



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street, Davis, CA 95616
Thursday, April 2, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Commission Members: Felix Alvarez, Kevin Baker (Co-Chair), Ellie Kaplan (arrived 6:48), Hilda Khairallah, Amir Kol (arrived 6:33), Leonie Pickett (Co-Chair), Deema Tamimi

Commission Members Absent: None

Commission Ex-Officio Members: Kate Snow (6:35-7:50) (Davis Joint Unified School District Administration Member), Sawyer Vau (Davis Joint Unified School District High School Student Representative), Mikael Villalobos (UC Davis Administrative Member)

Council Liaison: Vice Mayor Partida

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. D. Tamimi moved, seconded by K. Baker, to approve the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:
AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Pickett, Tamimi
NOES: None
ABSENT: Kaplan, Kol
3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Council Liaisons
 - K. Baker: Thank Council for their comments and work committed to doing in regards to Sanctuary City efforts.
 - D. Tamimi: Ditto K. Baker's comments. Arab American Heritage Month and American Muslim & Appreciation Month proclamations will be presented on April 7. Lots of festivities happening this month in support of Arab American Heritage Month.
4. Public Comment
 - Alan Miller – Stood, silently danced and left the room.
5. Consent Calendar
 - A. Minutes from the Human Relations Commission Meeting of February 26, 2026.

Approve.

K. Baker moved, seconded by D. Tamimi, to approve the consent calendar as listed above. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Alvarez, Baker, Khairallah, Pickett Tamimi,

NOES: None

ABSENT: Kaplan

ABSTAIN: Kol

6. Regular Items

A. Thong Hy Huynh Award Recipient Recommendations

The subcommittee of Baker, Kol and Tamimi, assigned to review the Huynh award nominations, presented their recipient recommendations to the Commission for consideration, which included Sharon Shoemaker for the over 18 category and ¿Un Cafecito? for the Community Group category. Final Commission recommendations will go to the City Council for approval and ratification on April 21 and the recipient presentations will take place at the City Council meeting on May 19.

A. Kol shared parts of the nomination in support of Sharon Shoemaker.

D. Tamimi stated that ¿Un Cafecito? received four nominations and shared parts of the nomination

Public comment:

- Ximena Diez- Jackson – thank you to the group and it's an honor to be seen. This community is often in the kitchen and the cleaning rooms in jobs that aren't typically seen.
- Ann Block – Happy to see that ¿Un Cafecito? is being recommended for the Thong Hy Huynh award. They've done an amazing job of organizing their own community. Powerful and empowering group of women in our town in support one of the most marginalized in our community.
- No name – Thank you so much for the nomination recommendation. Thanked Ximena Diez-Jackson for making women ambassadors. It's an honor.

Commission discussion:

- L. Pickett supports the recommendation of ¿Un Cafecito? and states that S. Shoemaker nomination also looks impressive.

F. Alvarez moved, seconded by H. Khairallah to move subcommittee recommendations of Sharon Shoemaker and ¿Un Cafecito? to the City Council for ratification.

Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

B. Commission Workplan Discussion

The Commission reviewed their approved current workplan, determined which subcommittees can be concluded and which components to focus on next.

Pickett opened the conversation with background on approved work and discussion about current subcommittees.

The Commission asked clarifying questions regarding subcommittees that might be concluded, when the alternate position on the commission might be filled, could the Commission look at current list of tasks and prioritize and create shorter subcommittees to address one at a time.

Public comment:

- Irena Asmundson – Can city can invite community members to be on subcommittees to give people idea of what being on a commission is like.
- No name provided – Question about website subcommittee – will dissolving the website subcommittee get in the way of updating webpage?

Commission discussion included having subcommittees looking into soliciting help from organizations who are knowledgeable in the area, having fewer subcommittees to focus on work tasks, focusing forums on Know Your Rights and if that is one topic or if there are various focuses under that category.

K. Baker moved with second by E. Kaplan to dissolve the Lived Experience, the Institutional Allies, the Chavez Planning committee and the Webpage review subcommittees. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

D. Tamimi moved with second by K. Baker to form a subcommittee to engage the community to develop forums, educational opportunities and materials regarding immigrant safety and solidarity. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

K. Baker moved with second by E. Kaplan to have Tamimi, Alvarez and Kaplan be on the subcommittee. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

C. Commission Events

The Commission considered ideas for an event to support our immigrant community and to recognize the contributions they bring to Davis, as well as explored opportunities to develop an event that highlights and honors the essential role of farmworkers.

L. Pickett provided information on planning ideas from the previously scheduled Chavez event that was cancelled, that included a lineup of speakers, entertainers and a resource fair.

Public Comment:

- No name listed - In working with International House, there is strength in working with different communities. Thousand people come to I-House because it now represents everyone. Supports to decision to shift focus to recognizing communities.
- No name listed - Supports conversation. Thinking hard about what are we asking people to do versus what we can do for people. Would like to see a celebration that is really fun for groups of people.

Commission discussion included hosting a public forum to invite the community to learn more about immigration and about what you can do, checking in with the community to find out what kind of event would be most meaningful to them and when would be good to hold it, and a suggestion to shift the event to highlighting entire communities, rather than individual names, to honor the shared work. Looking to hold something in the fall.

The Commission determined that further discussion, specifically around shifting the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration to more community-based recognition, should take place at the next meeting.

K. Baker moved, seconded by F. Alvarez, to create a subcommittee to create an event to support our immigrant community and to recognize the contributions they bring to Davis, as well as explore opportunities to develop an event that highlights and honors the essential role of farmworkers. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

K. Baker moved with second by E. Kaplan to have subcommittee of Khairallah, Kol and Pickett. Motion passed by the following vote:

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

D. Committee and Liaison Updates

- i. Campus Council on Community and Diversity - Kaplan, Kol (Alternate)
Kaplan attended meeting on March 12 about implementing AB2925 Equity and Higher Education Act. Using UCD Principals of Community for foundation of training. Soft launch as part of Race Matter series in the spring. Community Book Project – book still being decided, can connect HRC with manager of Community Book Project.
- ii. Together for Safe & Strong Communities Event Planning Committee (Chavez Planning) – Baker, Khairallah, Pickett
Event cancelled and pivoting, as per action taken above
- iii. Hate Free Together – Tamimi, Khairallah (Alternate)
Tamimi provided bi-monthly meeting update – HFT strategic plan is being shared in the upcoming weeks. Met with founder of Not in Our Town and United Hate Week. Commission would like City representative to present strategic plan to HRC when ready to go.
- iv. Human Relations Commission Webpage Review – Kaplan, Tamimi
No update, subcommittee dissolved at this meeting.
- v. Research Effectiveness of Human Relations Commissions on Civil Rights Subcommittee – Baker, Khairallah
No update for this meeting.
- vi. Sanctuary City subcommittee focused on Institutional Allies – Baker, Kaplan, Pickett
No update. Subcommittee dissolved, as per action above.
- vii. Sanctuary City subcommittee focused on Lived Experiences - Alvarez, Khairallah, Tamimi
No update. Subcommittee dissolved, as per action above.

Public Comment

- No public comment

7. Future Agenda Items/Long Range Calendar

C. Dyer: Next meeting includes agenda items for the community engagement and event planning subcommittees and a discussion about events focusing on community groups, rather than highlighting individual people. A presentation from Hate Free Together, regarding their Strategic Plan will be placed on long range and scheduled in the near future.

8. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.