

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 5, 2014
TO: City Council
FROM: Kelly Stachowicz, Deputy City Manager
RE: Thong Hy Huynh Memorial Awards for 2015

Recommendation

Ratify the following nomination recommendations from the Human Relations Commission for the 2015 Thong Hy Huynh Awards. Awards will be presented at the May 26th City Council meeting.

- Lifetime Achievement:
 - Alison Pease
- Civil Rights Advocacy:
 - Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald
 - Manuel Medeiros
- Public Servant of the Year:
 - Judith MacBrine
- Excellence in Community Involvement:
 - Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign
 - Team Davis
- Young Humanitarian
 - Emily Masiel
 - Ryan Nishikawa

Fiscal Impact

The cost of presenting the awards is included in the 2014-2015 budget, funded by the General Fund.

Council Goals

The Huynh Awards represent ongoing business of the City and are not specifically included in the 2014-2016 Council Goals.

Background and Analysis

The Human Relations Commission annually seeks nominations for the Thong Hy Huynh (“*tong hi win*”) Awards. The awards are presented once each year in memory of the stabbing death of Davis High School student Thong Hy Huynh on May 4, 1983. The award was established to raise awareness about and to honor community members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights.

The awards will be presented by the City Council on May 26. As per policy, staff brings the Commission recommendations to the City Council for review and ratification prior to issuing the awards.

This year's awards include the following categories: Lifetime Achievement, Civil Rights Advocacy, Excellence in Community Involvement (Business or Organization), and Public Servant of the Year. In several categories, the Commission felt multiple nominations should be recognized. The nomination form, which includes descriptions of each category, is included as Attachment 1. In cases where there were conflicts of interest between commissioners and individual nominees, commissioners recused themselves from the discussions related to that award category.

The Commission believes the recommendations are the best and most appropriate nominations in each category and asks the Council to ratify the nominations. The Commission is recommending the following nominations to the City Council (with summaries taken from nominations):

Lifetime Achievement: Alison Pease

Alison is being recognized for her tireless dedication to community causes, specifically to the Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network (YIIN). In addition to being a founding member, she is currently the President of the Board. YIIN seeks to serve and advocate for immigrants in the community. Some of the activities in which she has played a key role include: education outreach activities for the community, leading five years of fundraising dinners for YIIN to support after-school and ESL programs, and working with young people at the Madison Migrant Center.

Civil Rights Advocacy: Cecilia Escamilla Greenwald

Cecilia has been active in civil rights issues in Davis for over 20 years. She advocated against several discriminatory statewide ballot initiatives, has led marches and public discussions to support those in the community who were the victims of discrimination, and addressed issues around police profiling. She is a former member and chairperson of the Human Relations Commission. Most recently, Cecilia served for over a year on the police/community subcommittee to establish an alternative dispute resolution process for citizen complaints with the Police Department. Cecilia has also become an advocate of rights for foster and adoptive, minority and immigrant children.

Civil Rights Advocacy: Manuel (Manny) Medeiros

Over the past five decades and through a long public sector career in law, Manny has worked to assure marriage equality in the face of Propositions 8 and 22, protect Native American burials and sacred sites, fight housing and employment discrimination, protect farm worker rights, bring reason to criminal sentencing, and develop California's new farm worker labor law. Manny retired as the Solicitor General from the Attorney General's Office and was one of four Davis residents to advise and encourage the Yolo County District Attorney to initiate the use of restorative justice practices. This resulted in the Yolo County Neighborhood Court piloted in Davis. He and his wife also started the Davis Shambhala Meditation Center in 1981.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign

SAAC is a grassroots coalition of Davis parents, educators, junior high and high school students and community partners focused on elevating community awareness about sexual assaults and teen relationship violence, while empowering youth to speak out against such behavior. The coalition has already made inroads in the junior high and high schools and is actively engaged in activities that focus on prevention.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Team Davis and Robin Dewey

Team Davis is an all-volunteer non-profit organization established to help enrich the lives of children and adults with developmental, cognitive and/or physical disabilities living in or near Davis. Team Davis sponsors athletic, social, cultural and recreational activities that help build physical skills, a sense of camaraderie, and a more fully integrated connection with the Davis community for our participants and their families and support staff. They also serve as the local Special Olympics team. Team Davis under the leadership of Robin Dewey has grown from a handful of athletes in Davis to over 100 from all over Yolo County.

Public Servant of the Year: Judith MacBrine

After retiring from a 29 year career in California State government, Judith now focuses on assisting the public sector to communicate more effectively and collaboratively. Judith's particular passions are working with conflict and with issues of societal power and privilege. She has been active with Neighborhood Court, a facilitator of community dialogues between community members of color and the Davis Police Department, and is implementing the Alternative Conflict Resolution Pilot Program with the Davis Police Department, among many other activities focused on improving the Davis community.

Young Humanitarian: Emily Masiel

Emily is a shining example of what it takes to be an inspiring and effective community leader. Through her work as a high school intern at the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter, Emily has not only served the homeless but has led and provided oversight of daily operations. Emily has also participated in the Youth Leadership Institute, the Mosaic Tea and Coffee program, and on the Team Blend Engineering Project. She is also the Student Body President at Da Vinci Charter Academy.

Young Humanitarian: Ryan Nishikawa

Over the past several years, Ryan has penned numerous letters to the editor of the local paper, the Davis Enterprise, about difficult and serious topics facing teens, youth, and society as a whole. His writings have three recurrent themes: (1) He writes to help people better understand and appreciate the inner feelings of others, (2) He writes to reassure those who may be frustrated or in despair that they are not alone, and (3) He writes to encourage people to reach out and support all members of our community through what he calls "active compassion."



**2015 AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION GUIDELINES
FOR
THE THONG H. HUYNH MEMORIAL AWARD
SPONSORED BY
THE CITY OF DAVIS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Thong Hy Huynh was a 16-year old high school student when he was killed 32 years ago in a racially motivated stabbing. These awards recognize people and organizations in the community who promote positive human relations, social justice and/or civil rights.

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. **Lifetime Achievement**
Awarded for significant civil rights efforts over a long period of time while improving the quality of life in Davis. The recipient may be an individual or community organization that has promoted positive human relations in the community.
2. **Young Humanitarian**
Awarded to an individual in grades K-16 (elementary through undergraduate or equivalent) for significant efforts in improving the quality of life in Davis. Nominees have directly addressed the needs of specific groups within the community in the areas of human or civil rights or education.
3. **Civil Rights Advocacy**
Awarded to an individual or organization for significant efforts and achievement in any of the following areas:
 - Speaking on behalf of, and giving voice to, the disadvantaged and disempowered.
 - Promoting positive human relations, civil rights, cultural awareness or peaceful means of conflict resolution.
 - Improving the quality of life for Davis residents through the areas of health, human services, housing or employment.
4. **Excellence in Community Involvement (Awarded to a For-Profit Business and/or Non-Profit Organization)**
Awarded to a business or organization that has a record of significant efforts in promoting and practicing equal opportunity, positive human relations, and/or civil rights in Davis.
5. **Public Servant of the Year**
Awarded to a local public servant who has displayed exceptional interpersonal skills under challenging circumstances. These efforts have resulted in effective conflict resolution or intervention and have promoted positive human relations in our multicultural and diverse community.



(See reverse for Rules Governing Nominations and Selection of Recipients)

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RULES GOVERNING NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Thong Hy Huynh Award process has been developed to be as inclusive and as transparent as possible in order to protect the integrity of the award.

Nomination Process

1. Nominations may be submitted by anyone, including Human Relations commissioners or City Council members. Current Commission or City Council members may not be nominated for an award. Commissioners cannot nominate a family member, partner or spouse.
2. Unless the category specifies otherwise, nominees should be residents of, or an organization in, Davis (including UC Davis).
3. All nominations must be submitted by the deadline. No nominations will be accepted, from commissioners or other citizens, after that date.
4. Nominations must be in writing and must include contact information.
5. Each nomination form should be for only one category, however, a person may be nominated for more than one category.

Selection Process

1. Any Huynh award winner in the previous year is not eligible to be nominated for the same category in the current year. Current voting commissioners are not eligible to receive an award.
2. Any commissioner who has a conflict of interest with a nomination (i.e. a family member, partner or spouse nominated or an organization nominated for which Commissioner is employed or holds a leadership position) for an award must recuse him/herself from participation in deliberations and voting for that award.
3. If the Commission determines no nominations received in a particular category are appropriate, no award will be presented in that category.

(See reverse for Award Categories)