

COUNCIL BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AFTER PUBLISHED AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. EMAIL FROM RESIDENT

Crissy Mello

Subject: FW: Agenda Item #2 - Council Budget and Finance Committee Agenda - Wed, March 18, 2026

From: Gigi W [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 1:10 PM

To: DeAnna Hilbrants <DeAnna.Hilbrants@hayward-ca.gov>

Subject: Agenda Item #2 - Council Budget and Finance Committee Agenda - Wed, March 18, 2026

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PLEASE READ INTO THE RECORD

Greetings,

I am writing as a long-time resident of Hayward and as someone who cares deeply about how our city's decisions ripple outward into the world.

I reviewed Hayward's most current investment policy (2025) and noticed there is attention to safety, liquidity and rates of return on the city's investments. However, what is missing is consideration of impact. How do public dollars, once invested, impact people in Hayward as well as our broader global community?

I understand that there is a plan to consider incorporating an "Environmental Social and Governance (ESG)" component into the Fiscal Year 2027 Investment Policy updates. I hope this includes issues such as genocide, war, systemic racism, environmental degradations, etc. Such a policy would be in line with Hayward's efforts to address reparations for former residents and descendants of Russell City and would follow suit with other east bay cities.

Many of us have family, friends and cultural ties that stretch across borders. When our city invests public funds, they move — into corporations, industries, and global systems. And sometimes, those systems are connected to profound human suffering.

For example, there are corporations that are profiting from the forced displacement, surveillance and genocide against Palestinian people. This includes technology, weapons, shipping equipment through Oakland airport, logistics, and digital infrastructure. We also know that ICE maintains an office in Israel and close cooperation with the Israeli military. It's not surprising that some tactics used against the Palestinian people are being used here at home. The consequences of these policies are not distant headlines — they are impacting our communities.

Whether or not the city intends it, our investments may be tied to companies that participate in or profit from systems of racism, global warming, genocide, etc.

In speaking with my neighbors, I have found that most are unaware of the gap in the city's investment policy guidelines to address both social and environmental issues. I have been educating them regarding actions they can take. I am also actively involved in SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) a national membership organization organizing white people for racial justice. We are accountable to Black Indigenous and People of Color led partners. We are currently organizing voters across the Bay Area and working in our local communities.

I do not want my tax dollars contributing to harm and I know that I'm not alone.

Thank your for your consideration of this matter.

Gail Watts