In 2016 Councilmember Jesse Arreguin said in his campaign platform: "It is not necessary to convert People's Park into student housing, as there are multiple locations for student housing around the University." In 2018 Mayor Jesse Arreguin told the SF Chronicle: "For many decades this [People's Park] was the third rail of politics in Berkeley, but today I think there is a desire to look at something different."

Why the flip-flop, Mr. Mayor?

According to a 2018 UC Berkeley study:
The Telegraph Avenue Business Development District gets 21.6% of its total assessment revenue from publicly owned properties. BIDs frequently engage in local and state advocacy to enact, maintain, and strengthen anti-homeless laws. BIDs spend property assessment revenue, including revenue from publicly owned properties, on anti-homeless advocacy, and the growing number of BIDs established after 1994 correlates with a sharp rise in the number of anti-homeless laws. Anti-homeless laws benefit the TBID, while hurting the community as a whole.

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