BERKELEY AGAINST MASS SURVEILLANCE

https://bams.network/ Berkeley, CA | October 6 2026

Seven Berkeley City Council candidates call on Council to reject mass surveillance and delay upcoming decisions until new council members are seated

On October 6, 2026, seven candidates for four Berkeley City Council seats joined together on the steps of City Hall in a show of unity against government surveillance. The candidates are united in urging that this vote must be delayed until after a new Council is seated- and not in a lame duck session in November.

The candidates took time out from their campaigns to issue a joint letter urging the current council "take no further steps to increase the amount of mass surveillance in Berkeley and to instead dismantle the existing apparatus." The existing contract consists of 52 ALPRs installed by the Flock Group.

This summer, the City of Berkeley issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a broad expansion of automated license plate readers (ALPRs), drones, and AI-powered investigative software. Because of the controversial nature of this system, which has been widely reported in the national press, BAMS is calling on the Council to hold the vote in January when the new Council is seated.

The candidates, Moni Gangopadhyay, Daria Wrubel, Majdi Gaith Abuhamdieh, Syrak Micael, Aidan Hill, Mari Mendonca and Michael Wallman, also pledged, if elected November 3, to vote against government mass surveillance and to remove the existing Flock ALPRs.

BAMS is also calling on the City staff to pull back on the projected selection date of a surveillance vendor, which could be as early as November 17th according to the City's RFP.

The candidates have sent the Council a letter that warned "for the lame-duck council to take up this crucial issue would be seen as an undemocratic move and flouting the expressed will of the electorate."



Poster by SF Poster Syndicate

Berkeley Against Mass Surveillance (BAMS)

Berkeley Against Mass Surveillance (BAMS) is a network of organizations, community groups and individuals working to eliminate mass surveillance in the city we call home - Berkeley, California.

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https://bams.network

TAKE ACTION !!

Join these candidates and let City Council know why you do not want Mass Surveillance in Berkeley.

This QR Code below will take you to a pre-drafted letter that you can modify and send from your own email.

https://bams.network/take-action/contact-city-council/rfp-letter-1/

