

## **Communications – May 14, 2024**

*Council rules limit action on Communications to referral to the City Manager and/or Boards and Commissions for investigation and/or recommendations. All communications submitted to Council are public record.*

### **Item #19: Support SB 1060**

1. Barbara Gilbert
2. Kelly Hammargren

### **Bikers on Tilden Running Path**

3. Anne Marie

### **50/50 Sidewalk Repair**

4. Stephen Rosenbaum (2)

### **Cannabis Sales around Berkeley High School**

5. Amanda Hickman

### **Vehicle Noise Activated Camera Enforcement**

6. Alex Merenkov

### **Peace and Justice Commission**

7. Andrea Valverde
8. Elizabeth Sufit
9. Joshua Spivak
10. Leo Mara
11. Beth Jacobson Wilson
12. Patricia Munro
13. 12 similarly-worded form letters

### **Biolab Watch**

14. UC Berkeley Planning

### **Berkeley Landfill**

15. James McGrath

### **Aurora Theater**

16. Carol Hirth
17. Virginia Morris
18. Margaret Perchert
19. Toni Casal
20. Josh Costello

### **Parking Tickets**

21. David Lerman

**A Safe Place Invitation**

22. Carolyn Russell, Executive Director

**Zero Waste Strategic Plan**

23. Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn

**Ohlone Greenway**

24. Diana Bohn

**District 4 Assistance**

25. Luis Orozco

**Chess Club**

26. Jesse Sheehan

**Berkeley Unified School District**

27. Aaron Katler

**Middle East Conflict**

28. David Shere

29. Max Joyce

30. Russell Bates (2)

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** bgilbertca@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 30, 2024 3:24 PM  
**To:** bgilbertca@aol.com  
**Subject:** Home Insurance Dropped Due to Density Issues

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

It may be time to seriously re-think Berkeley's density mania and all the policies flowing from it. This insurance matter is extremely serious for individuals and the City as a whole. Follow the facts and be willing to change course. See:

[https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/home-insurance-density-renewal-19361963.php?utm\\_content=cta&sid=565648aa18ff43f9648b6843&ss=A&st\\_rid=43f87998-de9e-453d-af7c-6e9abd11028f&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=headlines&utm\\_campaign=sfc\\_morningfix](https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/home-insurance-density-renewal-19361963.php?utm_content=cta&sid=565648aa18ff43f9648b6843&ss=A&st_rid=43f87998-de9e-453d-af7c-6e9abd11028f&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=sfc_morningfix)

*Sincerely, Barbara*

**Barbara Gilbert**  
**Vincente Avenue**  
**Berkeley, CA 94707-1520**

**Phone: 510-559-8216**  
**E-mail: [bgilbertca@aol.com](mailto:bgilbertca@aol.com)**

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** kelly hammargren <kellyhammargren@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 9:28 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Insurers dropping Home Insurance due to density - INSIDE >> A San Francisco Chronicle article has been shared with you

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

In case you do not wish to use the gifted link from my SF Chronicle subscription look for the article "Californians' home insurance is being dropped due to 'density.' What does that mean?" by Megan Fan Munce published on March 30, 2024

The article is quite short. The reason I am sending it to you is, you are considering agenda items that decrease setbacks and increase density.

Securing home owner insurance is already a problem in high fire areas / high risk areas. What has never been part of the discussion in zoning changes in Berkeley is how those changes to increase density may impact whether the buildings can be insured. This is a new twist to an existing problem.

kelly Hammargren

**THE LINK -**

**A subscriber has shared the following San Francisco Chronicle article with you.**

**You have full access to it - no paywall! Just click on the link to start reading.**

**California insurers are dropping homes due to 'density'**

[https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/home-insurance-density-renewal-19361963.php?utm\\_content=cta&sid=5452ca243b35d010308d5dde&ss=P&st\\_rid=2e040093-7109-49e6-a2ab-4374e34c47d9&utm\\_source=marketing&utm\\_medium=copy-url-link&utm\\_term=headlines&utm\\_campaign=article-share&hash=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2ZjaHJvbmljbGUuY29tL2NhbGlmb3JuaWEvYXJ0aWNsZS9ob21lLWluc3VyYW5jZS1kZW5zaXR5LXJlbnV3YWwtMTkzNjE5NjMucGhw&time=MTcxMjM3NjYyMzAyNQ%3D%3D&rid=NDg3YTY4MTQtNTY1NjY0OjBjBjIltk4YzYtY2RiMjFIZWl5OTZh&sharecount=MA%3D%3D](https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/home-insurance-density-renewal-19361963.php?utm_content=cta&sid=5452ca243b35d010308d5dde&ss=P&st_rid=2e040093-7109-49e6-a2ab-4374e34c47d9&utm_source=marketing&utm_medium=copy-url-link&utm_term=headlines&utm_campaign=article-share&hash=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc2ZjaHJvbmljbGUuY29tL2NhbGlmb3JuaWEvYXJ0aWNsZS9ob21lLWluc3VyYW5jZS1kZW5zaXR5LXJlbnV3YWwtMTkzNjE5NjMucGhw&time=MTcxMjM3NjYyMzAyNQ%3D%3D&rid=NDg3YTY4MTQtNTY1NjY0OjBjBjIltk4YzYtY2RiMjFIZWl5OTZh&sharecount=MA%3D%3D)

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** AnneMarie <annemarieinsf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 10:21 AM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: Bikers in Tilden ruining the path  
**Attachments:** image0.jpeg; image1.jpeg; image2.jpeg; image3.jpeg

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi City of Berkeley,

Who would be able to help with the following?

There are two guys (probably more throughout the day) who are biking through an area in Tilden that is for hikers only and making the trails worse.

A few days ago I told them bikes aren't allowed here. They said thank you. And then yesterday they zoomed by again. If I didn't move out of the way fast enough, one would have hit me. He was going down the hill at a high speed and the trail was narrow at that point. So aside from them ruining the path, they are putting hikers at risk.

To be fair, they may be entering the path where a no biking sign is not present. See below how one sign has no biking and the following one up to Peak Trail (from the petting zoo) doesn't.

Then again I let them know and they refuse to stop biking there. Below is a photo of the slower of the two bikers.

They are out on the trail leading up to Peak Trail around 5:30 - 6 pm.

Which department enforces the no biking rule and can help me get these guys off the road?

Also, who can install more clear no biking signs so as to preserve our paths?

AnneMarie









**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Stephen ROSENBAUM <rosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 8:42 AM  
**To:** Kong, Wai  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Re: 50/50 Sidewalk Repair

Thanks, Randy. So I take it that any sidewalk work on corners is not the responsibility of homeowners?? Either way, these generalized notices need to spell out the homeowners' specific financial obligations. I would appreciate you conveying that to City Manager.

SR

Stephen A. Rosenbaum, MPP, JD (he/him/él)  
University of California, Berkeley

*I acknowledge and pay respect to the xučyun (Huichin), traditional custodians  
of unceded territory on which UC Berkeley sits, and to their elders past,  
present and future.*

Frank C. Newman Lecturer in Law  
Visiting Researcher Scholar, O&B Institute  
Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative  
Pro Bono Counsel, La Raza Centro Legal  
[SSRN](#) / [Bio](#)

On Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 8:32 AM Kong, Wai <[WKong@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:WKong@berkeleyca.gov)> wrote:

Good morning Stephen,

Contractor, Sposeto Engineering, will be performing some concrete work at the corners of Miliva/Francisco before the repaving of Milvia. The concrete work will be limited to the corners of the intersection and some possible some replacement of existing deteriorated storm drain pipe connecting the corners of the intersection.

Paving contractor, JV Lucas, will be responsible for the repaving of Miliva after the concrete work is complete.

Thanks

Randy (Wai) Kong

City of Berkeley Engineering Division

1947 Center Street, 4th Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704-1196

Office: (510) 981-6412

Cell: (510) 423-8419

wkong@berkeleyca.gov

**From:** Stephen ROSENBAUM <[srosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:srosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:06 AM

**To:** Kong, Wai <[WKong@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:WKong@berkeleyca.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: 50/50 Sidewalk Repair

Thanks, Wai.

1716 Milvia

Stephen A. Rosenbaum, MPP, JD (he/him/él)

University of California, Berkeley

*I acknowledge and pay respect to the xučyun (Huichin), traditional custodians*

*of unceded territory on which UC Berkeley sits, and to their elders past,*

*present and future.*

Frank C. Newman Lecturer in Law

Visiting Researcher Scholar, O&B Institute

Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative

Pro Bono Counsel, La Raza Centro Legal

SSRN / Bio

On Wed, Apr 24, 2024 at 7:56 AM Kong, Wai <[WKong@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:WKong@berkeleyca.gov)> wrote:

Good morning Stephen,

Thanks for reaching out with the question, can you provide me an address so I can look up the relevant information about the repair and the 50/50 cost associated with the repair.

Thanks

Randy (Wai) Kong

City of Berkeley Engineering Division

1947 Center Street, 4th Floor

Berkeley, CA 94704-1196

Office: (510) 981-6412

Cell: (510) 423-8419

[wkong@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:wkong@berkeleyca.gov)

**From:** Stephen ROSENBAUM <[srosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:srosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:43 PM

**To:** MacArthur, Matthew <[MMacArthur@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:MMacArthur@berkeleyca.gov)>; Kong, Wai <[WKong@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:WKong@berkeleyca.gov)>;  
[Johns@sposetoengineering.com](mailto:Johns@sposetoengineering.com)

Cc: All Council <[council@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:council@berkeleyca.gov)>

Subject: 50/50 Sidewalk Repair

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matthew, Wai and John,

There is **no mention** in the generic, un-addressed flyer tucked under my doormat this evening of **who/what/when re payment** for sidewalk repair in front of my home.

At what point do you intend to inform homeowners? Are you just planning to submit an invoice after the fact--with no estimate and no opportunity to select another contractor? I live in City Council District 4, currently without a sitting Council Member.

I'm expecting one of you to provide clear answers **before any work is undertaken and to issue new notices** to every homeowner who received this notice--clarifying our responsibilities. Do not assume that we're all well-versed on "50/50," even if you think this information was provided earlier in a separate notice. If I have misinterpreted this flyer re the meaning of 50/50, I sincerely apologize.

Thank you.

Stephen Rosenbaum

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Stephen ROSENBAUM <srosenbaum@law.berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:43 PM  
**To:** MacArthur, Matthew; Kong, Wai; Johns@sposetoengineering.com  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** 50/50 Sidewalk Repair

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Matthew, Wai and John,

There is **no mention** in the generic, un-addressed flyer tucked under my doormat this evening of **who/what/when re payment** for sidewalk repair in front of my home.

At what point do you intend to inform homeowners? Are you just planning to submit an invoice after the fact--with no estimate and no opportunity to select another contractor? I live in City Council District 4, currently without a sitting Council Member.

I'm expecting one of you to provide clear answers **before any work is undertaken and to issue new notices** to every homeowner who received this notice--clarifying our responsibilities. Do not assume that we're all well-versed on "50/50," even if you think this information was provided earlier in a separate notice. If I have misinterpreted this flyer re the meaning of 50/50, I sincerely apologize.

Thank you.

Stephen Rosenbaum

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Amanda Hickman <amanda@velociraptor.info>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Cannabis sales in and around Berkeley High

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am the parent of a 14yo freshman at Berkeley High. My child has always struggled to thrive at school, and I was disappointed, but not shocked, when he got to Berkeley High and immediately gravitated to cannabis.

What did surprise me was how accessible cannabis, nicotine and alcohol are, in and around Berkeley High.

Sales and consumption are rampant in the hallways and bathrooms of Berkeley High, as well as in City Hall Park and the Crescent Lawn of UC Berkeley where many teens congregate after school.

I fully supported and support legalization of cannabis. However, it is neither safe, nor responsible, to look the other way as teenagers access cannabis, and yet that is exactly what we are doing.

As far as I can tell, the Berkeley High administration is utterly powerless to address the issue on campus, and Berkeley PD has no interest in addressing it in the parks.

As Berkeley parents we have no alternative to Berkeley High. There is no closed campus alternative, which means that it is up to the City of Berkeley to meaningfully enforce basic laws about selling and consuming controlled substances, including cannabis and nicotine, in the parks around Berkeley High.

I realize that BHS is an award winning school with plenty to be proud of. But for a great many students, it is actually a place where they're destined to get lost.

Our child was struggling with addiction within a month at Berkeley High, and all of the guidance and literature and research says that supporting our child's connection and self esteem, while letting the phenomenal world dole out consequences, is the best way we can intervene. That utterly falls apart when there are no consequences for either selling or using.

I am begging the City to direct BPD to take drug sales, including cannabis and nicotine, much more seriously, especially in the areas around Berkeley High.

Our children deserve better.

Thank you,

Amanda Hickman

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Alexander (Alex) Merenkov <alexmerenkov@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:15 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Cc:** Valle, Matthew; BPD Webmail  
**Subject:** Vehicle Noise Activated Camera Enforcement

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Council and BPD,

I live next to Milvia and Kittredge and I notice extremely loud cars and vehicles regularly that are disruptive at all hours of the day often 3-4am. I'm asking if you could explore joining the state's pilot programs for systems like sound activated camera enforcement to fine vehicles that come into our city to joy ride who have illegally and purposefully modified their vehicles to emit excessive noise.

I would like to see these downtown and would be supportive of any measures to fund such efforts as well.

Thanks for looking into this and lending your support to enforcement efforts on this.

- **Sound-Activated Camera B**  
California has initiated a pilot  
sound-activated cameras to  
regulations. This program, v  
January 2023 to December  
tested in six cities across th  
cameras are triggered by no  
exceed legal limits, and fine  
subsequent violations after

Sincerely,

Alex S. Merenkov  
[alexmerenkov@gmail.com](mailto:alexmerenkov@gmail.com)

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Andrea Valverde <teodora33@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:28 PM  
**To:** Manager, C; Vance-Dozier, Okeya; All Council; Hahn, Sophie; Wengraf, Susan; Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Shameful Sophie Hahn to Terminate Nimrod Elias from Peace

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear City Manager Ovance-Dozier and Councilmember Hahn,

It has come to the Berkeley community's attention that D5 Councilmember Sophie Hahn appointed a violent aggressor named Nimrod Pitsker Elias to the city's Peace and Justice Commission in early 2024.

I am emailing you with the urgent request to immediately terminate Nimrod Pitsker Elias from his position on this commission.

At a Berkeley City Council meeting on March 26th, 2024, Nimrod was identified as part of a group of men physically harassing a seated, peaceful Palestinian woman in two widely circulated videos that have been posted to social media. In the videos, Nimrod can be seen turning to the seated woman, filming her from inches away despite her face being blocked with a paper barrier. He reaches around it twice, violently thrusting his phone into the woman's face twice in what certainly appears to be an assault. The woman, who had been facing away from him and chanting peacefully, reacted to this sudden aggression by grabbing the blunt object being pushed into her face and quickly removing it from her personal space in self-defense. Several witnesses observed Nimrod's out-of-control aggression towards the woman in person, and others noted that another man- who appears to be a friend of Nimrod's'- had already physically intimidated her minutes before that same night. Nimrod's behavior contributed to a disgusting display of men employing physical intimidation and harassment tactics against women that our community will not stand for.

The people of Berkeley, especially the women, vehemently condemn mayoral-hopeful Sophie Hahn's decision to appoint such a dangerous man to the so-called "Peace and Justice" commission of Berkeley and her decision to continue to support him. This is not the first time that Hahn has aligned herself with violent men; she publicly supported genocidist Ran Bar Yoshafat's speaking engagement at UC Berkeley, she is friends with Tyler Gregory, the CEO of JCRC (an organization responsible for inciting violence against anti-genocide activists) and she walked in the 'Liberate The Gate' event at UC

Berkeley (which was organized in collaboration with the JCRC) where a protestor committed a hate crime by tearing through a banner celebrating Ramadan. The poor judgment and consistent lack of consideration for women demonstrated by Sophie Hahn is such that I could never vote for her as mayor of our great city, and will be sharing these reasons with members of my community to encourage them to do the same.

Please show some respect to Berkeley's women and terminate Nimrod Pitsker Elias' position on the Peace and Justice Commission immediately.

Sincerely,  
Concerned Berkeley Resident  
Andrea V, 94702

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Liz Sufit <sufitscott@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 4:58 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Harassment at the Berkeley Peace and Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I was aghast at the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

To presume to know what an individual believes and stands for by their identity is unfair at best, and bigoted at worse. To target individuals because of their identity or by assumptions of their views is patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace. Jews have stood beside many different groups - Blacks, LGBTQA, immigrants, and Muslims - to show solidarity and fight for broad civil liberties for generations.

The March 26, 2024 Berkeley City Council meeting was interrupted by shouting and commotion. Dozens of anti-Israel protesters engaged in what Mayor Arreguin called "hateful and deeply antisemitic behavior." Commissioner Elias was a victim of such behavior at that meeting. There is clear video evidence from his phone and from other footage shot at the meeting that shows he was peacefully panning the room with his phone, taking video of the protesters' harassing and abusive behavior, when the woman sitting next to him violently wrenched his phone away and threw it towards the city council members. This action caused Commissioner Elias to lose his balance, and he fell into a 68-year-old woman sitting on his other side, knocking her over.

Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. The meetings should reflect the very name and purpose of the commission. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Sufit

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Joshua Spivak <joshuaspivak@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 4:48 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya; All Council  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Peace and Justice Commissioner Nimrod Elias

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Peace and Justice Commission  
Okeya Vance-Dozier  
City Manager's Office  
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Chair Morizawa,

I am writing to urge you to strongly oppose the despicable harassment campaign targeting Peace and Justice Commissioner Nimrod Elias.

I have known Nimrod for two decades and, beyond his strong record of achievement as a public servant, have witnessed his dedication to helping others.

This, I'm sure, is not news to you or anyone else in Berkeley who has dealt with Nimrod. As you are undoubtedly aware, there is ongoing hate campaign targeting Nimrod and other Jewish Commissioners.

During the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting, commentators made false accusations against commissioners in order to incite hatred and try and force dedicated members off the board. The same people have decided to try and take over city council meetings, operating with contempt for the law, as they try to intimidate, both physically and verbally, any who disagree with them or even those just looking for the council to work properly.

As someone who has spent decades studying thousands of break-downs in local government and communities, I can tell you that rewarding mobs who look to intimidation tactics never ends well, either for elected officials or the community as a whole.

I ask you to stand up for the community and reject the hateful views of this mob who are disgracefully targeting individuals because of their identity. We as a community rely on your continued stalwart defense against this unconscionable behavior.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Spivak

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Leo Mara <provega350@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 2:54 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission (P&JC)

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am upset by some comments made at the April 8, 2024 P&JC meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners.

The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the P&JC and the attempts to remove them is not in keeping with the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

Commissioner Elias is a member of Berkeley's Jewish community. I stand with him. I condemn efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

During the meeting, dozens of anti-Israel protesters engaged in hateful and deeply antisemitic behavior. A woman took Commissioner Elias' phone and threw it at the city council. He lost his balance and fell into a 68 year old woman knocking her over.

Please make sure future PJC meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner.

Thank you,  
Make Someone Smile  
(it can be you 😊)  
Leo M. Mara

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Beth Wilson <batyaw33@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 2:35 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Meeting

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I am a 50-year East Bay resident and an acquaintance and former teacher of Nimrod Elias. I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Mr. Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,  
Beth Jacobson Wilson

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Patricia Munro <patriciakeermunro@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 1:05 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Regarding the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission's actions of April 8, 2024

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

As a former elected official, I am well aware of how annoying a set of identical emails can be--regardless of the topic. In this case, I have read the letter below carefully and believe it expresses my personal beliefs as well or better than I could. What you have allowed to happen is, indeed, appalling. Particularly at a commission that claims to stand for Peace and Justice. Particularly when the accusations are directed at a man who has exemplified working for a more just world.

I have known Nimrod Pitsker Elias since he was a boy. He has never been anything but kind, compassionate, and thoughtful. He chose a career in law to serve others. That you choose to slander him is--well, I'll repeat myself: appalling. For shame.

As noted above, this letter speaks for me:

I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

During the March 26, 2024 Berkeley City Council meeting, dozens of anti-Israel protesters engaged in what Mayor Arreguin called "hateful and deeply antisemitic behavior." Commissioner Elias was a victim of such behavior at that meeting. There is clear video evidence from his phone and from other footage shot at the meeting that shows he was peacefully panning the room with his phone, taking video of the protesters' harassing and abusive behavior, when the woman sitting next to him violently wrenched his phone away and threw it towards the city council members. This action caused Commissioner Elias to lose his balance, and he fell into a 68-year-old woman sitting on his other side, knocking her over.

Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Substack: <https://questionassumptions.substack.com/>

Available from Rutgers: [Coming of Age in Jewish America: Bar and Bat Mitzvah Reinterpreted](#)

It is always more complicated, takes longer, and costs more than you imagine. Do it anyway.

Together we can be the heroes we've been searching for.

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Dr. Steven Williams <DrSteveWilliams@mb2dental.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 1:57 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

During the March 26, 2024 Berkeley City Council meeting, dozens of anti-Israel protesters engaged in what Mayor Arreguin called "hateful and deeply antisemitic behavior." Commissioner Elias was a victim of such behavior at that meeting. There is clear video evidence from his phone and from other footage shot at the meeting that shows he was peacefully panning the room with his phone, taking video of the protesters' harassing and abusive behavior, when the woman sitting next to him violently wrenched his phone away and threw it towards the city council members. This action caused Commissioner Elias to lose his balance, and he fell into a 68-year-old woman sitting on his other side, knocking her over.

Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Steven Williams, DMD  
Endodontist / Livermore, CA

Sent from my iPhone

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Michelle Brenner <michelle.a.brenner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 4:49 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

As a Berkeley resident of three years, I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to “three Zionists” were blatantly antisemitic with ‘Zionist’ being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

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Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley’s Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Brenner

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** elkinsecon@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 5:06 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

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Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

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Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

Regards,  
Steve Elkins  
Cal '74  
612-578-2103

## **Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Monica Renner <hellomono@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 5:44 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

As a Berkeley resident of 14 years, I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to “three Zionists” were blatantly antisemitic with ‘Zionist’ being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission’s mission of pursuing justice and peace.

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Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

Monica

## Benado, Tony

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**From:** Yoni Brenner <yonibrenner@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 6:04 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I am stunned and horrified by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

I know Nimrod personally. I have brought my son to his house for playdates, and I have found him to be a kind, thoughtful, honest and extremely civic minded person. He is a devoted father, and a generous friend. He cares deeply about the interconnected communities he inhabits: the local Jewish community, the City of Berkeley, the United States and the larger Jewish community in and outside of Israel.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

During the March 26, 2024 Berkeley City Council meeting, dozens of anti-Israel protesters engaged in what Mayor Arreguin called "hateful and deeply antisemitic behavior." Commissioner Elias was a victim of such behavior at that meeting. There is clear video evidence from his phone and from other footage shot at the meeting that shows he was peacefully panning the room with his phone, taking video of the protesters' harassing and abusive behavior, when the woman sitting next to him violently wrenched his phone away and threw it towards the city council members. This action caused Commissioner Elias to lose his balance, and he fell into a 68-year-old woman sitting on his other side, knocking her over.

Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

Jonathan (Yoni) Brenner

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Sima Pearce <pearcesima@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 7:07 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

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Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

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Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

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Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,  
Sima Pearce

Sent from my iPhone

## **Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Mimi Kravetz <mimikravetz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 9:38 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** Lee Kravetz; All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I was appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

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Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled.

Our family knows Commissioner Elias well. He is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and we stand with him. We condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

During this time when antisemitism in our country is out of control, the actions you and your committee take can make a huge difference to the feeling of safety for the Jewish community in Berkeley and can advance progress towards true peace and justice.

Sincerely,

Mimi and Lee Kravetz

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** LIBBIE NORTON <libton@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2024 6:59 AM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

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Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

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Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

*Libbie Norton*  
*Walnut Creek*

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Kip Anderson <kipellen@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2024 10:17 AM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

To say that I am appalled and unhappy with how people are allowed to use hate speech, with no repercussions, in public settings, is an understatement. Do something about these people - hold them accountable, arrest them, make clear Berkeley will not be a party to this kind of behavior. Why are you allowing this in your meetings? Anyone else who hurled these types of epithets at other groups of people would be roundly critiqued as "racist". Apparently, saying terrible things about Jewish people is okay? Ridiculous and you are encouraging rampant anti-semitism as well. I have had enough. I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

Targeting individuals because of their identity or presumed views is bigoted and patently unjust. The suggestion that Jews should not serve on the Peace and Justice Commission and the attempts to remove them is antithetical to the Commission's mission of pursuing justice and peace.

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Commissioner Elias reported the violent theft of his phone to the nearest police officer. The perpetrator refused to give her name to the police and fled. And of course, nobody bothered to pursue her and make this woman accountable for her behavior??!!! Again, unacceptable for city officials not to take a strong stand.

Commissioner Elias is a thoughtful, kind, and respected member of Berkeley's Jewish community, and I stand with him. I condemn the slanderous attacks on his good name, and the efforts to intimidate and browbeat Jewish commissioners off of the PJC.

Please ensure that future Peace and Justice Commission meetings are safe spaces, in which all residents are welcome and can express their thoughts in a civil manner. I ask that you please make a public announcement at future meetings that disrespectful, harassing, or abusive behavior towards any individual or group will not be tolerated at Peace and Justice Commission meetings.

Sincerely,

Kip Anderson

## Benado, Tony

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**From:** Toby Kahan <tobyk100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 8:18 AM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

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Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Tobias Kahan

## Benado, Tony

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**From:** Aziza Mara <azizamara1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 11:35 AM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

Let me start by saying that I've known Nimrod and his family since he was a little boy. I was his Hebrew School teacher, as well as a family friend. I watched nimrod grow up and blossom into a wonderful human being, who cares about his friends, family, and community. He is a definite asset to our community, and should be highly valued by us all.

I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

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Sincerely,

AZIZA MARA



**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Eva Holtz <evaholtz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2024 12:50 PM  
**To:** Vance-Dozier, Okeya  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Disrespectful, harassing, and abusive behavior at the Berkeley Peace & Justice Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair Morizawa and Commissioners,

I am writing about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias. I have known him for years and know him to be a good person; we grew up together in Livermore, where we attended camp and school together.

I am appalled by the comments made at the April 8, 2024 Peace and Justice Commission meeting. Numerous speakers made slanderous and false allegations about Commissioner Nimrod Pitsker Elias and two other Jewish commissioners. Multiple references to "three Zionists" were blatantly antisemitic with 'Zionist' being used a slur and dog whistle for Jews.

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Sincerely,

Eva Holtz

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** UC Berkeley Planning <planning@berkeley.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 8:42 AM  
**To:** Biolab Watch  
**Cc:** All Council; info@biosafetynow.org; INFO@sfbaypsr.org; Jeremy Gruber; Perls, Dana; Darnovsky, Marcy; Jaydee Hanson; Jonathan Latham; diananaava@gmail.com; Norsigian, Judy; Bob Phelps; Stop Designer Babies; Hans R Herren; anne@globaljusticeecology.org; Steve Suppan; Guazzelli, Maria Jose; Claire Bleakley; Newman, Stuart  
**Subject:** Re: ATTN: Ralph Breines RE Innovation Zone CEQA questions from Biolab Watch

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Tina Stevens,

Thank you for your interest in this project. I apologize for the delayed response. UC Berkeley is preparing individual responses to Biolab Watch's 31 questions. Responses will be included in the Final EIR for the Berkeley Innovation Zone project. The Final EIR will be published on Monday, April 29, and I will send you a link to the document then.

-Raphael

On Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 8:00 AM Biolab Watch <[biolabwatch2@humanebiotech.org](mailto:biolabwatch2@humanebiotech.org)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Breines,

Biolab Watch contacted your office on March 25, 2024 to relate that its 31 questions, submitted to UC Berkeley as part of the CEQA process for the planned Innovation Zone biolabs, had not been answered in UCB's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Although the questions appear in the DEIR appendices, they are not substantively addressed.

Having received no acknowledgement of this oversight, we are contacting you again to request that this error be remedied with timeliness, transparency, and with adequate opportunity for the public to assess answers. For your convenience, the questions are, again, attached.

Sincerely,

Tina Stevens, PhD  
for [Biolab Watch](#)

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++++  
Physical and Environmental Planning  
300 A&E Building  
UC Berkeley

website: [capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu](http://capitalstrategies.berkeley.edu)

phone: (510) 643-4793

email: [planning@berkeley.edu](mailto:planning@berkeley.edu)

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** James McGrath <macmcgrath@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:45 AM  
**To:** All Council  
**Cc:** kelly hammargren; iris@berkeleyside.org  
**Subject:** Berkeley Landfill  
**Attachments:** Landfill.docx

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached is a letter regarding the recent off-calendar letter by the city manager.

Jim McGrath  
2301 Russell Street  
Berkeley, CA 94705  
April 24, 2024

Berkeley City Council  
2180 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
Via e-mail

SUBJECT: Berkeley Landfill

Dear Mayor and Council members:

I write in response to an April 18, 2024, off-calendar letter regarding Berkeley Landfill. I have followed this matter with interest as a former regulator of that landfill and as an advocate for Cesar Chavez Park, our largest and most bedraggled park. I obtained a copy of the 2018 report by SCS on the landfill; I urge you all to obtain a copy and read it.

In almost all human endeavors, people make mistakes. Things are more complicated than anticipated, resources are limited and so forth. To make progress, we need to examine our mistakes and look for the root causes. The off-calendar letter is not an accurate summary of the SCS report and does not contribute to a learning organization.

According to the off-calendar letter, the problems with moisture in the landfill were a result of heavy rain in 2019. "In 2019, a significant buildup of liquid in the GCCS impeded the flow of gases to the flare. The consensus between the City and SCS was that the liquid buildup was a result of particularly wet weather during the winter of 2019-2020." That is not true. When landfills are closed, they are covered with a low-permeability cap and then they are recontoured so that surface runoff is drained with only minimal penetration of the landfill. Even a low-permeability cap can allow water into the underlying sanitary landfill if surface water is not directed away. As the Air District noted, a well-maintained landfill is not subject to substantial water intrusion.

In the case of Berkeley landfill, the problems of water penetrating the landfill cover were present before 2019. This quote from the 2018 SCS report makes that clear: "We attribute the shutdowns to liquid blockages in the GCCS collection header and lateral piping,". The report goes on to identify four low spots that are probably accounting for these problems. The report makes it clear that the water problems need to be addressed, noting: "...trouble free operation and compliance with new permit conditions will be problematic without ...collection system modifications."

I disagree with the suggestion of the city manager in the off-calendar letter that:

In 2018, SCS provided the City with an evaluation of various potential upgrades to the GCCS that included a complete replacement estimated to cost \$2M. SCS advised that a

replacement would not be cost effective: naturally declining amounts of gas meant that a new gas collection and control system would have a relatively short lifespan.

It was not an all or nothing question, and the city's consultants informed the city in the 2018 report that they would not be able to obtain a waiver from collecting methane and should expect to continue to collect it for another 10 years. They provided the city with multiple options to address the water problems and identified the four areas where the most serious problems seemed to be.

Attributing the city's lack of action to the conclusion of SCS that replacing the *entire* collection system was not cost-effective is disingenuous. The 2018 SCS report makes clear the urgency of the problem:

Public safety and the City's ability to achieve regulatory compliance would be significantly compromised if the City takes no further action

A recommendation from your consultant that public safety would be compromised, and the continued discharge of a very powerful global warming gas were apparently not enough to stir the city to action. It is not clear that the city implemented any of the options in the SCS report and has taken 6 years and multiple notices of violations for this matter to come to public attention.

Without accountability and realistic post-mortems when mistakes are made, there will be no improvement.

Very truly yours,

Jim McGrath

Copies: Kelly Hammergren, Iris Kwok

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Carol Hirth <chirth@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:04 PM  
**To:** Berkeley Mayor's Office; All Council  
**Subject:** Aurora Theater

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

I am writing in support of Aurora Theatre Company, a longstanding, celebrated, and beloved arts institution in Berkeley. For over 30 years, Aurora has inspired audiences, moved conversations forward, employed hundreds of local artists, held student matinee performances for Berkeley High and other schools, and brought thousands of people to the downtown area. [Here's a recent Chronicle article](#) about a play by a local playwright about a Berkeley school that Aurora developed and premiered opening on Broadway later this year – even as Aurora is facing a financial crisis.

Please consider providing Aurora with an emergency grant of \$500,000 so that they can continue to survive and thrive and contribute to the cultural life of Berkeley and the Bay Area. I ask that you put this on the agenda for the May 7 City Council meeting.

Aurora is facing a dire financial situation in the wake of the pandemic. For theaters across the Bay Area and the country, ticket sales have yet to return to pre-pandemic numbers. Aurora needs more time to rebuild its ticket sales and its income. A \$500,000 emergency grant would allow Aurora to move forward with its recently-announced 2024/2025 Season, continuing to rebuild its audience and reach new theatregoers.

In addition, I hope the city will consider providing a significant tax break to landlords who give free or reduced rent to nonprofit arts organizations. This incentive could be a game-changer for Aurora and other Berkeley institutions.

Berkeley is a special place in large part because of its arts and culture. As a professional theatre employing great local artists and telling stories that speak authentically to this community in the present moment, Aurora is a vital resource that cannot be allowed to disappear.

Thank you.  
Carol Hirth. 94702

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Ginger Morris <zingiberk@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 3:31 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Save our Arts

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Arreguín, Councilmember Taplin, and members of the Berkeley City Council,

I am writing in support of Aurora Theatre Company, a longstanding, celebrated, and beloved arts institution in Berkeley. For over 30 years, Aurora has inspired audiences, moved conversations forward, employed hundreds of local artists, held student matinee performances for Berkeley High and other schools, and brought thousands of people to the downtown area. [Here's a recent Chronicle article](#) about a play by a local playwright about a Berkeley school that Aurora developed and premiered opening on Broadway later this year – even as Aurora is facing a financial crisis.

Please consider providing Aurora with an emergency grant of \$500,000 so that they can continue to survive and thrive and contribute to the cultural life of Berkeley and the Bay Area. I ask that you put this on the agenda for the May 7 City Council meeting.

Aurora is facing a dire financial situation in the wake of the pandemic. For theaters across the Bay Area and the country, ticket sales have yet to return to pre-pandemic numbers. Aurora needs more time to rebuild its ticket sales and its income. A \$500,000 emergency grant would allow Aurora to move forward with its [recently-announced 2024/2025 Season](#), continuing to rebuild its audience and reach new theatregoers.

In addition, I hope the city will consider providing a significant tax break to landlords who give free or reduced rent to nonprofit arts organizations. This incentive could be a game-changer for Aurora and other Berkeley institutions.

Berkeley is a special place in large part because of its arts and culture. As a professional theatre employing great local artists and telling stories that speak authentically to this community in the present moment, Aurora is a vital resource that cannot be allowed to disappear.

Thank you.  
Virginia Morris  
2310 Acton Street  
Berkeley 94702

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** mperchert@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 11:06 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Aurora Theater

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Honorable Mayor & City Council Members of Berkeley

The purpose of this email is to request or if necessary, entreat you to place the Aurora Theater's petition on the agenda for the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The theater is in dire financial straits and faces closure without a successful fundraising campaign.

So, I'd like to ask the council to do anything in your power to help, or even beyond your belief in that power.

Arts are essential, especially theater arts. The lack of theater arts leaves a huge void in the human soul. In this era of misinformation and division, theater is more necessary than ever. As the Bard said, "Actors are the brief and abject chroniclers of the times. Better a bad epitaph after your death, than their ill report while thou dost live." (Forgive me Will if the quote isn't exact)

My dream is to have the Aurora Theater saved and for students to be fostered to attend their excellent productions (preferably in person). Two productions in the last few years serve as good examples. "Cyrano" and "Born with Teeth" (about Shakespeare & Marlowe).

In addition to the above, the theater is essential to the revitalization and recovery of downtown Berkeley. This is first and foremost to all of your goals.

I have had the pleasure and honor to attend productions since the beginning. They have brought great joy, thought, compassion, and understanding of the human condition. I invoke the spirit of the founder, Barbara Oliver, to guide you to make the right and just decision in helping the Aurora Theater to continue in its glorious quest.

Sincerely

Margaret Perchert

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Toni Casal <tonic59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 27, 2024 9:27 AM  
**To:** All Council; Kate H Consulting; Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Subject:** Aurora Theater

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Last night I happily attended the intimate Aurora theater and discovered they are in danger of going under. This cannot happen.

Our Berkeley theater district is a great source of civic pride and helps the downtown economy. The restaurant we visited pre-show was packed. The theater is also an employer.

We cannot have a theater district without theaters, plural. Please do what you can to save the Aurora. It is a community jewel.

(And much more affordable than her big sister, the Rep) Toni Casal

Sent from my iPhone

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Josh Costello <jcostello@auroratheatre.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:41 PM  
**To:** Hahn, Sophie  
**Cc:** Berkeley City Council Policy Committee; Arreguin, Jesse L.; Wengraf, Susan; Taplin, Terry; Hollander, Eleanor; Bellow, LaTanya; Williams-Ridley, Dee  
**Subject:** Re: Agenda Item Request

Hello again. We've now received over 1,000 signatures on a petition to the City Council in support of emergency funding for Aurora Theatre Company.

<https://chnng.it/rng6ZcvJS4>

We ask that you please include this in the agenda for the May 7 council meeting.

Thank you so much!

Josh Costello

sent from my phone

On Fri, Apr 12, 2024, 4:46 PM Josh Costello <jcostello@auroratheatre.org> wrote:

Thank you for this. Yes, I'm happy to provide more details about Aurora's finances, and how we arrived at this position.

It's been clear since the pandemic that what we do is unsustainable at current attendance numbers; we've made all the cuts we can without compromising the work on our stage. Our thinking has been that we won't be able to rebuild our audience and attract new audiences (and thus rebuild our income) without making inspiring theatre for our community. So, each year, we've had a planned deficit budget on the order of several hundred thousand dollars (our pre-pandemic annual budgets were between 2 and 2.5 million). This has been possible due to large one-time windfalls - over 1 million from the federal Shuttered Venues Operating Grants program, a series of large bequests, etc. -- and the savings we had prior to the pandemic. Each year, we've thought that the audience would gradually return to pre-pandemic numbers.

As with all theaters, our audiences have been much slower to return than we anticipated. This year, we have not received a windfall, and our savings is running out. Our board of directors has asked us to determine the amount of money we'd need to have in the bank in order to shut down responsibly -- paying our debts, giving the staff plenty of notice, and so forth. That amount is significant, and the board has instructed that we are not to dip below that amount. At the same time, the board has instructed that we must additionally have a sufficient amount in the bank to cover our anticipated deficit for our 2024/2025 Season before that season and fiscal year begin this August. The \$500,000 amount, along with all the budget cuts we can possibly find that would still allow us to produce plays, and along with various other fundraising measures we're taking, would give us another year to grow our audience to sustainable numbers while exploring ideas for alternate business models in case we're back in the same place a year from now. Of course, the hope is that the season we just announced will attract more people and our attendance and income will grow beyond our conservative projections!

A few other factors to bear in mind:

- The audiences we do have are going out of their way to let us know how inspired they are by our work since the pandemic and how much they value this organization.

- Unlike smaller theaters, we hire mainly union artists and we have a longstanding commitment to paying union rates even to our non-union artists.
- Unlike larger theaters, we hire local artists almost exclusively.
- We do not own our own building. Rent is a significant expense. Molly Gordon, our landlord, is sympathetic to our situation; tax relief would allow her to grant us a much-needed break on our rent.
- Foundations have been restructuring their procedures and priorities during the pandemic, leading to a decline in funding. We expect that foundation funding will return over time. We are also approaching our foundations for emergency funding.
- We are currently running an emergency funding campaign with our audiences and donors, generating widespread support. We hope to find a wealthy donor interested in making a transformative gift.
- As we move further from the height of the pandemic, more and more people will feel comfortable returning to live events. The Bay Area has lagged behind other regions in this, so seeing audiences fully return in London and other regions suggests that this is not a permanent situation.
- When I was hired as Artistic Director in 2019, my mandate was to build a younger and more diverse audience. The pandemic has slowed or stymied some of our plans for this, but we've still made exciting changes and we're starting to see results. For example, our new Community Partners program has us connecting with different local organizations in conjunction with each play. We partnered with Cafe Ohlone for our recent production of *Manhatta*, holding events together and giving their constituencies an introduction to Aurora. With time, this kind of work can inspire more and more people to become theatregoers.

So, to summarize, Aurora has successfully navigated a near-impossible situation for some time, but we have now reached an inflection point. We tried to delay asking for emergency funding -- from our audiences, our foundations, and the city of Berkeley -- for as long as we could. But as the numbers came in over the course of the first two-thirds of our 23/24 season, and as the board absorbed the numbers and teased out the implications, we reached the point at which we need to ask for help.

Aurora has so much more wonderful work to do. Theatre brings people together and makes communities stronger. Aurora is unique in part because of the intimacy of our space, with the audience wrapping around three sides of the stage -- every seat is very close to the actors, allowing for an exquisite level of nuance. We have a track record of presenting excellent productions of the classics alongside new plays that speak powerfully to the present moment.

I'm happy to answer any additional questions, or to go into more detail. Thank you so much for considering this opportunity to save a beloved Berkeley institution!

Josh

Josh Costello | He/Him/His | Artistic Director  
 AURORA THEATRE COMPANY | INTIMATE. INCLUSIVE. INSPIRING. GET IN.

LIVE PERFORMANCES START APRIL 19 | [Learn More!](#)

x	
x	

Tickets and Information: [510.843.4822](tel:510.843.4822) or [auroratheatre.org](http://auroratheatre.org)

On Fri, Apr 12, 2024 at 2:26 PM Hahn, Sophie <[SHahn@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:SHahn@berkeleyca.gov)> wrote:

Josh, thanks for sending us this note. I am alarmed by the urgency of your request. The amount to my knowledge would be unprecedented. But it's important, so I will discuss with colleagues to see if anything can be done.

Can you please provide us with more detail about your financial position? What is the reason for the quick timeline? Is the Company at risk of imminent bankruptcy? You also mention the tax relief - that would take some time to put together but I'm very open to looking at it. But, from the urgency of your email I am thinking that may not be an immediate solution for Aurora.

For now, please know that the alarm has been raised and I will be speaking with the colleagues on this note about your situation.

Best,

Sophie Hahn

*Sophie Hahn*

Councilmember, District 5  
2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704  
[shahn@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:shahn@berkeleyca.gov)

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**From:** Josh Costello <[jcostello@auroratheatre.org](mailto:jcostello@auroratheatre.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 12:58 PM

**To:** Berkeley City Council Policy Committee <[policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:policycommittee@berkeleyca.gov)>; Arreguin, Jesse L. <[JARreguin@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:JARreguin@berkeleyca.gov)>; Hahn, Sophie <[SHahn@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:SHahn@berkeleyca.gov)>; Wengraf, Susan <[SWengraf@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:SWengraf@berkeleyca.gov)>; Taplin, Terry <[ttaplin@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:ttaplin@berkeleyca.gov)>

**Subject:** Agenda Item Request

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Mayor Arreguin and Councilmembers Hahn, Wengraf, and Taplin-

I'm writing again in hopes that the City Council will consider making an emergency grant to Aurora Theatre Company in the amount of \$500,000. Could this be added to the agenda for the May 7 Council meeting?

As I mentioned in my previous email to the whole City Council, this beloved institution is facing a financial crisis brought on by the pandemic and the lagging return of audiences to live performance. This is not a situation unique to

Aurora, as evidenced by the recent closure of the Bay Area Children's Theatre and other theatres in the Bay Area and around the country. As a board member of the Downtown Berkeley Association, I know the arts district is essential to the revitalization of our downtown. This investment would allow Aurora to stay open, presenting another season of inspiring theatre, bringing people to downtown Berkeley, and building back our audience and our income to sustainable levels.

Here's a recent Chronicle article about a play by a local playwright about a Berkeley school that Aurora developed and premiered opening on Broadway later this year – even as Aurora is facing a financial crisis. I hope this demonstrates that Aurora's commitment to hiring local artists and providing opportunities for them to do their best work is a highly effective model for what a small professional theatre can be.

In addition, I hope the city will consider providing a significant tax break to landlords who give free or reduced rent to nonprofit arts organizations. This incentive could be a game-changer for Aurora and other Berkeley institutions.

Thank you.

Josh

Josh Costello | He/Him/His | Artistic Director  
AURORA THEATRE COMPANY | INTIMATE. INCLUSIVE. INSPIRING. GET IN.

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Tickets and Information: [510.843.4822](tel:510.843.4822) or [auroratheatre.org](http://auroratheatre.org)

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** david lerman <415justice@att.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 9:39 PM  
**To:** All Council; Manager, C; All Council; Manager, C; Gerstein, Beth; Gerstein, Beth  
**Subject:** Berkeley Parking Tickets Are Too Expensive and Punitive/.gov or .info/ investigation of threats against elected officials

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Is it really necessary for the City of Berkeley to dramatically increase the size of unpaid parking tickets?

Do you have evidence that raising the price of a \$50 parking ticket to \$100, and then \$130+ is serving the public?

Is it also necessary to prevent people from filing an appeal regarding parking tickets that have grown into \$130+ penalties?

People sometimes misplace Berkeley's small parking citations. People sometimes are busy and/or are out of town for extended periods of time.

\*\*\*I propose that Berkeley put a reasonable cap on the cost of a basic parking ticket at \$75.

\*\*\*I also propose that the cost of a basic parking ticket be reduced down to \$30 from \$50.

It is cruel (though usual) punishment to make people pay a penalty of \$130 because they forgot to use a daily visitor parking permit that costs \$3.

BTW: Does the council get mail at .info? .gov? Or both? Why were all the email addresses of the entire city modified? It makes it very hard to communicate.

PS Has there been any progress on investigations into the threats that caused elected officials to resign from office? Is there any ongoing investigation of said threats?

-David Lerman

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Courtney Slocum <courtney.slocum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 24, 2024 5:38 PM  
**To:** Berkeley Mayor's Office  
**Cc:** All Council  
**Subject:** Re: Invitation: A Safe Place Grand Opening  
**Attachments:** A Safe Place Invitation.jpg

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,  
 I am following up regarding the invitation to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for A Safe Place. Please let me know anyone from the City of Berkeley is able to attend.

On Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 12:33 PM Courtney Slocum <courtney.slocum@gmail.com> wrote:

Greetings Mayor Arreguin and Councilmembers,  
 My name is Courtney Riley and I am reaching out on behalf of Carolyn Russell, Executive Director of the non-profit organization, A Safe Place. A Safe Place, Oakland's only domestic violence assistance program (also serving Berkeley) is inviting you to our Grand Opening of our Community Center. Our new Community Center is an expansion of services for victims and survivors of domestic violence. We have been providing critical services for over 46 years. We would be honored to have you attend this event and join us as we celebrate this significant milestone. The details are as follows:

**Date: Friday, May 10th**  
**Time: 5PM-8PM**  
**Location: 5674 Shattuck Ave., Oakland 94609**

Draft Schedule:  
 5 PM-5:40 PM Reception  
 5:40 PM-5:45 PM Welcome  
 5:45 PM-6:10 PM Speakers  
 6:10 PM-6:40 PM Tour  
 6:40 PM-7:15 PM Call to Action/Networking

As a 46-year-old Bay Area non-profit organization, A Safe Place is the only safehouse in Oakland, and northern Alameda County, offering a confidential Safehouse offering a 24 hours crisis line, case management, mental health counseling, legal services, court and social services advocacy, emergency transportation, basic necessities, and a host of other support services designed for victims and survivors of domestic violence (male and female). Our non-confidential Community Center offers mental health treatment for children, services for adult victims and survivors. A staff of domestic violence specialists, clinicians, attorneys, offers community education for teens and adults, related to intimate partner abuse and the dynamics surrounding it. Supportive services to assist families break the cycle of generational domestic violence are available including, workshops, training and other outreach activities which are provided in order to strengthen community awareness regarding domestic violence.

We hope that you will be able to join us in celebration of this significant milestone in A Safe Place's history.

With Gratitude,

Carolyn Russell, Executive Director

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** chrise deTournay Birkhahn <cdetournay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:07 AM  
**To:** All Council; Chang, James; Cerami, Sara; Elgstrand, Stefan; Norris, Brandon; Hernandez Story, Ruben; Panzer, Eric; McWhorter, Laurie; Gerstein, Beth  
**Subject:** Time Sensitive: Berkeley Zero Waste Strategic Plan - Workshop #3 - Draft Plan Elements - May 2 (in person) and May 15 (online)

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

I wanted to follow up once more, as the upcoming workshops on the draft plan elements begin next week. Please share as you wish with your constituents, as this is an important stakeholder-driven process. These are the final workshops for the public in the development process of the draft plan. Email newsletters and social media are all helpful to bring out the public attendance. Thank you!

Zero Waste Strategic Plan webpage is [here](#).

**May 2 (in person) and May 15 (online) - Draft Plan Elements**

These meetings are scheduled to review the draft elements of the overall plan and will include:

- Updated guiding principles
- Diversion potential of policies, programs and infrastructure initiatives selected for the plan
- Draft implementation schedule

**WHEN:**

- In-person: Thursday, May 2nd 6-7:30 PM, light refreshments will be served
- Online: Wednesday, May 15th 6-7:30 PM, same content as in-person meeting

**WHERE:**

- In-person: North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

If you would like to receive meeting materials in advance of the workshop, please fill out this form:

<https://forms.gle/cktextdW5z2mrRoARA>

- Online via Zoom: Please register in advance for this meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tc--opj8sG9b4BT5TnBjBMvmVvlEONasx>

ADA Disclaimer: The in-person meeting is being held in a wheel-chair 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 510-981-6418 (v) or 510-981-6347 (TDD).

*Interpreter services are available. Please email [ruth.abbe@abbeassociates.com](mailto:ruth.abbe@abbeassociates.com) with your request or for further information.*

*To request any of these services, please reach out to the contacts above at least three business days before the meeting.*

--

Chrise de Tournay Birkhahn  
Certified Zero Waste Specialist

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Diana <nicca@igc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 4:55 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Please OPPOSE THE CITY'S FLAWED OHLONE GREENWAY SAFETY & MODERNIZATION PROJECT

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Council Members,

**I OPPOSE THE CITY'S FLAWED OHLONE GREENWAY SAFETY & MODERNIZATION PROJECT** The City is pursuing fast moving bicycle, e-bicycle, & electric scooter lanes along the Ohlone Right of Way from Virginia Street to the Albany line. The Plan would remove mature trees & shrink Cedar Rose Park; but would not provide any separate pedestrian pathways, including at the Gilman, Hopkins, Rose & Cedar intersections. Bicyclists & e-scooter riders do not & will not safely share the Ohlone Pathway with pedestrians. Bicycle-pedestrian collisions & near collisions occur daily. Pedestrians, including people with disabilities & parents pushing strollers need their own safe pathway, as exists along the nearby West Street Path, and under the BART tracks in Albany. An ADA compliant pathway should be of an easy to walk or roll on compacted material, not rocks or gravel. **RECKLESS BICYCLE, E-BICYCLE, & E-SCOOTER RIDERS POSE GREAT THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF SENIOR CITIZENS:** The growing problem of fast-moving reckless bicycle, e-bicycle and e-scooter users is posing a great threat to the safety of senior citizens. As a 73 year old and long-time resident of Berkeley, I find that the growing recklessness of bicycle, e-bicycle, & e-scooter riders makes it more and more dangerous for me to simply take a walk or try to cross the street. This situation should not be tolerated. **THIS ILL-CONCEIVED PLAN MAKES THINGS WORSE!** Bicycle and e-scooter riders in Berkeley go too fast already. Wider pathways will encourage bicyclists & e-scooter riders to go even faster, putting pedestrians - including people with disabilities - at even greater risk of being banged into, knocked over, & seriously or fatally injured. The willful lack of an ADA compliant pedestrian path invites bicycle-pedestrian accidents & exposes the City to lawsuits. The developmentally disabled students who participate in the after school programs at the Ala-Costa Center in Cedar Rose Park will be especially vulnerable to being hit by bicycles & e-scooters. At the January 2024 Transportation and Infrastructure Commission meeting, the City staff person assigned to the project - when asked - responded unapologetically that the people who run the program at the Ala-Costa Center were never consulted about the project. The consultants did not even consider including a separate pedestrian pathway. Why not? A city council aide said that people can just walk across the grass at Cedar Rose Park. This is not realistic. The grassy

field is very uneven and can be covered with dog waste. The field is often filled with aggressive unleashed dogs. And the field is fenced off for several months every year during the rainy season, and it is fenced off right now. The Plan violates the Americans With Disabilities Act - ADA. The city's consultant acknowledged that no consideration was given to the ADA in the development of this plan. WHY ARE RECKLESS BICYCLISTS AND E-SCOOTER RIDERS TOLERATED? Bicyclists, e-bicyclists, & e-scooter riders are getting more and more reckless. They routinely run stop signs and stop lights, pass pedestrians on the right, and overtly knock into pedestrians. It's time to strictly enforce all traffic laws against bicyclists and e-scooter riders. Electric scooters should NOT be on sidewalks nor in bicycle lanes. Electric scooter riders should be licensed and at least 18. It makes no sense to exempt them from the rules of the road. Last month, my partner had to quickly pull a young girl to safety who was about to be hit by a speeding e-bicyclist on the Ohlone Path. Several weeks ago, the Public Works Department did install a stop sign for bicyclists on the Ohlone Pathway where it approached the Peralta Ave. sidewalk, so as to make walking on the sidewalk safer. I and my neighbors are very appreciative of the City for installing this stop sign. However, nine out of ten bicyclists, e-bicyclists and e-scooter riders ignore this stop sign. Clearly, separate pathways for bicyclists and for pedestrians are needed. For the above reasons, Paris France recently banned all electric scooter rentals. Senior citizens need to be able to take walks, so as to be able to keep walking. But we need separate pathways for pedestrians and sidewalks without two wheeled vehicles to be able to walk safely. LITTLE THOUGHT WAS PUT IN TO MAKING THE OHLONE GREENWAY STREET INTERSECTIONS SAFER Separate, ADA compliant, pedestrian crosswalks are needed at Gilman/Curtis, Gilman/Hopkins, the Rose & Cedar street intersections with Cedar Rose Park and Virginia Street intersection. These intersections are already very dangerous. A transportation expert has stated that the Diablo Engineering Consultant's proposal for the Hopkins - Peralta intersection would be especially dangerous to pedestrians. Much greater thought needs to be given to this intersection since Hopkins Street is a critical City Evacuation Route. There should be clear & separate pathways for pedestrians, including wheel chair users, versus bicyclists, e-scooter, and e-bicycle users at each of these intersections. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE ANY PARKING ON PERALTA AVENUE The Plan would remove 12 or more parking spaces on Peralta Avenue & more on Hopkins & Rose streets. The pickle ball players at the Hopkins-Peralta courts will quickly fill the remaining nearby parking spaces. People won't be able to park in front of their homes again. High speed bicycle lanes with concrete barriers will keep people from safely backing out of their driveways. People without driveways will be forced to park far away from their homes & will risk assault walking or rolling home after dark. Removing street parking on Peralta Ave and on other nearby streets will result in more auto break-ins, more catalytic converter thefts, & more out right car thefts. Catalytic converters can cost thousands of dollars & many months of waiting to replace. Thieves are savvy. They will quickly recognize the loss of street parking on Peralta as an opportunity to break into cars on adjacent streets that belong to Peralta Avenue residents. People on Peralta and nearby streets have healthcare workers who assist them at home. Home

healthcare workers depend on easily accessible parking. With no place to park, many home health care workers will quit. People will lose their critical home healthcare. Their lives will be put in danger. There would be no place for the delivery people who bring our food and packages to park. People with driveways would be forced to back out into high speed bicycle lanes. People without driveways would be trapped in their homes. Is this what the City of Berkeley wants? Our neighborhood is getting more dangerous. Don't make it even more dangerous by taking away our street parking. There's no reason to remove our vitally needed parking spaces. Safe bicycle lanes can & should be designed w/out taking away street parking. The Diablo Engineering consultants should be told to design a safe alternative that does not remove any street parking. One way to make Peralta Ave safer for all modes of travel would be to ban trucks from Peralta Ave now. 50 or more large trucks barrel down the 1300 block of Peralta every day, posing a danger to pedestrians, bicyclists, & people backing out of their driveways. OHLONE PLAN WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR CITY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONTROVERSIAL HOPKINS CORRIDOR PLAN

The controversial Hopkins Corridor Plan would have eliminated well over 200 parking spaces on Hopkins Street, greatly harming the small businesses around Hopkins & Monterey, and causing great harm to the hundreds of residents on & adjacent to Hopkins Street from Sutter to San Pablo Ave. Although the Hopkins Corridor Plan has been delayed indefinitely - due to strong community opposition and to the opposition of the Fire Chief - as it would be incompatible with Hopkins' status as a critical evacuation route, the City Council has refused to kill the Plan. Instead it hired more consultants to figure out a way to approve the Hopkins Corridor Plan. Approval of this Ohlone Plan would codify into city policy that high speed bicylists, e-bicycles and e-scooter riders trump the safety of pedestrians and of neighborhood residents. And it would codify that it's ok to remove critically needed neighborhood street parking to the sole benefit of high speed bicyclists and high-speed e-bicycles and e-scooters. Thus, the approval and implementation of the Ohlone Plan would make it much easier for the Council to then approve the Hopkins Corridor Plan.

ALL WORK ON THE OHLONE PLAN SHOULD STOP UNTIL THE FIRE DEPT'S EVACUATION & RESPONSE TIME STUDY IS AVAILABLED AND HAS BEEN REVIEWED

The Berkeley Fire Department has contracted with a consultant to perform an Evacuation and Response Time Study, which is projected to be completed in the Fall of 2024. The Fire Department's Standards of Coverage and Community Risk Assessment Study states that current response times are already too long, and that these problem will worsen s Berkeley's density further increases. The report states that survival decreases by 7-10% for every minute of delay getting a heart attack victim. By not providing an ADA compliant separate pedestrian pathway for the entire length of the Ohlone Greenway, the Plan will result in more pedestrian - two wheeled vehicle collisions and thus the need for yet more 911 emergency calls to an already overburdened Fire Department.

THE WIDENING OF PATHWAY THROUGH CEDAR ROSE PARK FOR BICYCLES, E-BICYCLES & E-SCOOTERS WOULD VIOLATE MEASURE 'L'

Measure L is a parks and open space Citizens Initiative that was adopted by Berkeley voters in Nov. 1986. It states that no public park or public open space can be converted to any non-

recreational use without been first submitted to a vote of the citizens at a general election. The Bicycle, E-Bicycle and E-Scooter pathway through Cedar Rose Park is clearly for transportation - i.e. getting from one place to another. That's the whole point of the Ohlone Corridor Pathway - transportation. It is NOT for recreation. Cedar Rose Park is NOT an off road vehicle park. Widening the pathway through Cedar Rose Park - especially to make more room for 2 wheeled motorized vehicles, would be taking away land in a city park that is designated as recreational open space, and instead making it a transportation route. Thus a vote of the people of Berkeley is needed before the existing pathway in Cedar Rose Park can be widened. WHERE'S THE PUBLIC REVIEW? The city is moving ahead with the Plan now, without adequate public review. We need real public review, before any plan is approved.

Every indication is that the Ohlone Plan was determined by City Hall insiders first. Then, consultants were hired to rationalize and flesh out what had already been decided. This is not the way planning is supposed to work. TO SUM UP: The Ohlone Path Plan as currently proposed is deeply flawed. The City and consultants should start over, with a plan that provides separate ADA pedestrian pathway for the entire length of the Plan, that does NOT remove any street parking, and that makes sure that pedestrians can cross safely and away from bicycles, e-bicycles and e-scooters at each intersection within the Ohlone Greenway.

Please stop this plan.

Diana Bohn  
Berkeley

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** LUIS OROZCO <jluisorozcojr@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 25, 2024 2:07 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Constituent assistance

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern:

Who do I reach out to if I am in need of assistance and a resident of Council District 4? I understand the council member has resigned. Is there someone who is available to assist a resident of the district?

Luis Orozco  
1917 Virginia St.  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
(646) 771-4250

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** j <sheehanceo@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 10:43 AM  
**To:** All Council; City Clerk; Councilmember Sophie Hahn  
**Subject:** Chess Club

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Members,

On Friday morning, 4/26, the city of Berkeley sanitation, along with Berkeley Police and TBID, removed the chess clubs remaining tables from Telegraph Avenue. We blame every member of the council, for you are all aware of the chess club's plight. You, having seen us fill your chamber with our supporters and heard our support echoed in the press. Through our community's pressure and public opinion, our friends convinced a sitting council person to resign in disgrace, and we were delighted to see dashed hopes of a James Chang victory in district 7.

Mr. Arreguin, we will drag you through the press during your campaign, highlight your attacks on the poor and black residents, and point out your support for genocide. The gifts and money you take from AIPAC will be the talk of the election. Ms. Beckles victory will be our victory. We look forward to our day in court with the city, ordering the replacement our chess supplies and furniture. Lifelong residents, seniors, and people with disabilities all sit at our tables and in our chairs. Your continued attacks on our underserved community in the city will not go without political repercussions. We will be at your next council meeting, and if these attacks continue and you provide our chess players with no relief, we will begin to come with peaceful protests to your home addresses. That is in no way a threat, but real political action. You work for us, not the university, not the developers, and not TBIDs.

Direct protest action at your homes is next! Similarly to what you have seen previously at the home of UC President Drake and in San Francisco at Rep. Pelosi's house, bringing protests to a legislator's home address is a good way of holding them accountable.

Sincerely,  
Jesse Sheehan  
Chairmen,  
Chess Club Berkeley

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Aaron Katler <aaron.katler@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 4:05 PM  
**To:** boardofed@berkeley.net; All Council; Michael Tison Yee  
**Subject:** Students - Hersh

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

This afternoon, I ended up at Safeway at Rose St. shortly after school (King) let out. Never a good idea, but always nice to see kids being kids.

As I was in line to pay, a group of kids I didn't know came up and recognized me as my son's parent. They also noticed I had some Passover food in my cart. They started talking about Passover and how there was nothing for them to eat at school. The usual...I had the same experience as a kid in public school. No big deal.

One then said that they knew that a friend of our family was one of the hostages in Gaza and asked how we were doing. Very sweet. I asked them how it was to be Jewish in a Berkeley public school. One said, "It sucks, but whatever." The rest nodded in agreement.

I thanked them for asking about my friend Hersh. I told them all to pray for an end to the war, the release of all of the hostages, and to be safe in school.

Figured I'd share this anecdote and [an interview I was asked to do yesterday](#). Hoping there comes a day when kids don't feel like "it sucks" to be in a BUSD school because of who they are and how they were born.

Aaron

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** David Shere <sheredlk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 9:45 AM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: City must support Cal community during Gaza protests

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The months since the atrocities of October 7th have been difficult for the city of Berkeley. Disruptions at council have brought out some of the worst in us, and damage the city's fabric. I've vocally opposed those disruptions during public comment periods.

Right now, a number of students at UC Berkeley are participating in a sit-in, a Gaza Solidarity Encampment. I ask that the city do everything possible to support the University in avoiding the mistakes that we've seen other school administrators make in breaking up protests that are difficult for some but ultimately provide a necessary outlet for the legitimate rage that many are feeling towards the Israeli government and US institutions that support it.

It's important to remember that the Jewish community, of which I am a proud member, is not monolithic regarding these issues. In all likelihood Jewish students make up a disproportionate number of those participating in the encampment. I understand the fear and the discomfort that many other Jewish people feel, and I detest the opportunists who latch on to legitimate peaceful protests to push a hateful agenda. Policing the boundaries of discourse too aggressively only encourages extremism and risk to the Jewish community.

**The city should use every relationship that it has with the university, starting with BPD and UCPD, to ensure that legitimate, peaceful protests are not met with disproportionate, unlawful force.**

Please do everything you can to ensure that free speech rights are respected, that the University shows the same restraint that council has in allowing speech, even that which makes some uncomfortable and that frankly crosses unacceptable lines, to continue without the use of police officers or other means of force unless absolutely necessary to protect human life and physical safety.

Thank you, and see at an upcoming meeting.

David Shere  
District 1

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** Max joyce <mcotajoyce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 26, 2024 7:41 PM  
**To:** Berkeley Mayor's Office; Kesarwani, Rashi; Taplin, Terry; Bartlett, Ben; Harrison, Kate; Hahn, Sophie; Wengraf, Susan; Robinson, Rigel; Humbert, Mark; All Council  
**Subject:** Ceasefire NOW: Berkeley Community Stands with Gaza

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to call upon the longstanding spirit of activism and social justice that breathes in the heart of Berkeley, urging you to draft and pass a formal resolution in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza, who are being subject to ethnic cleansing and genocide by the Israeli state backed by the United States. This resolution should:

- 1- Demand an immediate CEASEFIRE.
- 2- Demand immediate safe passage for substantial humanitarian aid to Gazans who have little to no food, water, fuel or medical supplies to save the almost 20,000 Palestinians injured (at the time of this writing);
- 3- Call for an immediate end to all existing and any future U.S. military aid and support to Israel; US taxpayer dollars that go to Israel in the form of \$3.8 billion in military "aid" per year are being used to further harm and kill Palestinians.
- 4 - Call for an end to Israeli apartheid, the siege, the occupation and blockade of Palestinian land by Israeli military forces; and the systematic harassment of the Palestinian people, including stealing of land, burning of farms, and regular arrests of ordinary civilians.
- 5 - Call for the immediate release of the approximately 3000 Palestinians who have been arrested in Israel (about 1500 people), including in Jerusalem, and the West Bank (another 1500 people) since Oct. 7th and the approximately 220 Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Already, over 8000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli airstrikes, with more than half of these being women and children. The numbers of displaced Palestinians with no homes to return to, could be as high as half a million people.

Berkeley, with its illustrious legacy of pioneering social justice movements, holds a responsibility to be at the vanguard of national calls for justice. Berkeley has been the crucible where powerful movements were forged; from the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s, to being one of the first cities in the US to divest from companies doing business with the apartheid regime in South Africa. These histories reflect our enduring commitment to global justice and liberation, and advocacy for the voiceless and oppressed.

On Tuesday, October 24, our neighbors at the Richmond City Council exemplified moral leadership by passing a resolution standing against genocide in Gaza, making it the first U.S. city to stand on the right side of history on this critical issue. Inspired by their boldness, it is imperative that Berkeley continues its anti-apartheid and anti settler colonialism legacy by standing against the shadows of genocidal apartheid regimes.

Thank you for your attention and commitment to making a difference.  
 Sincerely,

**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** russbumper <rustic65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:35 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: Israel Is Turning Hospitals Into Mass Graves While The West Fixates On 'Antisemitism'

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Caitlin Johnstone from Caitlin's Newsletter <caitlinjohnstone@substack.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Apr 22, 2024, 7:19 AM  
**Subject:** Israel Is Turning Hospitals Into Mass Graves While The West Fixates On 'Antisemitism'  
**To:** <rustic65@gmail.com>

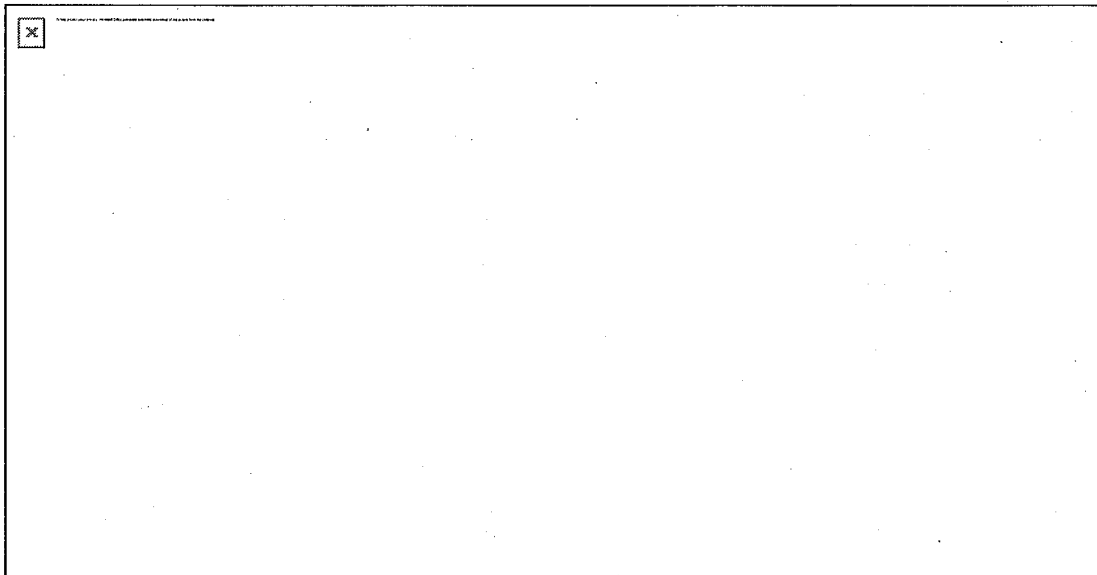
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# Israel Is Turning Hospitals Into Mass Graves While The West Fixates On 'Antisemitism'

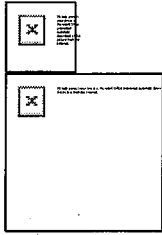
CAITLIN JOHNSTONE  
APR 22



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## **Israel Is Turning Hospitals Into Mass Graves While The West Fixates On 'Antisemitism' by Caitlin Johnstone**

Caitlin Johnstone

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A mass grave created by the IDF has been uncovered at a Gaza hospital, where Palestinian civilians appear to have been the victims of a gruesome massacre.

"Bah, that's old news Caitlin," you may be saying. "We already know about the massacre and mass graves which were discovered a few weeks ago at the al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza."

No no, that's a different mass grave from a different IDF massacre at a completely different Gaza hospital. The now completely destroyed al-Shifa Hospital was in Gaza City; I'm talking about the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, where some 210 bodies have reportedly been discovered in a mass grave after Israeli forces withdrew from the city earlier this month. Two different massacres, two different hospitals, two different mass graves full of Palestinian civilians.

The IDF are just attacking hospitals and mowing down civilians and trying to bury the evidence of their crimes, so naturally we're seeing the western political-media class focus very hard on the problem of antisemitism allegations on college campuses.



<https://twitter.com/babadookspinoza/status/1782034647829885061>

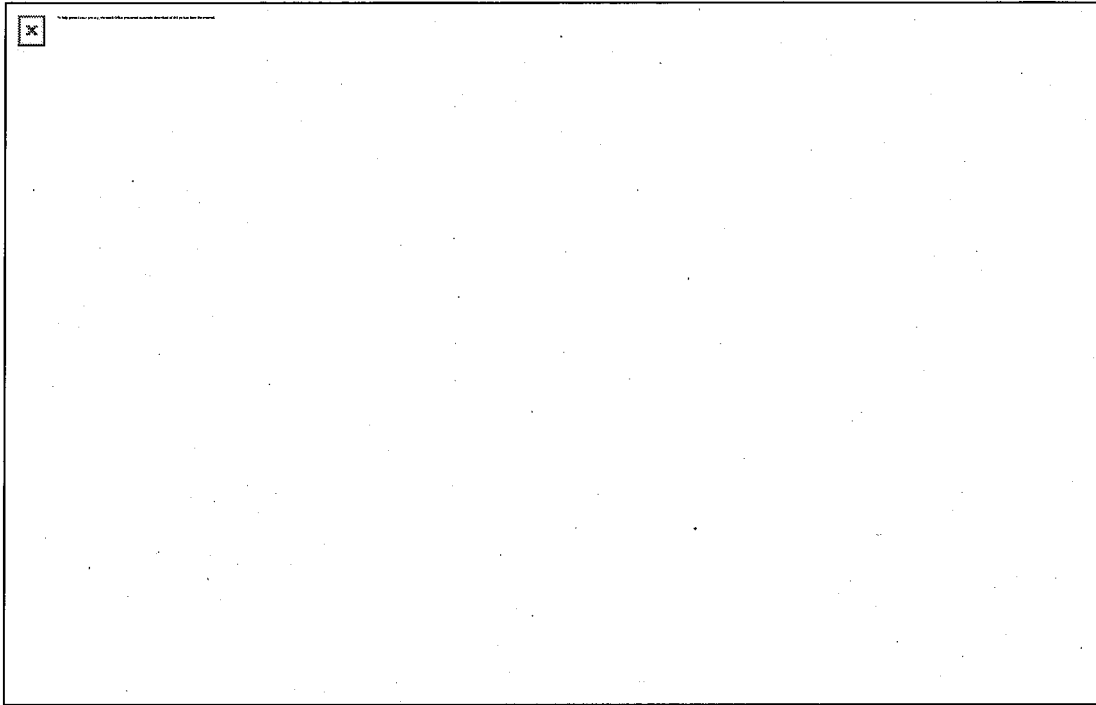
"Biden denounces antisemitism on college campuses amid Columbia protests," reads a new headline from The Washington Post.

"As Protests Continue at Columbia, Some Jewish Students Feel Targeted," The New York Times urgently warns us.

"White House condemns 'blatantly antisemitic' protests as agitators engulf Columbia University," blares Fox News.

"Columbia University faces full-blown crisis as rabbi calls for Jewish students to 'return home'," says CNN.

"Columbia University: White House condemns antisemitism at college protests," the BBC reports.



[https://x.com/ ZachFoster/status/1782139270427300005](https://x.com/ZachFoster/status/1782139270427300005)

Getting far less attention than the fact that some Zionist university students are feeling uncomfortable feelings because other students say Palestinians are human beings is the fact that Israel is establishing a pattern of massacring civilians and burying them in mass graves outside hospitals in Gaza, or the fact that the IDF has been butchering children in Rafah, or the fact that the International Criminal Court is reportedly considering charging Benjamin Netanyahu and other Israeli officials for war crimes.

Those matters are important, just not nearly as important as how some western Jews feel emotionally upset about pro-Palestine protests. For that, the world must stop spinning on its axis until this extremely egregious problem has been addressed.

All the western spin and distortion around Israel's mass atrocities in Gaza these last six months have revolved around centering feelings over human lives. How western Jewish Zionists are feeling about pro-Palestine sentiments. How Joe Biden's feelings secretly feel about Netanyahu. How Israelis feel about October 7.

Wherever there's an opportunity to focus the narrative on what feelings are being felt by a politically convenient population, the western press fall all over themselves to do so with tumescent enthusiasm. Wherever there's an opportunity to focus on Israeli atrocities, the western press are nowhere to be found.

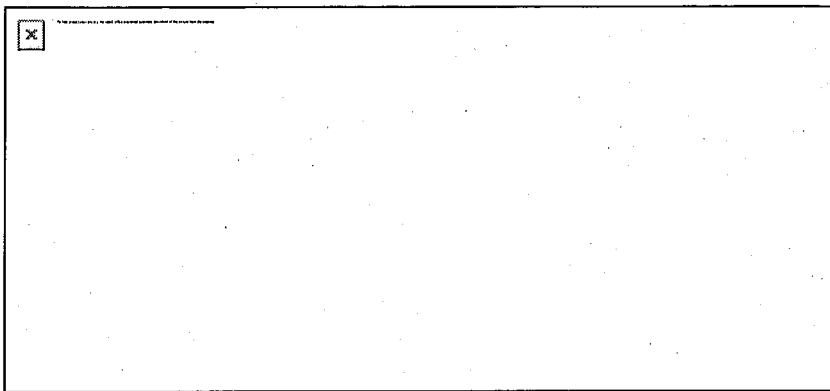
If you belong to a group that isn't supported by the western empire, you can see your entire family murdered right in front of you and the western political-media class still won't consider you a victim. If you belong to a group that the empire regards as human, then even someone offending your feelings will be viewed as an unforgivable hate crime.

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**Benado, Tony**

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**From:** russbumper <rustic65@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 23, 2024 11:20 PM  
**To:** All Council  
**Subject:** Stopping The Slaughter In Gaza Is More Important Than Your Feelings

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[https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/stopping-the-slaughter-in-gaza-is?publication\\_id=82124&post\\_id=143919930&isFreemail=true&r=58v&triedRedirect=true](https://www.caitlinjohnst.one/p/stopping-the-slaughter-in-gaza-is?publication_id=82124&post_id=143919930&isFreemail=true&r=58v&triedRedirect=true)