



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes
Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616
Thursday, January 22, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Commission Members: Felix Alvarez, Kevin Baker (Co-Chair), Hilda Khairallah (left at 8:39p.m.), Amir Kol (left at 9:17p.m.), Leonie Pickett (Co-Chair), Deema Tamimi

Commission Members Absent: Ellie Kaplan

Commission Ex-Officio Members: Kate Snow (Davis Joint Unified School District Administration Member), Sawyer Vau (Davis Joint Unified School District High School Student Representative, Alternate), Mikael Villalobos (UC Davis Administrative Member) (arrived at 6:34p.m.; left at 9:39p.m.)

Staff: Community Relations Program Manager Carrie Dyer

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Co-Chair Pickett called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda. K. Baker moved, seconded by D. Tamimi, to approve the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:
AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Kol, Tamimi, Pickett
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kaplan

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

Community Relations Program Manager Carrie Dyer: January 19—held Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, was a successful event. Thanked planning committee for efforts. February 3—City Council will be recognizing Black History and Futures Month.

4. Public Comment

L. Pickett: Due to amount of attendance present, public comment for general public comment and all agenda items will be 2 minutes.

- Alan Hirsch: Thanked City and Commission for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.
- Alan Miller: Sang a song regarding recent UC Davis protesting incidents.

- Nick Boxman: Disappointed that Commission is not discussing draft sanctuary city ordinance tonight; request Commission discuss item as soon as possible. Disappointed that City Council is not discussing MAPA report soon either.
- Daniela Telles: Support sanctuary city ordinance; City needs to commit to protecting undocumented community. Suggest City place information on sanctuary city status in a more prominent location on the website.
- Maria Elena Martinez: Support undocumented immigrant community.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Minutes from the Human Relations Commission Meeting of December 10, 2025.

K. Baker moved, seconded by D. Tamimi, to approve the December 10, 2025 minutes. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Kol, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan

6. Regular Items

A. Day of Remembrance Film Screening

L. Pickett: For the past two years, the Commission has co-sponsored a public film screening in recognition of the Day of Remembrance of Japanese American Incarceration during World War II. For 2026, the film *Kintsukuroi* is scheduled to be shown on February 19 at the Veterans Memorial Theater. Commission is also asked to support Day of Remembrance recognition in future years.

D. Tamimi moved, seconded by K. Baker, to co-sponsor the Day of Remembrance film screening *Kintsukuroi* on February 19, 2026, and to support Day of Remembrance recognition in future years. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Kol, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan

B. Immigrant Safety and Solidary Forum (Sanctuary City Subcommittee on Lived Experiences Update (F. Alvarez, H. Khairallah, D. Tamimi))

D. Tamimi: Subcommittee distributed survey to organizations/individuals that support immigrant communities; asked what services, education and advocacy work is being provided, challenges immigrant communities are facing, how the City of Davis could collaborate/amplify efforts or enact policy, and what solidarity action/protections are needed. Invited organizations/individuals to speak to Commission regarding their survey responses.

Speakers included: Daniela Telles; Elizabeth Gray and Areli Duran, Yolo County Library Literacy Services; Natalia Deeb-Sossa, Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network (YIIN); Ximena Diez-Jackson, ¿Un Cafecito?; Ann Block, Immigrant

Legal Resource Center (ILRC); Amagda Perez, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF) & UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic; Daniel Speer, NorCal Resist/ Mutual Aid Davis (MAD); Maria Elena Martinez, Empower Yolo; Antonio De Loera-Brust, United Farm Workers (UFW) and Ignacio Hernandez, Noe, and Victor, farming/migrant workers; Maria Leyva, DJUSD Language Justice and Family Partnership & National Association of Educational Translators and Interpreters of Spoken Languages (NAETISL); Roderick Conrad, International Rescue Committee (IRC); Marcus Tang, California Immigration Project & Family Unity, Education and Legal (FUEL) Network; Anoosh Jorjorian and Gloria Partida, Davis Phoenix Coalition; Alejandra Cuevas, Yolo Local Working Group, Davis Media Access (DMA).

Perceived needs, challenges, and themes included:

- Major gaps in critical resources: legal, housing, healthcare.
- Fear, instability, and barriers to access programs and resources. Need improved communication and trust with local government.
- Solidarity actions such as messaging and programs to reinforce safety and belonging.
- Translation and interpretation services to access and participate in programs and resources. Messaging and media in multiple languages.

Potential City actions included:

- Moving beyond statements and toward consistent, material, trust-building actions in legal protection, housing stability, system navigation/assistance, communication, and visible solidarity.
- Amplifying and visualizing sanctuary city messaging, both on website and at City facilities, as well as frequently visited locations such as businesses and immigrant housing/communities/neighborhoods.
- Hiring bilingual staff and translating programs and resources into multiple languages.
- City-sponsored English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and Know Your Rights education delivered through trusted organizations/instructors in different languages in-person and virtual.
- Adopting a sanctuary city ordinance, with language including not to collaborate with immigration and custom enforcement agencies and to provide enforcement activity to the community.

K. Baker moved, seconded by F. Alvarez, to extend the meeting time for one hour. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Kol, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan

K. Snow: Should consider adding/revising recommendations regarding language access; linguistic and interpreting services promote inclusivity and contribute to social justice.

Public comment:

- Hendrix Dyke: International House Davis creates welcome kits for new community members; currently accepting donations.
- Steve Murphy and Pierson Dretsky, Indivisible Yolo: Would like City/Commission to support and participate in human rights events. Support a sanctuary city ordinance.
- Dillan Horton: Diminishing availability and affordability of housing, especially for immigrant community. City should discuss ways to make population more secure.
- Alan Hirsch: Distribute whistles at Davis Farmers Market.
- Antonio De Loera-Brust: Commission should consider language regarding an eviction moratorium when local state of emergency is declared when drafting sanctuary city ordinance.
- Unnamed individuals: City should post resource flyers in frequently visited public locations and businesses.
- Kristin Kuwaki: Suggest Commission consider addressing affordable housing concerns. Need easily accessible resources and grant opportunities.
- Maria Leyva: Suggest Commission create a family preparedness guide.
- Alan Miller: Oppose current federal administration immigration policies and actions.

D. Tamimi: Considering feedback heard tonight, subcommittee will revise and reframe draft recommendations, including: more language regarding housing, potential sanctuary city ordinance, and clarifying potential City actions. Heard from community that actionable items are needed. Will return with final recommendations for Commission discussion and Council recommendation.

C. Annual Thong Hy Huynh Awards (Thong Hy Huynh Awards Planning Committee (K. Baker, A. Kol, D. Tamimi, J. Garcia (ex-officio)))

C. Dyer: Overview of proposed timeline, nomination form, and categories. No changes to nomination form and categories from last year; updated timeline for this year.

L. Pickett: Request subcommittee discuss options to review applications for future Commission discussion.

Public comment:

- Alan Hirsch: Support Commission discussion of nomination review process.

K. Baker moved, seconded by D. Tamimi, to approve the timeline for the 2026 Thong Hy Huynh Awards as follows:

- February 2 – March 16: Nomination period
- March 16: Nominations due
- March 17 – 19: Subcommittee reviews nominations

- March 26: Commission reviews submissions and recommendations from subcommittee and determines recipient recommendations for Council
- April: City Council ratifies Commission recommendations
- May: Awards presented and reception during City Council Meeting

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan, Khairallah, Kol

D. Committee and Liaison Updates

i. Campus Council on Community and Diversity (E. Kaplan, A. Kol (Alternate))

M. Villalobos: Held workshop on new website content access guidelines required by State and local governments to follow. March 10—Public Author's Forum at Veterans Memorial Theatre, hosting Javier Zamora, author of *Solito: A Memoir*, the UC Davis 2025-26 Campus Community Book Project.

ii. Cesar Chavez Celebration Planning Committee (K. Baker, H. Khairallah)

L. Pickett: Interested in being on committee.

D. Tamimi moved, seconded by F. Alvarez, to appoint L. Pickett to the Cesar Chavez Celebration Planning Committee. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan, Khairallah, Kol

iii. Human Relations Commission Webpage Review (E. Kaplan, D. Tamimi)

D. Tamimi: Looking to meet with city staff working on website updates.

iv. Sanctuary City Subcommittee on Institutional Allies (K. Baker, E. Kaplan, L. Pickett)

L. Pickett and K. Baker: Subcommittee has drafted ordinance language. Unclear whether drafting and presenting ordinance language and work product is aligned with or outside of the approved Commission workplan. Suggest Commission request clarification from City Council regarding the approved Commission workplan.

C. Dyer clarification: Initial staff analysis was that the approved Commission workplan subtask to "reaffirm and update the City's Sanctuary City language, as needed" did not include creating a new work product. Additionally, staff needs additional time to review proposed draft language and then work further with the subcommittee prior to being brought to the full Commission.

Public comment:

- Alan Hirsch: Support Commission requesting clarification from City Council.
- Ann Block: Support sanctuary city resolution and potential ordinance.

K. Baker moved, seconded by F. Alvarez, to clarify the approved Commission workplan subtask to “Reaffirm and update the City’s Sanctuary City language, as needed,” and whether it includes drafting a sanctuary city ordinance for Commission discussion.

- a. If the subtask does not include drafting a sanctuary city ordinance,
 - Request City Council approve this as an additional task; and
 - Direct staff to review the draft language simultaneously with Commission discussion so it can be heard as soon as possible.
- b. If the subtask does include drafting a sanctuary city ordinance, direct staff to review the draft language simultaneously with Commission discussion so it can be heard as soon as possible.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Tamimi, Pickett

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan, Khairallah, Kol

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

L. Pickett: February meeting tentatively includes: draft recommendations of the Sanctuary City Subcommittee on Lived Experiences and discussion of an alternate date/confirmation of quorum for March meeting (meeting date currently falls during UC Davis and DJUSD spring breaks).

Public comment:

- Alan Hirsch: Request Commission have general public comment at special meetings.
- Alan Miller: Request Commission agenda discussion to request City Council pull MAPA report from Council consideration altogether.

8. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 10:00p.m.