



## HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING ACTION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:00 PM

**Commissioners Present:** Eberle, Causey, Hsieh, Kraus, Savage, Stimmler

**Absent:** Smith

**Staff:** Minka Van Der Zwaag, Alayna Cruz

### I. ROLL CALL

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

### III. AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS

### IV. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Discussion and consideration of recommendations from the ad-hoc subcommittees reviewing community input from the Voices of Our Community Listening Sessions on Local Experiences of Islamophobia/Anti-Arab Hate and Anti-Semitism. – Chair Eberle – Action

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Stimmler, that the HRC recommends that the City Council direct staff to implement training increasing religious tolerance and decreasing discrimination based on ethnicity and nationality as part of its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) training for city employees, boards and commissions.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Stimmler, that the HRC recommends that the City Council direct staff to implement a social media campaign on the “Palo Alto Way” highlighting the City’s Equity Mission Statement. This campaign would highlight City’s resources such as the “Know Your Neighbors” grants.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hsieh moved, seconded by Commissioner Savage, that the HRC recommends that the City Council direct staff to consider adding more major holidays of the faith communities represented in Palo Alto to the community calendars.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Stimmler, that the HRC recommends that the City Council direct the City Attorney to look into the legality of sponsoring religious holiday

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celebrations. This recommendation might be added to the work that the City is already doing regarding the holiday framework the HRC previously recommended.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

MOTION: Commissioner Stimmler moved, seconded by Commissioner Hsieh, that the HRC recommends City Council to direct city staff to research the formation of an interfaith community advisory group to build bridges within the Palo Alto community, including schools and libraries. The interfaith community advisory group would include a liaison from the HRC.

VOTE: 5-1 (1 absent)

MOTION: Vice Chair Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Causey, that the HRC recommends that the City Council direct staff to designate a member of the Palo Alto police department to serve as the liaison and point of contact for issues faced by faith-based communities.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

MOTION: Vice Chair Kraus moved, seconded by Commissioner Savage, that the HRC recommends City Council direct staff to work with the HRC to convene a meeting to discuss hate crimes in 2024 with representatives of law enforcement, city leadership, and experts in the field.

VOTE: 6-0 (1 absent)

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.