



**City of Davis**  
**Human Relations Commission Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 27, 2022**

**1. Call to Order & Roll Call**

*Chair Mvondo called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.*

*Commissioners present: Connor Gorman, NJ Mvondo (Chair), Judith Plank (Vice Chair), Jordan Varney, Edgar Wong-Chen, Angela Willson*

*Ex-Officios present: Kate Snow (DJUSD), Leanne Friedman (Faith-Based)*

*Commissioners absent: None*

*Council Liaisons present: None*

*Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Willson moved with second by Plank approval of the agenda as presented. The motion passed as follows:*

*AYE: Gorman, Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen, Willson*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: None*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons**

- *Dyer updated on follow up on Davis Neighbors' Night Out*
- *Varney - Zombie Bike Parade, October 29*
- *Varney - Remember to Vote*
- *Gorman – Strike vote happening for several UC Unions – Chance of strike occurring in next month or so*
- *Wong-Chen – The “California Is in the Heart” exhibit is launching at the California Museum in Sacramento. The exhibit underlines the critical role that Filipino Americans have played in our state’s history.*
- *Dyer updated on past and upcoming proclamations presented by the City Council*
- *Mvondo- Upcoming Day of the Dead celebration date reminders. Reminder to please provide thought when considering Halloween costumes, in terms of cultural appropriation, November 13 Ethnic studies event, led by Emily Henderson and Melissa Moreno. Library event in celebration of Filipino American Heritage month*
- *Snow – Strategic Planning Process in place, developed in partnership with the community having a role. Grading for Equity initiative is moving forward in the*

*district. Increased and strong messaging and reminders at the district for Jewish holidays.*

#### **4. Public Comment**

*None*

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

##### **A. September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

*Plank moved with second by Willson approval of the minutes as presented. The motion passed as follows:*

*AYE: Gorman, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: Mvondo, Willson*

*ABSENT: None*

#### **6. Regular Items**

##### **A. Public Forum on Recent Hate Incidents in the Davis Community**

*The Human Relations Commission provided an opportunity to discuss and receive public input on recent hate incidents in the Davis community, including, but not limited to,*

- Hate commentary during the Davis Senior High School Homecoming Parade*
- Drawing of swastikas found in residential communities.*
- UC Davis speaker incident resulting in violence*

*Commissioner Comments:*

- Hearing more and more about how showing up in solidarity to events and meetings is helpful.*
- Statement that the City put out in regards to Hate incidents on September 30*
  - Ways the statement could be more specific and action oriented*
    - Statement had passive language and somewhat vague*
    - Sharing resources and talking to local community who might know how to address*
    - Focused on council members themselves, suggest changing wording since coming from people of power*
    - Refine verbiage to come out more strongly in condemning*
    - Incidents are part of larger structural pattern that should be addressed*

*Public Comments:*

*USMC - Takes issue with the comment that police might be an option on side of Proud Boys or affiliated. First amendment was violated yesterday. Most*

*conservative person should be able to come to Davis to speak and have the right to do so.*

*Commissioner Gavin – First ten amendments are important, but not really emphasized. Important to not encroach on free speech, even if discourse is not always nice. The right to say it is protected.*

## **B. Thong Hy Huynh Nomination Process Review**

*Commissioners Willson and Gorman have reviewed the current nomination process for the annual Thong Hy Huynh awards and provided suggested revisions for the Commission to consider.*

- *Online submittal form would be helpful*
- *Thought to remove categories and focus on characteristics/contributions*
- *Make sure to consider youth representation*
- *Perhaps keep Lifetime Achievement*
- *Overall theme that Huynh encompasses qualities and has a youth and adult award, etc.*
- *Focus on spirit of award and not category*

*Commissioner Willson and Gorman will draft language and staff will incorporate into the nomination form.*

*Public Comment:*

*Commissioner Gavin - Stress category for young age group and organization*

## **C. Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration**

*The subcommittee assigned to planning the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration provided an update for the 2023 event.*

- *Hybrid desirable, staff working with DMA and theatre to determine*
- *How legacy is continued to this day with organizations doing the work*
- *Will reach out to local BSU, performances from UC Davis*
- *Preparing list of resources to share with community*
- *Southern Poverty Law center may have speaker options*
- *Social change is community work*

*Public Comment:*

*None*

## **D. Committee Updates**

*Committees will provide updates as needed*

- *Anti-Hate Subcommittee (Gorman, Mvondo, Wong-Chen)  
No update*
- *Local Voices Project (Mvondo, Varney, Willson)*

- Meeting with PAC commissioners to see if there is desire for involvement
- UC Davis Connection (Gorman, Wong-Chen)  
Mayra Llamas may be presenting in November
- Event Sponsor Process (Wong-Chen)

Willson moves with second with Wong-Chen to delete the event sponsor process subcommittee. Motion passed as follows:

AYE: Gorman, Mvondo, Plank, Varney, Wong-Chen, Willson

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- Community Calendar (Mvondo, Villalobos, Wong-Chen)  
No update
- Land Acknowledgment (Snow, Varney)  
No update

*Public Comment:*

Commissioner Gavin – Students at UC Berkeley are losing their voices as the park may be taken away. This park is the place where historically they would organize for protests, etc. UCD should build child care center.

**7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar**

- Media Hate
- Mayra Llamas (November)
- Consider putting incidents on each meeting as they occur
- Healing Arts Project
- Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis
- Look into housing language to see if it includes non-discrimination
- Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative
- Interactions with other commissions
- Discuss Commission outreach
- Free speech (December)
- Chavez planning (November)
- Huynh (November)
- MLK (November)
- Holder for hate incidents (all months)

*Public Comment:*

Commissioner Gavin – Supports Commission holding discussions on Free Speech, Media Hate, Critical Race Theory and Ethnic Studies

**8. Adjourn at 8:38**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17 at 6:30 p.m.