

DIRECT ACTION **DA** EVERYWHERE

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Activists Held Rally at Berkeley Mayor's House, Demanding City Divest from Animal Agriculture

*Berkeley residents say Mayor Arreguín broke his commitment to support their
divestment proposal*



After three months of negotiations and numerous unfulfilled promises, Berkeley residents gathered at Mayor Jesse's home last night during the city council meeting to demand he take the actions he agreed to early this year. Residents gave speak outs, chanted and called in to the City Council meeting in order to speak with the officials regarding their inaction. Many called in to the meeting and requested immediate, aggressive actions to reduce the city's spending on animal products.

Local activists have been meeting with the Council since February, including two video calls with Mayor Arreguín in which he committed to working with representatives from DxE and various city departments to implement 100% plant based food purchases, with the goal of introducing an ordinance in April 2021. But since April there's been no such meeting, and no response from the mayor, despite their emails and calls. This demonstration, DxE says, is a last resort.

“We cannot wait while our elected officials ignore existential threats to this planet,” says Almira Tanner, a Berkeley resident and DxE’s Lead Organizer, who was in the calls with the mayor. “We need drastic action now, not false promises.”

Residents feel that Mayor Arreguin is falling behind the other Bay Area city governments with his inaction. In August 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to pass an ordinance known as the Good Food Purchasing Program, which mandates a reduction of purchasing meat, dairy and eggs -- 50% in city jails and 15% in city public hospitals. The ordinance cites UN studies in stating that “*reducing meat consumption and increasing plant-based diets is an important strategy to curb climate change.*”

The legislative effort was supported by a broad coalition, including [Compassionate Bay](#), [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#), the National Resources Defense Council, Teamsters Joint Council 7, Farm Forward, as well as 100+ local physicians and nurses and several SF climate organizations who signed letters or testified at legislative hearings in San Francisco in 2020.

Investigators with [Direct Action Everywhere \(DxE\)](#) enter farms, slaughterhouses, and other agricultural facilities to document abuses and rescue sick and injured animals. DxE’s investigatory work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [ABC Nightline](#), and a [viral Glenn Greenwald exposé](#), and DxE activists led the 2018 effort to [ban fur products in San Francisco](#). Visit Direct Action Everywhere on [Facebook](#) and at [directactioneverywhere.com](#). Follow us on [Twitter @DxEverywhere](#).

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