

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 14, 2019
TO: City Council
FROM: Carrie Dyer, Management Analyst, City Manager's Office
RE: Thong Hy Huynh Memorial Awards for 2019

Recommendation

1. Receive draft minutes from the Human Relations Commission meetings of April 25. (Attachment 1)
2. Ratify the following nomination recommendations from the Human Relations Commission for the 2019 Thong Hy Huynh Awards. Awards will be presented at the May 21st City Council meeting.

- Lifetime Achievement: Sandy Holman
- Civil Rights Advocacy: Kelly Wilkerson
- Excellence in Community Involvement: Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs (founding members of Community Harvest of Davis and UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center
- Public Servant of the Year: Natalie Corona

Fiscal Impact

The cost of presenting the awards is included in the 2018-2019 budget, funded by the General Fund.

Council Goals

The Huynh Awards represent ongoing business of the City and are not specifically included in the Council Goals.

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 memory of the stabbing death of Davis High School student Thong Hy Huynh on May 4, 1983. The award was established to raise awareness about and 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 21. As per policy, staff brings the Commission recommendations to the City Council for review and ratification 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. There were no nominations received in the category of Young Humanitarian. The nomination guidelines, which includes descriptions of each category, is included as **Attachment 2**.

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: **Sandy Holman**

Sandy is the founder of the Culture C.O.-O.P., an organization she developed to assist people and organizations working with equity/diversity in education, businesses, and the community. She has served as a consultant to countless organizations, locally and nationally, to help meet the needs of diverse populations. She also has committed herself to advocacy for children and education. Her experiences as an educator, program coordinator, counselor, outreach consultant, prevention coordinator, equity specialist, and author have given her a practitioner's insight into the challenges communities and organizations are facing that goes well beyond theoretical research.

Sandy has served on the Board of Directors of local and national agencies serving youth and adults, including the Youth Services Task Force, the National Dropout prevention network, Center for Regional Development, Progress Ranch group homes for emotionally disturbed children, and Yolo Unite, an organization serving youth and the community.

Civil Rights Advocacy: **Kelly Wilkerson**

Kelly Wilkerson has been involved in numerous activities that highlight her dedication to promoting positive human relations in our multicultural and diverse community. She founded and leads the local Sister District chapter which seeks to help elect candidates who believe in diversity and equal rights across the country. Concerned about the well-being and safety of diverse communities, she felt strongly that it was necessary to "do the work" to protect our community's and country's ideals. Her tireless work leading this grassroots organization has brought together various groups and people across Davis and Yolo County from all age brackets and sociodemographic backgrounds, toward the shared goal of making our community and country a better place for all people. Over the past two years, Kelly has engaged community members who had never been active in politics or public service, teaching and training them to become leaders in this work.

Since 2016, she has organized and led countless demonstrations, vigils, workshops, rallies, and protests in support of immigrant families, detained children, LGBTQ rights, and more; she has traveled to Virginia on her own dime time to donate her time recording and producing videos for new female candidates from diverse backgrounds; she has engaged, empowered, and activated people from across Yolo County, encouraging them to get involved and become leaders in their communities in ways they never considered previously.

Kelly herself is a true leader, never taking personal credit for activities, efforts, and accomplishments that are a result of her actions, instead highlighting the contributions of others. Kelly has been engaged in this type of service work for decades. Kelly has an obvious passion for serving others and this community. Her efforts truly make Davis a better place to live for all of us.

Excellence in Community Involvement: Founding Members of Community Harvest of Davis – Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs

Over the last decade the collective compassion and selfless spirit of 10-year sustaining volunteers of Community Harvest of Davis - Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs has resulted in the harvest and donation of almost 300,000 pounds of fresh, local fruit to those in need across Davis and throughout Yolo County.

Community Harvest of Davis (formerly Village Harvest Davis) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, run entirely by volunteers, that harvests fruit from residential trees and donates it directly to local agencies that feed people in need. It was formed in the spring of 2009 after the nominees visited an organization in the Bay Area and decided to create something similar in Davis. A decade later, they have over 200 donors in their database and over 400 volunteers across town, including members of eleven UC Davis service groups and the local chapter of the National Charity League.

The efforts of these nominees have resulted in deliveries of fresh, local fruit to numerous deserving groups and institutions in Davis. Among the regular recipients are STEAC, Davis Community Meals, the Davis Women’s Shelter, the Korean Church, the Senior Center, and several low-income senior housing. Additionally, when large harvests yield more than can be utilized in Davis alone, sizeable deliveries are made to the Yolo Food Bank. Collectively, this food has played a direct role in improving the health and quality of life of many of our friends, neighbors and fellow Davis residents.

Excellence in Community Involvement: UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center

In late March 2019, the UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) completed a massive expansion and reopened a brand new wing of the Center with thousands of square feet of brand new space and facilities, all while simultaneously holding costs constant. This renovation was performed in an effort to better reach those UC Davis students who are not registered for participation in recreational activities, and to better serve those who already are engaged in such activities.

The ARC represents the best of Davis – a place where persons of all backgrounds, all beliefs, all abilities, and all interests are welcomed and met with activities suitable to their individual and collective preferences, in a place without judgment.

It may seem unusual to think of a recreation center as an extension of building human relations and championing for social justice, but the ARC is an anomaly worth recognizing. In addition,

the ARC employs an exceptionally diverse group of UC Davis students who learn leadership skills for building their own careers and fitness lifestyle.

As with so many other organizations, this approach starts from the top, and much credit is owed to the “Core Four” – Deb Johnson, Andy Ramirez, Tyler Scudero, and Reed Phinisey, who lead the Center and have led the recent efforts in service of inclusion, accessibility, and affordability. “Come as you are” is the motto and the spirit of inclusion reflected in the UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center (ARC).

The Center deserves recognition and appreciation for its significant contribution to the Davis community.

Public Servant of the Year: Natalie Corona

The Public Servant of the Year category was originally Peace Officer of the Year. This category was created to acknowledge exceptional law enforcement officers who demonstrated enthusiasm in their service to the Davis community, outstanding human relation skills and who are role models for all of us. Office Corona possessed all of these attributes. The 2019 Thong Hy Huynh award in the category of Public Servant of the Year should be made in her name.

Attachments:

1. Draft HRC minutes - April 25, 2019
2. 2019 Nomination Guidelines



City of Davis
Human Relations Commission Minutes
Thursday, April 25, 2019
6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Commission Members Present: Allen, Alam, Clinton, Davis, Mosley, O'Rourke-Powell (6:52)

Others Present: Friedman (Faith-based ex officio), Snow (DJUSD ex officio), Gutierrez (UCD Student Rep ex officio), Dyer (staff)

2. Approval of Agenda

Allen moved and Clinton seconds approval of the agenda as presented. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Allen, Alam, Clinton, Davis, Mosley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Madden, O'Rourke-Powell, Roland

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons

Allen – Current plan for emergency evacuation, etc. for older adults and with disabilities not sufficient. Wants Yolo County to be better informed. Sign up for Yolo Alert.

Alam – May is Ramadan for Muslims. Community Iftar event at the Senior Center. Free and open to public.

Alam – North Davis hearing increase in burglaries.

Snow – St. Martins doing two day training in support of immigrants. May 4th and 5th. Open to community. Immigrant Advocacy Training

Snow – May 25 and May 26 Faith Leaders organizing White Ally ship Workshop, held at Friends Meeting House.

Snow – District updated Multicultural calendar up on the website. BSU presented to 10th graders “Power of Language” assembly.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Consent Calendar

Clinton moved and Allen seconded approval of the minutes from the January 24 and March 14 meetings as presented. Motion passed as follows:

AYES: Allen, Alam, Clinton, Davis, Mosley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Madden, Roland

6. Regular Items (7:00)

A. Thong Hy Huynh Awards. *The Commission reviewed the submissions for the annual Thong Hy Huynh awards and made recipient recommendations to the City Council.*

Clinton moved with second by Davis to recommend the following for Thong Hy Huynh 2019 recipients:

- *Lifetime Achievement
Sandy Holman*
- *Civil Rights Advocacy
Kelly Wilkerson*
- *Excellence in Community Involvement
Joe and Linda Schwartz and Greg and Pam Gibbs (founding members of
Community Harvest of Davis)
UC Davis Activities and Recreation Center (“Come As You Are” motto)*
- *Public Servant of the Year
Natalie Corona*

Motion passes as follows:

AYES: Allen, Alam, Clinton, Davis, Mosley

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Madden, Roland

B. City Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Celebrations and Events in Davis. *The Commission reviewed celebrations and events in Davis, both sponsored and co-sponsored by the City. Discussion surrounded having all commission participate in event planning, rather than subcommittees and ways to include other holiday celebrations.*

C. Results of 2018 Davis Neighbors Night Out Survey. *The Commission reviewed survey responses to the 2018 DNNO event. Some ideas*

- *More advertising on campus*
- *Add word party to invite*
- *Come as you are*
- *Re-brand invite*
- *New logo*

D. Juneteenth Recognition at the City 4th of July event. *The Commission reviewed the 2013 resolution recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day in the City of Davis and discussed ways to incorporate recognition into the 4th of July program. Ideas included dedicated spot on program that could included singing, reading resolution, incorporating young people, etc.*

7. Future Agenda Items

- *Chavez and MLK ideas*
- *Holidays and celebrations*

8. Commission and Staff Communications

Dyer provided joint meeting information for upcoming HRC/CC meeting

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting of May 23, 2019.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Carrie Dyer
Management Analyst
City Manager's Office*



2019 AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION GUIDELINES
FOR
THE THONG H. HUYNH MEMORIAL AWARD
SPONSORED BY
THE CITY OF DAVIS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

The City of Davis Human Relations Commission annually seeks nominations for the Thong Hy Huynh (“tong hi win”) Awards. The awards are presented once each year in memory of the stabbing death of Davis High School student Thong Hy Huynh on May 4, 1983. The award was established to raise awareness about and to honor community members whose actions exemplify the goals of diversity, community, social justice and equal rights. The Thong Hy Huynh Award was first presented in 1986.

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 or group 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, community organization or business for significant efforts in the community 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, education or employment.
4. Excellence in Community Involvement Generally awarded to a business or non-profit organization, and occasionally a community individual that has a record of significant efforts improving the quality of life for Davis residents through the areas of health, human services, housing education or employment
5. Public Servant of the Year
Awarded to a local public servant who has promoted positive human relations in our multicultural and diverse community.



2019 AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINATION GUIDELINES
FOR
THE THONG H. HUYNH MEMORIAL AWARD
SPONSORED BY
THE CITY OF DAVIS HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS AND SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The Thong Hy Huynh Award process is designed 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 by anyone, including Human Relations commissioners or City Council members. Current Commission members or elected officials may not be nominated for an award. Commissioners cannot nominate a family member, partner or spouse.
2. Nominees should be residents of Davis or have been active in work that has impacted the Davis community.
3. Nominations must be submitted via the nomination form.
4. Each nomination form should be for only one category, however, a nominee may be nominated for more than one category.

Selection Process

1. Any Huynh award winner in the previous 10 years is not eligible for nomination in the same category. Current voting commissioners are not eligible to receive an award. If a current commissioner is on the board of an organization, that organization is not eligible to be nominated for an award that year.
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)