



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

### Minutes

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Members:

Herbert Bauer  
William Calhoun  
Diane Carlson, Vice Chair  
Hamza El-Nakhal  
Cecilia E. Greenwald, Chair  
Chithra Lakshmanan  
Elisa Levy  
John Pamperin, Emeritus  
Patsy Snowdon  
Victor Valerio  
Riley Evans (Student)  
Carol Standing Elk (Alternate)  
Tanvir Kapoor (Student Alternate)

Council Liaisons:

Stephen Souza, *Councilmember*  
Don Saylor, *Councilmember* (Alternate)

Staff and Liaisons:

Marsha Ludwig/ Steve Horowitz/ Mikael Villalobos, *DJUSD*  
Rahim Reed, *UCD*  
Kelly Stachowicz, *Assistant to City Manager*  
Det. Mark Hermann/ Sgt. Frank Tenedora/ Lt. Colleen Turay, *Police*

---

#### **I. Roll Call and Approval of Agenda**

- 6:30p.m. Greenwald called the meeting to order.
  - Members Present: Bauer, Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan, Levy, Pamperin, Snowdon
  - Members Absent: Carlson, Evans, Standing Elk, Valerio
  - Staff and Liaisons Present: Saylor, Souza, Ludwig, Turay, Midori Wong (for Stachowicz)
  
- Greenwald suggested that following Public Communications items VII B, A, and D be moved to the forefront of the agenda so as to accommodate the members of the public in attendance. After these items, the meeting would continue as originally posted in the agenda.
- Greenwald moved and Lakshmanan seconded the motion to approve the agenda as amended.  
AYES – Bauer, Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan, Levy, Pamperin, Snowdon  
NOES –

#### **II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 23, 2005 Regular and Special Meeting**

- Levy moved and Bauer seconded the motion to approve the minutes.  
AYES – Bauer, Calhoun, Greenwald, Laskhmanan, Levy, Pamperin, Snowdon  
NOES –  
ABSTAIN – El-Nakhal, Kapoor

#### **III. Public Communications and Announcements**

- Jerry Fisherman – submitted request to enlarge picture and place in City Hall.
- Rita Montes-Martin – would like to discuss D-Q University and issues surrounding its loss of accreditation at a future meeting.

- Susan Reese, former board member, D-Q University – echoed Montes-Martin and expressed intent to submit supporting documents at next Commission meeting.

## **VII. Discussion/Action Items**

### **B. Discussion of Community concerns regarding recent Davis Police Department actions and incidents.**

- Greenwald invited members of the public in attendance to address the Commission regarding this item. The following citizens spoke:
  - Jamal Buzayan (submitted statement and accompanying documents)
  - Lucas Foster (submitted statement)
  - Ivy Anderson (submitted video)
  - Rita Montes-Martin
  - Dean Johaneson
  - Susan Reese
  - LaSonya Porter
  - Norbie Kumagai
  - Mariko Yamada, Yolo County Supervisor, District 4
  - Steven Worker, City-UCD Student Liaison Commission
  - Melvin Trujillo
  - Tansey Thomas
  - James Schwab, UCD Director of External Affairs, City-UCD Student Liaison Commission
  - Calhoun and El-Nakhal also submitted comments as members of the public regarding this item.
- Bauer stressed that the cases be examined on an individual basis rather than in a unilateral fashion. Suggested sending the Police Department copies of the materials submitted by members of the public.
- Turay noted that while members of the public may say anything they wish regarding a particular case, the Police Department cannot release details of individual investigations. However, they can discuss general policy and procedures.
- Motion: Snowdon moved to gather the information received from members of the public and send it to Police Chief Jim Hyde with an invitation for him or his representative to attend the next Commission meeting. Lakshmanan seconded the motion.
- Friendly Amendment: Greenwald proposed that in addition the Commission make a recommendation to City Council for the formation of an independent citizens' advisory board to investigate concerns regarding recent Davis Police Department actions and incidents.
- Souza suggested that the two ideas be separated into two distinct motions. Greenwald withdrew the amendment.
- Calhoun expressed concern that sending the information would not elicit a response from the Police Department.
- Turay again explained that the Police Department is prohibited from discussing details of specific cases, and suggested that the content of the letter include general concerns and questions regarding policies and procedures.

- Friendly Amendment: Greenwald proposed that the report to the Police Chief not include the information received regarding individual cases. Instead, the Commission would include questions regarding policy, procedure, and expected timeline for response. Chief Hyde would still be invited to attend the next Commission meeting. Snowdon accepted the amendment.
- **MOTION** (Snowdon, seconded by Lakshmanan): To send a report to Police Chief Hyde inquiring as to Davis Police Department general policies, procedures, and expected timeline for response and to invite the Chief or his representative to attend the next Commission meeting.
  - AYES – Bauer, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Lakshmanan, Levy, Kapoor, Pamperin, Snowdon
  - NOES – Calhoun
  - ABSTAIN –
- The motion carried.
- Greenwald moved to make a recommendation to the City Council encouraging the formation of an independent citizens' review board to address public concern. Calhoun seconded the motion.
- Greenwald stated that the review board would hear concerns from citizens who feel they have not been treated fairly by the Davis Police Department.
- James Schwab of the City-UCD Student Liaison Commission offered to email the Commission with background and case examples of independent citizens' review boards to assist the Commission with their recommendation.
- Lakshmanan inquired as to who the review board would answer and report to. She suggested that representatives from the Commission be involved with the board.
- Pamperin expressed opposition to the proposed review board because it would not necessarily have any power over the Police Department. He encouraged exploration of possible alternatives before the Commission makes a recommendation to City Council.
- Calhoun expressed that community concerns must be addressed and some action needs to be taken now.
- Snowdon suggested that the recommendation to City Council include details and history of successful independent review boards, and that perhaps this discussion would alleviate some of the concerns expressed by Pamperin.
- Greenwald restated her motion to include Snowdon's suggestion. Calhoun seconded the motion.
- **MOTION** (Greenwald, seconded by Calhoun): To submit a recommendation to City Council calling for the formation of an independent citizens' review board to further investigate community concerns regarding recent Davis Police Department actions and incidents.
  - AYES – Bauer, Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan, Levy, Pamperin, Snowdon
  - NOES –
  - ABSTAIN –
- The motion carried unanimously.

- Greenwald suggested the formation of a subcommittee to work on the content of the recommendation to be made to City Council. Members: Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan.
  - Greenwald suggested that the subcommittee meet next Thursday, August 4, to begin work on the report. Lakshmanan volunteered her residence for the meeting.
  - Greenwald proposed that the full Commission meet in August to discuss the subcommittee's proposed report. Commission agreed on Thursday, August 25, at 6:30 p.m., location to be confirmed as City Hall facilities schedule will be checked by staff.
  - Souza suggested that the subcommittee focus more on the rationale for the proposed review board rather than the details of current cases under investigation. He offered to email the Hate Crimes Ordinance proposed in 1995 by the Commission, which included a clause calling for the formation of an independent citizens' review board.
  - Greenwald inquired as to the possibility of having the Police Department provide regular reports on statistics regarding the racial composition of arrests, etc.
  - Citizen Bill Ritter commented that the past three Police Chiefs have presented annual reports on hate crime statistics as well as other relevant information of concern to the Commission.
  - Turay reported that the Police Department can readily access crime statistics and provide various breakdowns of data. This information can be provided to the Commission.
  - Greenwald inquired as to the Davis Police Department hiring process; Turay described that applicants undergo a number of psychological and physical tests before being hired. As for diversity training, officers do undergo mandated training regarding racial profiling and the Department does more than is required by law. The Department is also working with the City of Sacramento on a city-wide diversity/value-based training which would be attended by all city employees rather than separating police officers from everyone else.
  - Greenwald moved to invite Police Chief Hyde to present an annual report to the Commission and also requesting that the Police Liaison provide monthly assessments of the racial composition of arrests and relevant data. El-Nakhal seconded the motion.
    - AYES – Bauer, Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan, Pamperin
    - NOES –
    - ABSTAIN –
    - (Levy and Snowdon were absent at the time of this vote)
  - The motion carried unanimously.
- A. Discussion of resubmitting to the City Council commission recommendation to rename city street Sutter Place and recognition of individuals active in human relations issues, including the naming of streets after such individuals
- Saylor distributed copies of a statement he made at the July 26, 2005 City Council meeting expressing that he would be open to changing the name of Sutter Place to honor the late David Risling, Jr., so long as the address for Sutter Hospital is not changed.

- Saylor also noted that Councilmember Ted Puntillo also offered his support of this issue, with the same conditionality regarding Sutter Hospital.
  - Greenwald moved to re-submit to the City Council a recommendation to consider re-naming Sutter Place to honor David Risling, Jr. El-Nakhal seconded the motion.
    - AYES – Bauer, Calhoun, El-Nakhal, Greenwald, Kapoor, Lakshmanan, Levy, Pamperin, Snowdon
    - NOES –
    - ABSTAIN –
  - The motion carried unanimously.
  - Greenwald asked that staff itemize a proposed resolution honoring David Risling, Jr., to be submitted to City Council. Citizen Mel Trujillo submitted copies of the memorial resolution honoring Risling, Jr. by State Senator Wesley Chesbro.
  - Saylor noted that he recently visited the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and discovered that Risling is featured in one of the exhibits.
  - Greenwald requested that staff re-itemize discussion on recognition of individuals active in human relations issues, including the naming of streets after such individuals.
  - Greenwald asked that Commissioners come to the next meeting with ideas to address this item.
- D. 2006 Report on Diversity and Discrimination in Davis – Review of proposed survey and updates from subcommittees (Government and City Services, Schools/Youth, Business Community, Media, Police, Housing/Economic Issues, University) and next steps.
- Greenwald reported that as previously discussed, David Greenwald will consult with various professional colleagues as to what is the best means of obtaining expert input on the proposed survey.
  - Saylor noted that the survey was discussed at the July 26, 2005 Council meeting and that he had made comments regarding professional input. Councilmember Sue Greenwald also commented that she would like more income bracket choices to be added to the survey.
  - Greenwald asked that staff re-itemize this discussion for the September meeting.
- V. Student Commissioner Report(s) and Farewell to Student Commissioner**
- Greenwald presented an appreciation plaque and copy of “Words of Wisdom: Mahatma Gandhi” by Dr. Shall Sinha to Kapoor on behalf of outgoing Student Commissioner Riley Evans.
  - Kapoor accepted the farewell gifts and noted that Evans was absent from the Commission meeting because he was attending an ACLU Social Justice planning meeting.
- VI. Presentation of Youth In Focus Film**
- Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck and Jane Cho, representing the Youth In Focus Student Research Scholars, thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present the Youth In Focus film.

- Following the showing of the film, Commissioners applauded the Youth In Focus Student Research Scholars and their advisor, Dr. Jann Murray-Garcia for their excellent and important work.
- Ojeda-Beck and Cho distributed flyers advertising the upcoming event featuring a slideshow of the recent Youth In Focus trips to Savannah, Georgia for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference, and to Beijing, China for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual International Diversity Conference on Communities, Organisations, and Nations. The event will be held Wednesday, August 3, 2005, at 7 p.m. at the University Park Inn Conference Room.
- Pamperin suggested that the film be shown to the family of Thong Hy Huynh. (Evans arrived at 9:50 p.m. and accepted his farewell gifts; Lakshmanan leaves, El-Nakhal leaves, 10:00 p.m.)
- Cho requested that the Commission consider donating funds for student diversity training, a separate course from the one discussed in agenda item VII C. She estimated that the total cost of the training would be \$300.
- Greenwald requested that staff itemize discussion of how to help students fundraise for this course. Cho agreed to appear at the September meeting for further discussion.

**X. Staff and Commissioner Communications**

- Wong reported that at the Commission's request, staff purchased a condolence card for Cindy Litman's father. Greenwald suggested that the Commission sign it at the next meeting as some Commissioners were not present.

**XI. Next meeting date, time and location**

- Subcommittee meeting, Thursday, August 4 (Chithra Laskhaman's residence)
- Special Meeting, Thursday, August 25, 2005 (location to be confirmed)
- Regular meeting, Thursday, September 22, 2005, City Hall Chambers
- Joint meeting with Davis City Council (date to be confirmed)

**X. Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned by consensus at 10:35 p.m.