



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes
Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
Thursday, June 26, 2025
6:30 P.M.

Commission Members: Felix Alvarez, Kevin Baker (Chair), Connor Gorman, Amir Kol, Deema Tamimi, Edgar Wong-Chen, Ellie Kaplan (Alternate)

Commission Members Absent: Leonie Pickett (Vice Chair)

Commission Ex-Officio Members: Jasmine Garcia (Davis Joint Unified School District High School Student Representative), Mikael Villalobos (UC Davis Administration Member) (arrived at 6:44p.m.)

Staff: Community Relations Program Manager Carrie Dyer

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Chair Baker called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda. D. Tamimi moved, seconded by C. Gorman, to approve the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:
AYES: Alvarez, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen, Baker
NOES: None
ABSENT: Pickett

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons

K. Baker: Thanked Commission members who tabled at the Pride Festival on June 7; was a successful event.

- a. New Commissioner Recruitment Update

Community Relations Program Manager Carrie Dyer: At the June 17 City Council meeting, City Council appointed two new commission members and reappointed K. Baker and E. Kaplan. Terms start July 1.

- b. Outgoing Commissioner Appreciation

K. Baker: Presented commissioner appreciation proclamations to outgoing commissioners C. Gorman and E. Wong-Chen.

E. Wong-Chen and C. Gorman: Reflected on service, enjoyed working with

Commission members. Appreciate all the work completed, important to have space to listen to and address community concerns.

Public comments:

- Alan Hirsch: Thanked C. Gorman and E. Wong-Chen for their service on the Commission. Appreciate that the Commission works hard on issues.
- Ning Wan: Glad to talk about human relations.

4. Public Comment

- Ning Wan: Concerned about human rights; should be prioritized.
- Alan Miller: Commission should allow minority opinion to be heard. Commission should be dissolved.
- Scott Steward: Thanked Commission for allowing all voices to be heard and have a seat at the table. Should not be forbidden to call out genocide and hate. Believe Zionism is a philosophy of supremacy and it should not punish anti-Zionists.
- Alan Hirsch: Need uplifting and positive events, talk and collaborate with one another, and to address fear.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Minutes from the Human Relations Commission Meeting of May 22, 2025.

D. Tamimi moved, seconded by E. Kaplan, to approve the May 22, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Gorman, Kaplan, Kol, Tamimi, Wong-Chen, Baker

NOES: None

ABSENT: Pickett

6. Regular Items

A. Public Forum on Recent Hate Incidents in the Davis Community

Public comments:

- Alan Miller: Recent protest at UC Davis Coffee House called for elimination of Israel. Recent article of Karen Levy accounted an incident where she was blocked from attending movie screening; needs to be investigated.
- Ning Wan: Concerned about hate crimes.
- Scott Steward: Recent City Council meeting public comments express hate and that anti-Zionist Jews are not real Jews and Zionist Jews are the only real Jews. Comments are crossing a line.
- Alan Hirsch: Jewish American Heritage event marginalized certain Jewish community members. Commission subcommittee should address the topic of marginalization of Jewish community members. Need to listen and document hate incidents but be careful to not make them bigger than they may be.
- Josh Livni: Comments that there are unreal Jews are offensive. Similar comments can lead to hate incidents. Commission subcommittee should address topic.

Individual commissioners provided comments including:

- June is Pride month. Multiple homophobic incidents at community events and outside schools during school hours. Administration staff talked with groups to deescalate and are discussing ways to better address issues in the future.
- Concerns about divisions amongst the Jewish community.
- Commission should start collaborating with Hate Free Together soon.
- A potential Commission subcommittee could look into addressing divisiveness of Jewish community in future work.
- Immigration and customs enforcement activity occurring across the State. Harsher impacts for sanctuary cities may be imminent. Elimination of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and defunding of grants in academic institutions are occurring across the nation; UC Davis could be affected next.

B. Subcommittee Updates

K. Baker: Subcommittees will report out their work and will be formally concluded tonight. Will evaluate and consider reestablishment and creation of any subcommittees in August. Thanked all commissioners for subcommittee work, have provided forum for listening and discussion of issues.

i. Campus Council on Community and Diversity (E. Wong-Chen)

M. Villalobos: 2025-26 Campus Community Book Project: *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora; journey and experience traveling from El Salvador to the United States to reunite with his parents. Javier will be on campus in March 2026. 2026-27 Book Project theme: civil liberties; encourage nominations.

ii. City Holiday Observances (C. Gorman, A. Kol, L. Pickett, K. Snow)

C. Gorman: Nothing to report.

iii. Civil Rights Ordinance Process (K. Baker, E. Kaplan, E. Wong-Chen)

K. Baker: Summarized two subcommittee proposals: revise City's current civil rights ordinance to be consistent with State (recommendations approved by the Commission, awaiting City staff analysis) and drafted a complaint form (not presented to Commission, shared with City staff).

iv. Research Ways to Report Hate Incidents (F. Alvarez, K. Baker, C. Gorman)

C. Gorman: Subcommittee drafted language for possible inclusion on a city webpage or Commission webpage to list resources around reporting hate incidents. Language includes emphasizing building a positive community, a statement that incidents reported do not reflect the state of the community because there are incidents that do not get reported, and include both police and non-police reporting mechanisms.

- v. Inquiry into Discriminations Against Arabs, Palestinians, Muslims and Their Supporters/Allies (MAPA) Within the Davis Community In 2023 and 2024 (K. Baker, E. Kaplan, D. Tamimi)

D. Tamimi: Would like to address confusion heard from public comment at recent City Council meetings. Report is complete, not ongoing. Commission voted to approve recommendations and not the report itself; report is for context for recommendations only. The original report has original recommendations which were not approved by the Commission; the subcommittee revised the recommendations after receiving feedback and the Commission voted to approved the revised recommendations.

- vi. Investigate and Document Incidents of Antisemitism and Discrimination Within the City of Davis and Propose Strategies to Combat It (A. Kol, L. Pickett, E. Wong-Chen)

A. Kol: Subcommittee met with representatives from Jewish community who presented documentation of antisemitism in town, on UC Davis campus, and on DJUSD school campuses. Subcommittee did not want to create a report documenting incidents, but rather wanted to create a positive community event. Endorsed Jewish American Heritage event last month, was a successful event. Subcommittee could continue work, but defined scope and tasks are needed.

- vii. Sanctuary City (F. Alvarez, C. Gorman, L. Pickett, K. Snow)

F. Alvarez: At last meeting, held discussion of Sanctuary City status; reviewed current resolution, discussed potential revisions, and received community input. Would like to reestablish subcommittee at a later date and pursue work to update informational card or creating educational materials to include information of City sanctuary city status and resources for individual rights (potentially include other organizations that provide relevant information) and pursue ways to educate business on rights for employees and customers.

Individual commissioners provided comments including:

- Consider including information regarding bystander rights when witnessing immigration and custom enforcement activity.
- NorCal Resist, NegroWatch, and 4th Amendment Worksites are organizations to contact and have resources.

- viii. Webpage Review (F. Alvarez, L. Pickett, D. Tamimi)

D. Tamimi: Presented subcommittee recommendations. Homepage ideas: welcome video from commission and commissioner bios, how to apply to the commission, and how members of the public can attend meetings and provide public comment. Additional pages: commission documents, current

subcommittees, FAQs, key resources, community events endorsed and put on by the commission, and announcements for special meetings. Site content should be current, including sanctuary city page, community events page, and minutes. Hope recommendations can be passed on to city staff website team, could be used for all commissions.

Public comments:

- Alan Hirsch: Support all subcommittee work presented, opportunities to do good work. Should have used the word “alleged” in MAPA report. Antisemitism subcommittee should be careful not to scapegoat Jews.
- Scott Steward: City should pursue subcommittee recommendations. Antisemitism subcommittee should continue.

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

Public comment:

- Alan Hirsch: “Love Your Neighbor” lawns signs available.

8. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.