

## STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** April 22, 2014  
**TO:** City Council  
**FROM:** Kelly Stachowicz, Deputy City Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Thong Hy Huynh Memorial Awards for 2014

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### **Recommendation**

Approve the following nomination recommendations from the Human Relations Commission for the 2014 Thong Hy Huynh Awards. Awards will be presented at the May 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

- Lifetime Achievement: Cathy Speck
- Civil Rights Advocacy: Bill Calhoun
- Public Servant of the Year: Police Chief Landy Black
- Excellence in Community Involvement: Rev. Bill Habicht of Davis Community Church

### **Fiscal Impact**

The cost of presenting the awards is included in the 2013-2014 budget, funded by the General Fund. Costs include engravings for the perpetual plaque, individual certificates for award winners and a small reception.

### **Background and Analysis**

The Human Relations Commission annually seeks nominations for the Thong Hy Huynh (“*tong hi win*”) Awards. The awards are presented once each year in commemoration of the stabbing death of Davis High School student Thong Hy Huynh on May 4, 1983. The award was established to honor community members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights.

The awards will be presented by the City Council on May 13. As per policy, staff brings the Commission recommendations to the City Council for review and approval prior to issuing the awards.

This year’s awards include the following categories: Lifetime Achievement, Civil Rights Advocacy, Excellence in Community Involvement, and Public Servant of the Year. No award is recommended this year for the Young Humanitarian category. The nomination form, which includes descriptions of each category, is included as Attachment 1.

The Commission believes the recommendations are the best and most appropriate nominations in each category and asks the Council to ratify the nominations. The Commission is recommending the following nominations to the City Council (with summaries taken from nominations):

Lifetime Achievement: Cathy Speck

Cathy Speck has long been a model of a civil rights and human relations activist. Many years ago, she led a lesbian coming out group at UC Davis. She was a volunteer on the Davis Civil Rights Ordinance; against Proposition 22 and Proposition 8. She and her wife Linda Duval (both musicians) performed at Yolo County Gay Pride for 10 years. She has spoken to thousands of Davis junior high students about what it's like to be gay.

Cathy is dying from Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or "Lou Gehrig's disease"). She has used her condition to raise awareness for those who suffer and to break down barriers that people feel when seeing someone in a wheelchair or walker and has shown how living and dying are the same thing.

Civil Rights Advocacy: William Calhoun

William (Bill) Calhoun has spent most of his life trying to improve both civil and human rights. In 1962 in St. Louis, he helped found a self-help, non-profit organization called HELP (Home, Education, Leadership, Preparation). After moving to Davis in 1966, he became a math teacher and was the first certified minority teacher in Davis. He has volunteered in the community in a variety of capacities: member of the former Independent Davis Human Relations Council, worked with the Measure A Committee for the City (related to apartheid in South Africa), member of the City Affirmative Action Committee, DJUSD Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, City's Personnel Board, and DJUSD Strategic Planning Committee.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Rev. Bill Habicht of Davis Community Church

Bill's excellence in community involvement permeates his creative social justice work as a teaching elder/pastor for Children, Youth and Laity/Outreach ministries. He is involved with the Youth Leadership Institute, the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter and Mosaic Tea and Coffee. He never slows down and continually sees with the heart of social justice growth opportunities for the Davis community. He has also participated in the 2014 Restorative Justice Forum and connected Davis Community Church's Social Justice Committee with UCD Get on the Bus Committee to work together to support prison families. Social justice is 100% of his work time and 75% of his free time.

Public Servant of the Year: Police Chief Landy Black

Chief Black became Chief of Police in 2007, after a period of high turmoil in the Police Department and low trust in the community of the police. Chief Black helped restore confidence to and in the department. Since Chief Black's arrival, complaints, claims and lawsuits have decreased. Chief Black has been accessible in the community and worked hard to help bolster the department's professional reputation. He has helped to turn around the department's culture and bolster morale. His efforts have impacted human relations in helping to reduce community strife between police and people of color.



**2014 AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION GUIDELINES  
FOR  
THE THONG H. HUYNH MEMORIAL AWARD  
SPONSORED BY  
THE CITY OF DAVIS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**

*Thong Hy Huynh was a 16-year old high school student when he was killed 31 years ago in a racially motivated stabbing. These awards recognize people and organizations in the community who promote social justice and human rights.*

**AWARD CATEGORIES**

1. Lifetime Achievement  
Awarded for significant civil rights efforts over a long period of time while improving the quality of life in Davis. The recipient may be an individual or community organization that has promoted positive human relations in the community.
2. Young Humanitarian  
Awarded to an individual in grades K-16 (elementary through undergraduate or equivalent) for significant efforts in improving the quality of life in Davis. Nominees have directly addressed the needs of specific groups within the community in the areas of human or civil rights or education.
3. Civil Rights Advocacy  
Awarded to an individual or organization for significant efforts and achievement in any of the following areas:
  - Speaking on behalf of, and giving voice to, the disadvantaged and disempowered.
  - Promoting positive human relations, civil rights, cultural awareness or peaceful means of conflict resolution.
  - Improving the quality of life for Davis residents through the areas of health, human services, housing or employment.
4. Excellence in Community Involvement (Awarded to a For-Profit Business and/or Non-Profit Organization)  
Awarded to a business or organization that has a record of significant efforts in promoting and practicing equal opportunity, positive human relations, and/or civil rights in Davis.
5. Public Servant of the Year  
Awarded to a local public servant who has displayed exceptional interpersonal skills under challenging circumstances. These efforts have resulted in effective conflict resolution or intervention and have promoted positive human relations in our multicultural and diverse community.



*(See reverse for Rules Governing Nominations and Selection of Recipients)*

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**RULES GOVERNING NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS**

*The Thong Hy Huynh Award process has been developed to be as inclusive and as transparent as possible in order to protect the integrity of the award.*

**Nomination Process**

1. Nominations may be submitted anyone, including Human Relations Commissioners or City Council members. Current Commission or City Council members may not be nominated for an award. Commissioners cannot nominate a family member, partner or spouse.
2. Unless the category specifies otherwise, nominees should be residents of, or an organization in, Davis.
3. All nominations must be submitted by the deadline. No nominations will be accepted, from Commissioners or other citizens, after that date.
4. Nominations must be in writing and must include requested contact information.
5. Each nomination form should be for only one category, however, a person may be nominated for more than one category.

**Selection Process**

1. Any Huynh award winner in the previous year is not eligible to be nominated in the current year. Current voting commissioners are not eligible to receive an award.
2. Any Commissioner who has a conflict of interest with a nomination (i.e. a family member, partner or spouse nominated or an organization nominated for which Commissioner is employed or holds a leadership position) for an award must recuse him/herself from participation in deliberations and voting for that award.
3. If the Commission determines no nominations received in a particular category are appropriate, no award will be presented in that category.

*(See reverse for Award Categories)*