



Peace & Justice Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 10, 2009

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Peace & Justice Commission  
Submitted by: Eric Brenman, Secretary, Peace & Justice Commission  
Subject: LGBT Walk to Sacramento

RECOMMENDATION

At its regular meeting on February 2, 2009, the Peace & Justice Commission adopted the following recommendation:

The Berkeley City Council endorses the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Walk from the Bay Area to Sacramento. The Walk aims to overturn Proposition 8, the initiative banning same-sex marriages, and build bridges from LGBT issues to local communities.

The Council encourages elected officials and City staff to attend the march in whole or in part, particularly the portion passing through Berkeley, to the extent that this participation does not negatively affect their official duties. City Council and/or Peace and Justice Commission members are encouraged to hold a press conference to help start off the walk and show local opposition to Proposition 8 and support for the LGBT community.

**M/S/C:** (Sorgen/Litman)

**Ayes:** Diana Bohn, Donald Brody, Elliot Cohen, Wendy Kenin, George Lippman, Jane Litman, Rita Maran, Bob Meola, Mary Nicely, Michael Sherman, Phoebe Anne Sorgen, Megan Winkelman, Jonathan Wornick

**Noes:** None.

**Abstain:** None.

**Absent:** None.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

None.

### BACKGROUND

The Berkeley City Council has supported the LGBT Community for many years. The City of Berkeley has supported marriage equality and also opposed Proposition 8. On December 8, 2008, Council passed a statement joining the statewide lawsuit to invalidate Proposition 8. Berkeley is a community with a strong LGBT presence and allies who are active and care about these issues.

The following information was supplied by the group One Struggle One Fight, which is acting as convening organization for the coalition of individuals and organizations who will be participating in the Walk to Sacramento (contact: Janine Carmona, Janine@onestruggleonefight.com, 510-502-0752).

Proposition 8 was passed during the recent election and has been challenged in the California Supreme Court. Arguments will soon be presented to the Court and it is expected they will be deliberating during late March, when the Walk is scheduled. The purpose of the walk is twofold: to keep visibility and pressure up in the period of deliberation by the California Supreme Court and to connect with communities between San Francisco and Sacramento who are engaged in local struggles for social, racial, and economic justice, to share stories and build these bridges.

The experience of having our rights stripped away has been a rallying point to organize and fight for our rights, as well as the rights of other oppressed people. Within the LGBT community, our sisters and brothers are affected by issues of racial prejudice, immigration, healthcare, poverty, homelessness and gender discrimination. This is not a fight for marriage; it is a fight for civil rights.

Further Background Material:

Official Website of the Walk:  
[www.onestruggleonefight.com](http://www.onestruggleonefight.com)

Fact vs. Fiction about Proposition 8:  
<http://www.noonprop8.com/about/fact-vs-fiction>

Information on the Supreme Court Case and Briefs:  
<http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/courts/supreme/highprofile/prop8.htm>

### CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position on the content and/or recommendations of the Commission's Report.

### CONTACT PERSON

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