



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Mvondo called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m.

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

Ex-Officios present: Leanne Friedman, Ashish Lama, Kate Snow (leave at 7:15), Mikael Villalobos

Commissioners absent: None

Council Liaisons present: Gloria Partida

Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer & Kelly Stachowicz

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. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons (6:35)

Dyer – announcement about Mayor Chapmans Statement response to anti-Semitism and Hate Free Together campaign

Snow – DJUSD continues to work on response to identity based harm

Villalobos – Invite Commission and general public to upcoming event on February 5, featuring the Campus Community Book Project author.

4. Public Comment (6:45)

- Seth Sanders – Concerns – out of town white nationalists that harass and put out hateful statements and materials. Pattern of harassing pro-peace Jews. Would like to work together to feel safe and express identity.*
- Liz (UCD student) – Been harassed on campus for speaking at event. Organizations have sent people to disrupt event.*
- (no name) – Would like to have HRC keep developmentally disabled adults in mind.*

5. Consent Calendar (6:55)

Muhammed moved with second by Pickett approval of the November minutes as amended. The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Baker moved with second by Muhammad approval of the November minutes as presented. The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

6. Regular Items (7:00)

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:

- *Received reports of anti-Semitic activities in the community with flyers with hateful messages.*
- *Incident of anti-Asian hate in recent weeks*
- *YCRC came into DaVinci High to train in conflict resolution and ways to navigate difficult conversations and deal with conflict.*
- *Listening sub-committee has heard from UCD graduate students with a resolution that has been passed.*
- *UC Davis is hosting an event moderated by YCRC on February 13 on examining the roots of hate.*
- *Reading of asks that were presented during public comments at the December meeting (as reflected in the December minutes)*

Public Comments:

- *Mayan –Ask that the commission and the City Council look to resources on line to learn to identify ways of anti-Semitism. Jews are wondering if it's safe to attend Synagogue. Denouncing calls to violence is not taking sides.*
- *Naomi –Went to DJUSD meeting last week where a young student shared anti-Semitic incident at school. Would like to suggest that the City and DJUSD document incidents.*
- *Dan –Since October 7, the Davis community has a campaign of anti-Semitism growing. Orchestrated efforts by extremist groups in towns. Has never been this bad.*
- *(name) – Lives in Davis with 4 children and is experiencing growing anti-Semitic incidents since October 7. Would like the following:*
 - *City to take ADL training and anti-Semitism workshop*
 - *Data collection and community survey*
 - *Establishing method for documenting anti-Semitic incidents*

- *Raising awareness of the anti-Semitism among the political spectrum*
- *Encouraging City Council members to make clear statements denouncing recent incidents in Davis.*
- *Initiate Jewish Heritage events*
- *Add issue to 2x2 meeting agendas with DJUSD and City*
- *Address lack of safety for Jewish citizens in Davis and come up with plan.*
- *Deema Tamimi – The distribution of flyers and vandalism are deeply concerning. Asking for an end to violence is not an anti-Semitic statement. Note that reporting of incidents from marginalized communities often go undocumented. Consider idea of listening sessions and story telling very carefully and ensure that moderators are present.*
- *Anoosh Jorjorian – Many students of marginalized communities who have experienced incidents, slurs, etc. Consider creating solidarity across all marginalized communities. Many community members don't feel safe coming to speak. Education is needed.*
- *Scott Steward - Need for this commission to arrive at a balance for the community as how to address concerns. What do we do together in an inclusive and balanced way?*
- *Michael Levy –Concern that some Council members states that they don't have jurisdiction over UC Davis.*
- *Erica –Dedicate work to fixing systematic inequalities in the world. Sent a letter to Council with statement.*
- *Student at UC Davis – Claims of anti-Semitism aren't used to silence legitimate instances of pro-Palestinian activism in Davis. Asking Commission to be thoughtful when considering concerns that have been presented today.*
- *Josh Livy – Take into account difference of anti-Semitism and attacking Israel.*
- *Seth Sanders – Diversity of perspectives in the Davis community. The ADL definition has been used in law suits. Encourages consideration of the definition - Jerusalem Declaration of Anti-Semitism.*

Commissioner Comments:

- *California Civil Rights Department has website– CA vs Hate. Cavs.hate.org*
- *Definition of Anti-Semitism needs to be agreed upon.*
- *Would like to know more about the police response to hate incidents/crimes.*
- *Community/Commission needs more education, workshops on civil discourse*
- *Interested in idea of climate survey*
- *We can stand together as a community and be united and allies for everyone*

- *City website has a place on website to report hate incidents and hate crimes.*
- *Three things that can possibly recommend –*
 - *workshops to gain a better understanding, share and heal*
 - *reporting and survey to know what is actually going on, capture the data to help alleviate sense of helplessness and create unity*
 - *trainings for Council, Commissioners, Public Servants*
- *Work together to resist oppression in a holistic approach. Actions in solidarity is important.*
- *Look at definition of anti-Semitism and be clear on how terms are used*
- *Look to ways to thoughtfully have ways for all members of the community to speak up and be represented.*
- *Identify organizations that can help implement the suggestions will be important.*
- *Hate Free Together will be a good resource.*
- *Important to not duplicate efforts*

Baker moves with second by Muhammad to extend by 30 minutes. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Muhammad moves with second by Baker to move item 6 D up. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

B. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Recap

The Commission briefly debriefed on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. event. The subcommittee will create a document of resources, etc, for future years. Commissioners will provide feedback to staff for compilation and review.

Public Comment:

None

C. Annual Thong Hy Huynh Awards

The Commission finalized the information for the 2024 Thong Hy Huynh awards to be released in February.

Commissioner Comments:

Make sure form is fillable online

Public Comments:

None

Muhammad moves with second by Baker the proposed timeline and nomination form as presented in the staff report. The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

D. Commission Co-Sponsorship of Film Screening

The Commission received a request from Pattie Fong to co-sponsor the free public screening of the film “And Then They Came for Us”, by way of promotion and outreach. The film is scheduled for viewing on February 26 at the Veterans Memorial Center in honor of Day of Remembrance.

Davis Phoenix Coalition can cover insurance.

Public Comment:

None

Muhammad moves with second by Pickett to co-sponsor the film. The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

E. 2024 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Commission held elections for Chair and Vice Chair for the 2024 year.

Public Comment:

None

Mvondo moves with second by Pickett to nominate Robin Muhammad as chair.

The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Muhammad moves with second by Pickett for Kevin Baker as vice chair for the 2024 year. The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

F. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- *Commission Workshops Subcommittee (Gorman, Muhammad, Mvondo, Lama) – Idea for disaster preparedness workshop for community – could be a non-City event or a City event that is not run by HRC.*
- *Community Listening Subcommittee (Baker, Muhammad, Pickett) – Fulfilled its initial charge and will create preliminary report on findings to City Council.*

Muhammad moves with second by Pickett conclusion of the subcommittee.

Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- *Cesar Chavez Celebration Subcommittee (Baker, Gorman, Wong-Chen) – Committee continues to meet for planning both community groups tabling and performance and speaker line up.*

Public Comment:

None

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Hate Free Together (February)*
- *Review workplan and calendar items for the 2024 year*
- *Listening Subcommittee report (February)*
- *California Task Force on Reparations*
- *MLK Recap*
- *Webpage Review*
- *Municipal Code Update*
- *Free Speech*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative*

Public Comment:

None

8. Adjournment (8:30)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting of February 22, 2024.