



**City of Davis
Human Relations Commission
Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2024**

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Muhammad called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

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

Ex-Officios present: Leanne Friedman, Kate Snow

Commissioners absent: None

Council Liaisons present: None

Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer & Jenny Tan

2. Approval of Agenda

Wong-Chen moved with second by Gorman approval of the agenda as presented.

The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons

- Update on Commission Vacancies – Muhammad stated that during the Chair/Vice Chair meeting with the Vice Mayor Vaitla and Council Member Arnold that they informed them of the number of HRC vacancies.*
- Snow provided update on public comment at DJUSD board meeting public comments about use of the N word on campuses and the work the district is doing to address it.*
- Update on status of Chapter 10 Municipal Code revision – Still under review*
- Update on City Council recommendations related to Commissions – The subcommittee will provide alternative models for HRC.*
- David Breaux birthday celebration at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, February 26*
- And Then They Came For Us movie will be shown on Monday, February 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Vets*
- Antisemitism and Islamophobia conversation at I-House on Thursday, February 29.*
- Film showing of “Free Chol Soo Lee” at King Hall on Thursday, February 29*

4. Public Comment

- Elaine Roberts -Musser provided comments regarding the proposal on the merging of several commissions. Does not agree with Council subcommittee not involving commissions into the conversation.*

- *Hiram Jackson – DJUSD Board Member, speaking about school parcel tax on ballot on March 5. Measure N funds specific funds programs at the various school sites.*

5. Consent Calendar (6:55)

Baker moved with second by Pickett approval of the January minutes as amended for grammatical errors.

The motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

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.

Public Comment – None

Commissioner Comments

- *Incident at DaVinci high with use of the N word and graffitied on wall. School is following up with education and investigation on graffiti.*
- *Wonder if uptick is happening in general community, in addition to school district. Thought that since the January 6 event there is a big uptick in crimes.*
- *Hate spreads on social media and could be tied into future agenda item of Media Hate.*
- *Messaging indicates that incidents of anti-Palestinian incidents UC Davis increasing.*

B. Hate Free Together Presentation

The Commission received a presentation from Community Engagement Director, Jenny Tan, on the Hate Free Together program.

Commissioner Comments/Questions:

- *What is the avenue that HRC can communicate feedback, thoughts, etc.?*
- *Would like to bring this item back for further discussion and questions.*
- *Concern that HRC wasn't brought in earlier, since that has been a main focus of HRC for a number of years.*

Public Comment:

None

C. California Task Force on Reparations

Vice Chair Baker presented on the progress of the state-level task force, focused on the issue of reparations to African Americans, with a special consideration for African Americans who are descendants of persons enslaved in the United States. Supporters are looking for endorsements of work. Vice Chair Baker suggests that the City consider joining in the endorsers of the task force recommendations.

Commissioner Comments:

- Would like a summary of final recommendations and to be clear what the ask is of City Council.
- Consider a subcommittee to bring the information back.

Public Comment:

None

Gorman moves with second by Baker that a subcommittee of Baker and Pickett be formed to bring back a recommendation to the Commission asking the City Council to endorse the California Task Force on Reparations. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

D. Annual Thong Hy Huynh Awards

The Commission created a subcommittee for review of the Thong Hy Huynh nomination submissions, with a plan to present recommendations to the full commission at the March 21 commission meeting.

Wong Chen moves with second by Pickett to have Wong-Chen, Pickett, Gorman be on the subcommittee. Motion passed as follows:

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Public Comment:

None

E. Committee Updates

Committees provided updates as needed

- Commission Workshops Subcommittee (Gorman, Muhammad, Lama) – Committee is concluded and will revisit idea for workshops at a later time.
- Community Listening Subcommittee (Baker, Muhammad, Pickett) This subcommittee has fulfilled its charge and shared their findings for commission review.

Commissioner Comments:

- *Work in collaboration with Hate Free Together to not duplicate efforts*
- *Figure out what Commission can realistically do.*
- *Think about what HRC can do – specific workshop? What would HRC would like to do with partnership with Hate Free Together?*
- *Cesar Chavez Celebration Subcommittee (Baker, Gorman, Wong-Chen)*
 - *Subcommittee is working on program and will continue to schedule performers and info booths.*

Public Comment:

None

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Review workplan and calendar items for the 2024 year*
- *Huynh Award Review*
- *Listening Subcommittee Next Steps (March)*
- *MLK Recap*
- *Hate Free Together*
- *CA Task Force on Reparations*
- *Celebration Review*
- *Webpage Review*
- *Free Speech*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative*

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting of March 21, 2024.