

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 9, 2024
TO: City Council
FROM: Carrie Dyer, Community Relations Program Manager
RE: 2024 Thong Hy Huynh Awards Recipient Recommendations

Recommendation

Ratify the following nomination recommendations from the Human Relations Commission for the 2024 Thong Hy Huynh Awards.

- 18 and Older Category
 - Annie Louise Temple
 - Pattie Fong
- Under 18 Category
 - Chavez “CJ” Millican
- Community Organization Category
 - Aggie House

Fiscal Impact

There is a cost associated with each individual award certificate, the perpetual plaque and the awards reception. These costs are included in the 23-24 budget.

Council Goal(s)

Goal 1 - Ensure a Safe, Healthy, Equitable Community

- Objective 2 - Promote policies and programs that encourage inclusivity

Commission Input

The Human Relations Commission oversees the Thong Hy Huynh award nomination process, review of the nomination form and timeline, evaluation of received nominations and the recommendations to the City Council.

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.

At the February 22 meeting of the Human Relations Commission, the commission created a subcommittee of commissioners to review the nominations. The

subcommittee presented their recommendations to the full Human Relations Commission on March 21 and the following motion was made:

Baker moves with second by Pickett approval of the subcommittee recommendations of Annie Louise Temple and Pattie Fong in the 18 and over category, CJ Millican in the Under 18 category and Aggie House in the Community Organization category and to move forward the recommendations to City Council for ratification. Motion passes as follows:

AYE: Baker, Gorman, Pickett, Wong-Chen

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

As per policy, staff brings the Commission recommendations to the City Council for review and ratification prior to issuing the awards. The awards will be formally presented to the recipients at a ceremony on May 7.

The three award categories are:

- 18 and Older
- Under 18
- Community Organization supporting the Davis Community

There are unlimited qualities that support an individual or organization being nominated. Examples include:

- Promoting civil rights and/or civic engagement
- Creating positive human relations in our multicultural and diverse community
- Improving the quality of life in Davis for residents and visitors through: health promotion, human services, housing, education, employment, cultural awareness or peaceful means of conflict resolution

Per the nomination guidelines, there may be multiple recipients in each category. Based on the subcommittee's careful reading of the award description and the nomination language submitted, the Human Relations Commission is recommending the following nominations to be recognized as 2024 Thong Hy Huynh recipients.

These excerpts are taken directly from the nominations:

18 and Over Category

Pattie Fong

Pattie is a volunteer co-lead of Currents, which is the quarterly newspaper serving Yolo & Sacramento AANHPI communities for decades. Most recently she researched and collaborated with Yolo County Supervisor Frerichs to rescind the racist Anti-Japanese American resolution covering Yolo County and she co-led Day of Remembrance to educate about Japanese Internment Camps.

Annie Louise Temple

Annie is a long-time Davis resident and a Jewish woman who is married to a Palestinian man. She has two children who are Jewish and Palestinian. This past year, driven by the atrocities faced by children who could easily have been her own, Annie has bravely organized with other members of the Jewish community as well as the broader Davis community to call for a ceasefire in Gaza and advocate against both Islamophobia and antisemitism. Annie also was one of the organizers for an interfaith vigil where over 100 diverse Davis citizens ranging from Jewish community members, Muslims, Christians, and others came together to share words of grief, pain, and action. Annie's tireless efforts in support of social justice and diversity, ensuring that Davis residents of all faiths and ethnicities feel supported, safe, and heard, and her ability to gather community members together to increase our connections and effect meaningful change, make her a most deserving recipient of the 2024 Thong Hy Huynh award.

Under 18 Category

Chavez "CJ" Millican

CJ Millican is an upstanding student with undeniable character. His views on diversity allows for collaboration with others from different backgrounds and multiple perspectives. As the communications manager for the Black Student Union, he fosters connections within club. As a member of the Davis community, CJ values himself as an inclusive and accepting person who does their best to acknowledge all others and encourage togetherness. In his skin, he unfortunately has firsthand experience with NOT being acknowledged for his humanness. Regarding social justice, he has a heart for all marginalized minorities and is hopeful that the leaders of our country will someday reflect its citizens more so than currently. As the district's homeless youth liaison, CJ and I have frequent conversations about the inequities facing the unhoused. He feels everyone has a right to a fixed, adequate, and regular home.

Community Group Category

Aggie House

Aggie House is a student-led, student-run transitional housing shelter and RSO for UCD students facing housing insecurity or homelessness. Since 2021, Aggie House has helped over +60 students get into more permanent housing and has had over +100 dedicated student volunteers. Although many see Aggie House as a shelter, it's so much more. Aggie House is a community; it's a home. This wonderful community, this home, is only possible with both campus and community help. Aggie House unquestionably has improved the lives of its residents, student volunteers, and the Davis community. Whether it's helping to keep student residents of Davis off the streets, raising awareness of these issues at the farmers market, or helping to train the next generation of community leaders, Aggie House is dedicated to improving and empowering the community. I hope you will strongly consider Aggie House as a recipient of this award.