



**City of Davis**  
**Human Relations Commission**  
**Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 2 2025**

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

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

*Commissioners present: Kevin Baker (Chair), Connor Gorman, Ellie Kaplan (Alternate), Amir Kol, Leonie Pickett (Vice Chair), Deema Tamimi, Edgar Wong-Chen (arrived at 6:55)*  
*Ex-Officios present: Mikael Villalobos*  
*Commissioners absent: Felix Alvarez*  
*Council Liaisons present: Linda Deos*  
*Others present: City of Davis staff - Carrie Dyer*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Baker moved with second by Kaplan approval of the agenda moving Committee Updates to under item 6A. The motion passed as follows:*

*AYES: Baker, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Pickett, Tamimi*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Alvarez, Wong-Chen*

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

- Staff let the commission know about the Pride Festival to take place on June 7*
- Two DJUSD high school students have been assigned ex-officio roles to the Commission.*
- Commissioner attended the "October 8<sup>th</sup> film" at the Varsity Theatre and found it very moving*
- April 13 event at I-House there will be Beitna: a gathering for Arab Heritage, Culture and Solidarity as part of Arab American Heritage month*

**4. Public Comment**

- Alan Hirsch – Brought Love the Neighbors signs. Concerned that general public comment was not on agenda, due to special meeting. Handed out "An Exercise in Empathy Over Hate" handout.*
- Reem Awad-Rashmawi – the movie "Encampments" will be shared at the Varsity Theatre starting this Friday.*

**5. Consent Calendar (6:55)**

*Pickett moved with second by Kol approval of the February 27 minutes as presented. The motion passed as follows:*

*AYES: Baker, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Pickett, Tamimi,*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Alvarez, Wong-Chen*

## 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:**

- *On Campus event that happened on March 11. It was a protest after the arrest of the Colombia student with disturbing rhetoric. Concern about the term “armed resistance by any means necessary”*

#### **Public Comments:**

- *Unnamed Individual–Their belief is that the words “by any means necessary” refers to all Jews.*
- *Unnamed Individual – Feels like it’s an effort to quiet down Jews and their identities*
- *Unnamed Individual – Suggests that everyone on the commission watch the videos that Amir suggested. Rhetoric of not engaging in dialog is incredibly dangerous.*
- *Unnamed Individual - Was at demonstration and observed students using their first amendment right to speak, who were not responding to counter protestors filming.*
- *Unnamed Individual– recommend movie “October 8”*
- *Alan Hirsch – recommended movie “October 8”*

### B. Committee Updates

Committees will provide updates as needed

- *Campus Council on Community and Diversity (Wong-Chen)*
  - *Attended the recent meeting. They are looking at new proposals for the Community Book Project.*

#### **Public Comment:**

- *Reem – Consider engaging with the PTA to encourage the Campus Community Book Project.*
- *City Holiday Observances (Gorman, Kol, Pickett, Snow)*
  - *No update*

#### **Public Comment:**

- *Unnamed Individual– Consider celebration of all background of all community members.*
- *Civil Rights Ordinance Process (Baker, Kaplan, Wong-Chen)*
  - *No update*

#### **Public Comment:**

- *None*
- *Cesar Chavez Celebration (Gorman, Tamimi, Wong-Chen)*
  - *Saturday, April 26 at Central Park. Entertainment, speakers and resource tables. Theme Si Se Puede; The Power of Collective Action*

**Public Comment:**

- *Ann Block –Suggests that Antonio De Loera-Brust be considered as a speaker at the event.*
- *Antonio De Loera-Brust – Not available that day but suggests Jessie Ortiz as potential speaker.*
- *Research Ways to Report Hate Incidents (Alvarez, Baker, Gorman)*
  - *Continuing to work on possible ideas for ways to report hate incidents, what that means and what can be done with the reporting.*

**Public Comment:**

- *Unnamed Individual– Look at Sacramento State reporting tools that is working well*
- *Inquiry into Discriminations against Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims and their supporters/allies within the Davis community in 2023 and 2024 (Baker, Kaplan, Tamimi)*
  - *The subcommittee provided a presentation and status update. Presentation available with meeting materials.*

**Public Comment:**

- *Unnamed Individual– What the Jewish community does, it not going to be because of the HRC. This feels like a propaganda vehicle.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Concern that this item is not on the agenda or that the item is taken out of order.*
- *Unnamed Individual – Thank subcommittee for the work they did on a topic that has not been addressed before. Hopes that the local entities will look at this and address this.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Appreciate the work that has been done on clearly marked agenda item.*
- *Shula Glazerman – At March 11 event. Shared statements and experiences that they heard at the protest that they believe to be hate speech.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Feels legitimacy of HRC has vanished, as does not feel some information in report is accurate.*
- *Barry Klein – would like to address the word Zionism in the report. Request to take references out of report because it is offensive to the Jewish community.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Upset that community members are criticizing report where people are speaking their truths. We aren't building community this way.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Discrimination does not have space in Davis. Does not agree with approach to have 30 minute presentation, out of agenda order. As Jewish member does not feel cared about.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Thank you for presentation.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Thank you for presentation. As a Muslim student, knows that students feel frightened and not comfortable speaking up. The report allows for vulnerable community members to share their voice in a safe way.*

- *Unnamed Individual*– Appreciates hard work that went into report and was well presented. Surprised that similar work was not done to look into Antisemitism.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Feels sandbagged. Subcommittee report should not be action item without time for the commission and the public to vet it. Mission of HRC to help folks learn to live together.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Thanks for the work of the subcommittee. Feels like backlash is meant to silence.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Until this survey, no one has ever asked her experiences or opinion. Thank you for the time to do this work.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Thank you for work and appreciates the work of the committee to hear people’s experiences. Endorse action items.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Has seen many flyers to advertise Arab American Heritage month. Was excited to see the Jewish American Heritage Month and concerned that it was pushed to end of the agenda.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Upset that there is power in the room with a timer, etc. and would like to listen to everyone. Feels for all the pain that everyone is going through.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Thank you for report. Concern that students are deported by ICE and under same law that McCarthy used to investigate and deport Soviet Jews.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Feels disrespected that item was moved in front of Jewish American Heritage proposal.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Thank the commission and subcommittee and would like to encourage us to think of data as data. Justice for one should not take away justice from another.
- *Unnamed Individual*– The report has allowed for thoughts on how to speak and also how to listen.

**Technical difficulties caused the video recording to stop here, after 1 hour and 55 minutes**

- *Unnamed Individual*– Appreciative of the report to hear and learn more about experiences of others.
- *Alan Miller* – Reminded of previous Council meeting where people were attacking people instead of listening to others. City should have a forum where people talk to each other and listen.
- *Unnamed Individual*– planning to write same report for Antisemitism?
- *Unnamed Individual*– Would like to have non-political event for Jewish American Heritage month.
- *Unnamed Individual* – Grateful to commission for putting together this data. Encourage commission to adopt recommendations.
- *Unnamed Individual* – Likes idea to have City have identify acts of discrimination and solidarity without promoting violence.
- *Alan Hirsch* – Likes report. Hears pain in people’s voices.
- *Unnamed Individual*– Voices being heard is important. City of Davis should prioritize safety and security.

- *Unnamed Individual– would like action items to be postponed in effort of saving time.*

*Gorman moves with second by Tamimi to extend meeting as long we can and remove last two items from calendar. Motion passed as follows:*

*AYES: Baker, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Pickett, Tamimi, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Alvarez*

- *Commissioner Comments:*
  - *Would like the opportunity to review report prior to taking action.*

*Pickett moves with second by Wong-Chen to extend this item to the next meeting. Motion passes as follows:*

*AYES: Baker, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Pickett, Tamimi, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Alvarez*

- *Investigate and document incidents of Antisemitism and discrimination within the City of Davis and propose strategies to combat it (Kol, Pickett, Wong-Chen)*
  - *No update*
  - *Public Comment:*
    - *None*
- *Sanctuary City (Alvarez, Gorman, Pickett, Snow)*
  - *None*
  - *Public Comment*
    - *Unnamed Individual– Looking forward to hearing more*
- *Webpage Review (Alvarez, Pickett, Tamimi)*
  - *No update*
  - *Public Comment:*
    - *None*

### **C. Jewish American Heritage Month Event Proposal**

*The Commission received a community proposal to co-sponsor a community picnic event in recognition of Jewish American Heritage Month. The free event is proposed for May 29 at Central Park and will be open to the public.*

*Harriet Gadisman- presented information about the event that was included in the meeting materials and reiterated during the discussion that that they don't want the event to be political and would be happy to work with other groups, as long as the focus is non-political.*

*Public Comment:*

- *Alan Hirsch – Excited about this event. The social justice committee of Bet Haverim is excited about event. Would like it to be inclusive and representative of everyone.*
- *Annie – Jews for Justice would like to be included.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Jews for Justice is planning an event on Antisemitism that is scheduled for the same date and time. Would like to suggest that the event be shifted by one hour so that both can take place without overlap.*
- *Nora Oldwin – Loves the idea of a Jewish celebration and would like to have everyone included. HRC should only sponsor if it is inclusive of all groups, including Jews for Justice.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Everyone can participate but clarifying if the ask is for Jews for Justice to be on the organizing committee or a participant. Fully supports event recommendation.*
- *Scott – Suggests moving the time of the event*
- *Unnamed Individual – Likes cultural event and would like it to be endorsed.*
- *Alan Miller –Supports both events happening on May 29*

*Commissioner Comments:*

- *Recognize that event can happen whether the City endorses or not. Does not feel it appropriate for the City to endorse the event which might pit one group against another.*
- *Would like to suggest that the time change to 6:00 – 8:00 and that the Davis Jews for Justice be part of the planning.*
- *Likes the idea of the event and that it is non-political. Willing to support with current organizers and would like to suggest that timing be moved slightly so that both events can happen.*
- *Wondering why Jews for Justice weren't reached out, despite their ask at the last meeting.*
- *Can time be changed?*
  - *Response was not at this point*
- *Focus should be on event that has been proposed, not the other event that is happening.*
- *Would like to be unifying, not divisive.*
- *As long as focused on inclusivity, can support event.*

*Wong-Chen moves with second by Pickett to recommend to the City Council to endorse the event. Motion passed as follows:*

*AYES: Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Pickett, Tamimi, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: None*

*ABSTAIN: Baker*

*ABSENT: Alvarez*

#### **D. Annual Thong Hy Huynh Awards**

*The subcommittee assigned to review the Huynh award nominations presented their recommendations to the Commission for consideration. Final Commission recommendations will go to the City Council for approval and ratification. Recommendations are included in the meeting materials.*

##### *Public Comment:*

- *Unnamed Individual– Highly support the nomination of Ann Block*
- *Unnamed Individual– Highly support the nomination of Ann Block for her work with immigration.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Highly support the nomination of Ann Block, who shows up for marginalized communities.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Nominated Ann and was inspired by her 30 years ago and is still inspired by her today.*
- *Dr. Siegel – Doesn't think one of the recommended nominees should be considered based on their views expressed about the Middle East.*
- *Alan Miller – Supports Delta of Venus nomination as they are the center of culture in Davis.*
- *Unnamed Individual– Nominator of Dillan Horton and would like to support this recommendation.*

##### *Commissioner Comments:*

- *Did committee consider political views when considering?*
  - *No, recommendations were based on information provided in the nominations.*
- *Highly supports the nomination of Ann, as well as all others.*
- *Want it on record that Deema was one of the people to start Night Market.*
  - *Staff clarified with Clerk's office, prior to meeting, that there was no conflict in voting, due to no board decisions or financial gain.*

*Tamimi moves with Gorman to recommend the committee recommendations to the City Council for ratification. Motion passed as follows:*

*AYES: Baker, Gorman, Kaplan, Pickett, Tamimi, Wong-Chen*

*NOES: Kol*

*ABSTAIN: None*

*ABSENT: Alvarez*

#### **E. Discussion of Items for Commission Initiated Task/Project Process**

*This item was postponed due to lack of time.*

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

*This item was postponed due to lack of time.*

#### **8. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.**