to Brown Act participation rules. Councilmember Taplin joined the meeting at this time as the Alternate Councilmember voting on this item. Councilmember Tregub returned at 3:42 p.m. after the vote on Item 3.

## Committee Action Items

### 4. **Setting Measurable Goals and Metrics for Key City Priorities**

**From: Councilmember Blackaby (Author), Councilmember O'Keefe (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Humbert (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: November 17, 2025**

**Due: May 22, 2026**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager the development of 10-20 measurable goals and metrics that reflect key priorities for the City. These goals should focus on outcomes that matter most to residents, demonstrating both the impact of City government and the quality of life in our community.

After setting annual goals, the City should provide quarterly updates with progress towards those goals via an easily accessible dashboard on the city website or other mechanism. Also, the City should provide updates as a quarterly City Council agenda item, or other appropriate frequency.

Types of goals should be identified by analyzing similar work being done by other jurisdictions, and then quantifiable metrics for each goal should be set by staff and reviewed by City Council. How do peer cities and comparable jurisdictions define, structure, and establish outcome-based goals and metrics? What processes do they use to select them and align them with priorities? How do jurisdictions report on these goals and metrics, including the formatting, frequency, and accessibility of reporting to decision-making bodies and the public?

Goals should span a full range of City priorities, including housing production, public safety, transportation, public works, parks & recreation, homelessness, and economic development.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Brent Blackaby, Councilmember, District 6, (510) 981-7160

**Action:** 6 speakers. M/S/C (Tregub/O'Keefe) to send item to Council with a qualified positive recommendation to: explore a variety of frameworks and methodologies, interface with the public, and explore opportunities to quantify social costs and benefits.

**Vote:** All Ayes

## Committee Action Items

### 5. Large Vehicle Parking Regulations in the Public Right-of-Way

**From: Councilmember Taplin (Author)**

**Referred: August 25, 2025**

**Due: February 23, 2026**

**Recommendation:** That the City Council:

1. Refer to the City Attorney and City Manager Amendments to the Berkeley Municipal Code (BMC) 12.98 to authorize the abatement of abandoned vehicles creating public health and safety nuisances in the public right-of-way, clarify the definition of "abandoned" vehicle, and increase the City Manager's discretion in the establishment of abatement timelines
2. Refer to the City Manager and City Attorney the study of recently adopted legislation across the nine-county Bay Area regarding the management of long-term large vehicle parking in the public right-of-way. Based on this study, staff shall return to the City Council with draft policy and enforcement recommendations that are:
  - Regionally consistent and legally defensible;
  - Aligned with the City of Berkeley's environmental, housing, and transportation priorities; and
  - Operationally feasible given available outreach, enforcement, and site capacity.
3. As part of this policy development process, the City Council requests that the City Manager and City Attorney examine the feasibility of geographically targeted parking restrictions in high-sensitivity areas, including but not limited to:
  - Manufacturing and industrial zones designated by an "M" zoning classification; and
  - Environmentally sensitive water resources, including but not limited to open lagoons, riparian corridors, and critical stormwater infrastructure,as well as examine to what extent, given the city's financial constraints and operational capacity, the city may enhance the impact and scale of its coordinated alternative housing initiatives via participation in a county-wide RV parking program or joining a comparable program maintained in a neighboring jurisdiction.
4. Additionally, the City Council requests that the City Attorney and City Manager provide clarity and guidance on how the city's encampment resolution policy intersects with the Berkeley Municipal Code in the absence of shelter availability.
5. Further that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to waive non-voter-approved purchasing and bid requirements and waive the City Manager's expenditure authority up to \$250,000 to enter into contracts pursuant to BMC 12.98.040(A).

(This item contains revised material)

**Financial Implications:** See report.

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** 2 speakers. No discussion. Item continued to a future meeting.

## Committee Action Items

### 6. Entertainment Zone Ordinance

**From: Councilmember Taplin (Author), Councilmember Kesarwani (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Lunaparra (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Blackaby (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: January 5, 2026**

**Due: June 8, 2026**

**Recommendation:** Refer for drafting to the City Attorney an ordinance enabling entertainment zones in Berkeley:

Refer to the City Manager for the initiation of a merchant stakeholder engagement process and develop entertainment zone management plans for potential zones in the vicinity of the following locations and organizational leads:

1. Downtown Business Association
2. Gilman District Merchants Association
3. South Side Telegraph Business Improvement District
4. San Pablo University Avenue Association

**Financial Implications:** See report

Contact: Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

**Action:** 6 speakers. No discussion. Item continued to a future meeting.

### 7. Citywide Guidelines on Artificial Intelligence

**From: Councilmember O'Keefe (Author), Councilmember Blackaby (Co-Sponsor)**

**Referred: January 5, 2026**

**Due: June 8, 2026**

**Recommendation:** Refer to the City Manager to develop official, citywide guidelines for the secure, ethical, and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools by City of Berkeley employees. The policy should align with Berkeley's values, promote innovation and progress, and safeguard privacy and public trust.

The City Manager should review policies adopted by other California cities and develop Berkeley-specific principles to guide staff usage of AI. The following principles should form the foundation of Berkeley's policy:

1. Create safeguards against introduction of bias through use of AI systems
2. Protect data privacy and ensure cybersecurity compliance
3. Maintain human oversight and accountability
4. Explore opportunities to integrate AI into operations management
5. Foster collaboration and cross-departmental exchange of AI knowledge
6. Ensure transparency and compliance with Public Records Laws
7. Periodic review and improvement

Developing a clear and responsible AI policy will help the City of Berkeley harness emerging technologies to better serve the community while upholding equity, integrity, and public confidence in city operations and services.

**Financial Implications:** Staff time

Contact: Shoshana O'Keefe, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150

**Action:** 4 speakers. No discussion. Item continued to a future meeting.

## 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.*

- 8. Discussion Item: Children's Hospital of Oakland Labor Matter**  
**From: Councilmember Tregub**  
Contact: Igor Tregub, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140
- 9. Discussion Item: Small Business Support Act**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author)**  
**Recommendation:** That the City Manager and Finance Department amend the City of Berkeley business license process and requirements to promote transparency between the City and small business owners and lower burdensome barriers to entry for new business owners. Such amendments shall include the following:
  1. Establish a business license amnesty program
  2. Establish a Small Business Support and Retention Emergency Grant
  3. Create a Small Business Ombudsman
  4. Promote greater transparency about the business licensing process.These actions will support small business creation and retention. The close relationship between the people of Berkeley, our small businesses, and the City is essential to making our community thrive.  
**Financial Implications:** See Report  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130
- 10. Discussion Item: Impact Bond**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett (Author)**  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130
- 11. Discussion Item: Sutter Health East Bay Expansion**  
**From: Councilmember Tregub**  
Contact: Igor Tregub, Councilmember, District 4, (510) 981-7140
- 12. Discussion Item: Specialized Care Unit**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett**  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130
- 13. Discussion Item: Mental Health Services in Berkeley**  
**From: Councilmember Bartlett**  
Contact: Ben Bartlett, Councilmember, District 3, (510) 981-7130
- 14. Discussion Item: Alternative Housing Options Report**  
**From: Councilmember O'Keefe**  
Contact: Shoshana O'Keefe, Councilmember, District 5, (510) 981-7150

## Items for Future Agendas

- None

Councilmember Bartlett absent 3:51 p.m. – 3:56 p.m.

## Adjournment

**Action:** M/S/C (Tregub/O'Keefe) to adjourn the meeting.

**Vote:** Ayes – Tregub, O'Keefe; Noes – None; Abstain – None; Absent - Bartlett

Adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct record of the Health, Life Enrichment, Equity & Community Committee meeting held on January 28, 2026.

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Keith Nesbit, 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, and are available upon request by contacting the City Clerk Department at (510) 981-6908 or [policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov).*