



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

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

Ex-Officios present: Mikael Villalobos

Commissioners absent: None

Council Liaisons present: Councilmember Partida

Others present: City of Davis staff – Kelly Stachowicz and Carrie Dyer

2. Approval of Agenda

Pickett moved with second by Wong-Chen approval of the agenda presented. The motion passed as follows:

AYE: Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons

- Due to weather, the annual Cesar Chavez Celebration was cancelled this year.*
- May is Jewish American Heritage Month*
- May 6 is Holocaust Remembrance Day*
- Davis Phoenix Coalition is preparing for Pride and wondering if HRC will table. June 1*
- May 1 is May Day and recognized with local actions*
- May is AAPI month*
- May 7th is the City Council award recognition for Thong Hy Huynh, Golden Heart and Environmental Recognition awards*

4. Public Comment

- Alan Hirsch – Friday, April 26 is Tree Day*
- Policy should not be decided without direct engagement of the people that are affected. Concern about Thong Hy Huynh award recipient that was selected. Person not building bridges in community.*
- Leah Hibbel -Concern that during Picnic Day and the parade that there were anti-Semitic actions that were not being called out.*
- Jonathan Groveman– Jews have always been allies in the community and are asking for allies now. Concern that one of the Thong Hy Huynh recipients is not qualified to receive the award.*

- *Dan Ovadya – Focus on who is inciting these events in Davis. On December 12, event in Davis there was event in that was anti-Semitic focused. One of the Thong Hy Huynh recipients was an organizer.*
- *Victim of flag being cut down from front door and then taken down again shared what happened and how they are affected by it. Principals of One Community is not happening.*
- *3rd time speaking with commission about anti-Semitic events happening in town and increasing. Would like to know what the Human Relations Commission and the City Council has done. Expressed concern about one of the selected Thong Hy Huynh recipients. Would like commission to learn more and work with Hate Free Together and address hate crimes in Davis. Encourage 2 x 2 meetings to include antisemitism as a standing agenda item.*

5. Consent Calendar

A. March, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Wong-Chen moved with second by Pickett approval of the agenda presented. The motion passed as follows:

AYE: Baker, Gorman, 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.

- *Back of building on H & 3rd anti-Semitic graffiti large across back of building.*
- *Anti-Semitic graffiti spray painted on Shields library*
- *Black person harassed when going to their mailbox*
- *City is encouraging people to report things right away directly to the City for response.*
- *Hate Free Together representatives will be attending commission meeting to further discussion about collaboration.*
- *Figure out how to get education into the community. How can HRC work with community to address what is happening with education and resources.*
- *Teacher in the school district used the N word twice and investigation is taking place.*
- *Hate Free Together has been formed for providing resources and response.*

Public Comment:

- *Dan – Imagine if flag was cut down was a Pride flag? When nomination was received there was time to further review beyond nomination statement.*

- *Anti-Semitic incidents in the schools, by both teachers and students, aren't being responded to.*
- *Should re-consider the decision of one of the Thong Hy Huynh recipients.*
- *Alan Hirsch- Concern that there is too much pinning on the government.*
- *Night that caused not to feel safe in Davis anymore was the night that the City Council passed a resolution calling for cease fire.*
- *Maayan Gadisman– Need to have one safe place to go. Suggest that everyone look at own bias. Encourage to have a Jewish person on the commission.*

B. Consider Council Subcommittee Proposed Scope of the Human Relations

The Council Subcommittee on Commissions has been tasked with reviewing the structure and function of city advisory commissions and asked the Human Relations Commission for feedback on the updated proposed scope.

Assistant City Manager Stachowicz presented to the Commission and asked for feedback on proposal.

Commissioner Questions and Feedback

- *Consider changing ASUCD to UCD student, involving centers in discussion*
- *Bullet number two, consider changing to conduct and support, as appropriate community forums and educational activities.*
- *Important to mirror functions as listed in state code.*
- *Identify what lead commission for Hate Free Together initiative mean?*
 - *Commission would be lead on community engagement component.*
- *Interest from Council on having commission support on General Plan update.*

Public Comment:

- *Alan Hirsch- Call out how we can disagree more productively.*
- *Mike Levy - The Commission needs to minimize and prevent hate in Davis.*

C. Task Force on Reparations

The subcommittee assigned to review the California Task Force on Reparations has updated a proposed resolution, commending the California Task Force on Reparations and asked the Commission to consider making a recommendation to forward to the City Council for adoption.

Public Comment:

None

Pickett moves with second by Gorman to move the draft resolution to City Council for consideration. Motion passed as follows:

AYE: Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Wong-Chen

NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

D. Community Outreach Discussion

The Commission began conversation about community outreach and ways that they can both provide and receive information from the community. Further discussion will take place at future meetings.

Public Comment:

None

E. Committee/Liaison Updates

Committees and Liaisons provided updates as needed

- *Campus Council on Community and Diversity (Wong-Chen) – Next year will be focused on Campus Community book project. Next year will be 35 year of Principles of Community with Campus and City.*

Public Comment:

None

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

- *Review workplan and calendar items for the 2024 year*
- *MLK Recap*
- *Celebration Review*
- *Webpage Review*
- *Free Speech*
- *Multi-culturalism event for youth in Davis*
- *Critical Race Theory/Ethnic Studies Counter Narrative*
- *Thong Hy Huynh Award Process - Review*

8. Adjournment (9:30)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m. to the next meeting of May 30.