

City of Davis
Human Relations Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 13, 2023
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Vice Chair Muhammad called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Commissioners present: Kevin Baker, Connor Gorman, Robin Muhammad (Vice Chair), NJ Mvondo (Chair), Leonie Pickett, Edgar Wong-Chen

Ex-Officios present: Ashish Lama, Leanne Friedman, Kate Snow, Mikael Villalobos

Commissioners absent: None

Council Liaisons present: None

Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer

2. Approval of Agenda

Pickett moved with second by Muhammad approval of the agenda as presented.

The motion passed as follows:

AYE: Baker, Gorman, Muhammad, Mvondo, Pickett, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Public Comment

- *Naomi - Anti Semitism growing has history of being in Davis and is growing. 60% of religious based hate crimes target Jewish people and they do not feel safe. Jews get to decide what anti-Semitism is. Hopes that commission can approve the lives of Jewish people in Davis by implementing these action items:
 - *Conduct a Davis wide climate survey that includes 'Jewish' as an identity marker to understand different communities experiences of inclusion, belonging, and hate in Davis*
 - *Create a workshop series educating the community on different forms of hate (including antisemitism) and how it manifests*
 - *Hold focus groups with different groups (including the Jewish community)*
 - *Hold a workshop series on different groups represented in the community providing education on who we are, and our history and culture (including the Jewish community)*
 - *Allocate city funds to provide safety and security for CBH (we are the only community who needs this type of security, if the City is committed to Jewish safety the city should allocate funds)*
 - *Create spaces for interfaith and inter community dialogue**

4. Regular Items (6:45)

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.

Commissioner Comments:

- *Encourages community to share incidents and details with the commission*
- *337% increase in anti-Semitism incidents in the Davis community*
- *HRC created a subcommittee with an intention of reaching as many people as possible to hear what the community and leaders are experiencing. Working through figuring out what conversations can be helpful vs. harmful. Will be using the list of requests and ideas for further conversations.*
- *Commission is working on a community workshop plan for 2024*
- *Psychological welfare exists locally and important to counter anti hate, anti-discrimination and anti-hate.*
- *School district incident - N word written outside of an African American teacher's wall last week in local elementary school. New protocol being developed to ensure that the district can respond appropriately and respectfully.*
- *Foster acts of solidarity*

Public Comment:

- *(No Name) Anti-Semitism on the left looks like gas lighting. Group of individuals downtown wearing shirts with hate messages. Suggests learning about anti-Semitism on the left and urges commission to watch the videos and the images, read the testimonies and learn what people are going through and to become familiar with different hate groups.*
- *(No Name) Recent rise in anti-Semitism and racism in the Davis community is really concerning.*
- *(No Name) City of Davis showing support is causing rise to hate crimes. Queer hate crimes are also being reported as being on the rise.*

B. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Planning Update

The subcommittee assigned to the MLK celebration provided an update on planning efforts. (Muhammad, Mvondo, Lama, Pickett)

- *Theme - Peace Activism*
- *Goal of upcoming MLK reflect on what Peace Activism looks like and share with community members on how they can be engaged.*
- *Will have community groups and vendors to table at the event*
- *Working on speakers. Ethnic studies students will work on art display.*
- *Commissioner needed to help with set up and break down and coffee and snacks.*
- *Edgar - coffee and snacks*
- *Ashish - student volunteers*
- *Davis Media Access confirmed to film and stream*

Public Comment:

- *None*

C. Long Range Planning for 2024

The Commission used the work plan to begin long range agenda planning for the 2024 calendar year.

January - Debrief MLK, Standing items, Committee updates, Cesar Chavez Celebration, Huynh Awards, Chair/Vice Chair, Identify missed opportunity for community celebrations, Staff will put into a calendar for review and prioritization at a future commission meeting.

Suggestion for social media/webpage subcommittee

Public Comment:

- *Victoria . Legislative director/City Liaison for graduate student association. Should have actionable items on the long range calendar, list what communities to reach out to. Determine ways to make sure the entire community knows how to reach the commission.*

D. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- *Commission Workshops Subcommittee (Gorman, Muhammad, Mvondo, Lama) Dyer provided an update on the timing of the recommendation to go to the City Council.*
- *Community Listening Subcommittee (Baker, Friedman, Muhammad, Pickett) Reconvene after hearing everything at City Council meeting and determine what might be next steps.*
- *Cesar Chavez Celebration Subcommittee (Baker, Gorman, Wong-Chen) Proposed date April 13 during Farmers Market. Committee is in the process of determining speakers, performers, activities, etc.*

Public Comment:

- *None*

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting of January 25, 2024.