

CONSENT CALENDAR
April 14, 2026

To: Honorable Members of the City Council

From: Mayor Adena Ishii (Author), and Council Members Lunaparra, Humbert and O'Keefe (Co-Sponsors)

Subject: Referral to the City Manager and the Parks Commission the request to develop and implement a plan and identify budget to rename City of Berkeley locations, events, and the city holiday currently named for Cesar Chavez, and engage with the Chavez/Huerta Commemoration Period partners and Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to bring back to City Council recommendations for how the City of Berkeley may move forward with a name changes that will continue to honor the legacy of labor organizing and solidarity for farm workers and recognize farm workers as the backbone of America.

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager and the Parks Commission the request to develop and implement a plan and identify budget to rename City of Berkeley locations, events, and the city holiday currently named for Cesar Chavez and engage with the Chavez/Huerta Commemoration Period partners and Latinos Unidos de Berkeley to bring back to City Council recommendations for how the City of Berkeley, may move forward with a name changes that will continue to honor the legacy of labor organizing and solidarity for farm workers and recognize farm workers as the backbone of America.

BACKGROUND

Cesar Chavez, the late United Farm Workers (UFW) co-founder and labor leader has long been an icon and hero to communities across the country. Berkeley has a long history of honoring the legacy of Cesar Chavez dating back to 1996 by naming the City's waterfront park after him and with an official city holiday that aligns with the State of California holiday. Over the years, the City has worked collaboratively with the Latinx community, local educational institutions, and community based organizations to organize commemorative activities that honor Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and farm workers.

The following is an initial list of locations and events:

- Cesar Chavez Park (1996)
- Cesar Chavez Day -March 30/31 (2000 - aligned with the State Holiday)
- Chavez/Huerta Tribute Site and Solar Calendar (2011)
- Cesar Chavez-Dolores Huerta Commemorative Period (2021)
- Cesar Chavez Park Perimeter Trail Project (2024 -aka Olivia Stegman Trail)

On March 18, 2026, the New York Times published an in-depth investigation documenting extensive evidence that Mr. Chavez groomed and sexually abused young girls who worked in the farmworker movement¹. In the same story it was revealed that Mr. Chavez raped UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta. After 60 years of silence, Ms. Huerta, a renowned labor leader and civil rights activist issued a statement with her personal story recounting how Chavez had raped her and how she stayed silent because she “believed that exposing the truth would hurt the farmworker movement I have spent my entire life fighting for.”²

The members of the Berkeley City Council condemns sexual violence and stands with the survivors who bravely told their story. In light of the in-depth reporting of credible accusations against Mr. Chavez the City must work on a path forward to remove Cesar Chavez’s name from city locations, events, and holidays.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

No Impact

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Staff time to develop a plan and cost allocation to change the name.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No name change

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Adena Ishii
(510) 981-7100

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/18/us/cesar-chavez-sexual-abuse-allegations-ufw.html>

² https://medium.com/@dolores_huerta/march-18-2026-e74c20430555?