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DAVIS DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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Special Feature:

This Newsletter and the next issue focus on police procedures and community relations. Drawing upon his extensive expertise, **Ret. Police Chief Calvin Handy** (see below) discusses general principles and ethics of proper police procedures and **Human Relations Chair, Sheila Allen**, (p.2) reports on local planning and recommendations now under consideration by the Davis City Council. The next Newsletter will feature a report of the City Council's conclusions and actions. Shown below show, Chief Handy and Mayor Gloria Partida recently met with a traveling youth group, the MLK Freedom Center, to discuss many of these same concerns



The Missing Link in American Public Safety

Calvin E. Handy, Chief of Police, Emeritus: UCD & UCB



I cannot adequately describe the intensity of my feelings of outrage, sadness, and revulsion at seeing George Floyd being choked to death for 9 minutes and 29 seconds by a uniformed peace officer whose life and well-being was in no discernable way threatened by Mr. Floyd. This act of murder was witnessed and videotaped by people who were helpless to intervene as they begged for this unarmed man's life, that was being taken by a uniformed peace officer seemingly because he could. And now there is the needless death of Duante Wright. We must now add fake \$20 bills and misdemeanor warrants to the long list of reasons why Black people can be killed in public by peace officers.

I am a 30-year peace officer veteran, whose career path was somewhat unorthodox considering the collaborative and relationship building pathways I took throughout my career. When I agreed to write this article, I decided to broadly look again for old and new research on peace officer use of force and use of deadly force against unarmed African Americans. In a document published in 1982 by the Police Foundation titled *Readings on Police Use of Deadly Force* I came across a quote that said, "*the Police have one trigger finger for whites and one trigger finger for Blacks.*" (Takagi 1982). (Continued p 3)

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Democratic News

Reimaging Policing in Davis:
Commission Recommendations to Davis City Council
Sheila Allen, Chair, Davis Human Relations Commission



This past summer after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of police officers, communities, including Davis, came together to call for an evaluation of policing, public safety and racial disparities in treatment under the law. The Davis City Council heard hours of public testimony, including calls to “defund the police”. Before taking action the Davis City Council wanted an opportunity to have a careful local look at public safety and provide an opportunity for community discussion and input.

At the June 16, 2020 city council meeting as a part of the annual budget agenda item, council members discussed possible additional funding for

social services, including mental health services and an interest in learning about best practices for law enforcement. To this end the council passed the following motion:

Direct staff to develop a proposed outreach/work plan related to identifying and funding community health and safety improvement. Specifically, staff will seek input from the Police Accountability, Human Relations and Social Services commissions, as well as the Independent Police Auditor and Yolo County. The focus shall include preventative solutions and consideration of system of interaction between police and community and will inform the upcoming Police Department strategic plan.

From August through November 2020 representatives of these three commissions worked together to look at local data and current police and social service practices, discussed research and different models of policing and safety and modification of policing and safety and proposed recommendations to the city council to be used in their discussion with the community in order to improve our public safety system. As chair of Davis Human Relations Commission I was a member of this subcommittee.

The Joint Subcommittee recommendations are:

- 1. Determine why racial disparities in arrests, recommended charges, and stops exist in Davis.
- 2. Encourage the Davis Police Department to dialogue with the Police Accountability Commission (PAC) on the content of its Use of Force policy.
- 3. Evaluate the impact of de-escalation, crisis intervention, procedural justice, and implicit bias trainings.
- 4. Shift non-violent service calls to unarmed personnel.

(Continued on p. 4)

This idea represents a simplistic way to describe the racial disproportionality in police killings of unarmed Black people in our troubling times, and throughout the history of America. There is no shortage of professionally researched studies on the issue of police use of deadly force and the use of deadly force against unarmed Black people. The Police Foundation research from 1982 noted that controversy surrounding the death penalty continues, but what distinguishes a death sentence from the taking of a life by police deadly force is the availability of due process safeguards.

The missing link in American public safety is the glaring inability of political leaders and professional law enforcement leaders, to instill every peace officer with the highest regard for police ethics, the principles of law enforcement, and the law enforcement code of ethics that officers take an oath to uphold in all instances, and to live their lives by. It is likely that peace officers throughout the nation attend peace officer basic training courses that start their careers with an introduction to police ethics, Peel's Principles of Law Enforcement and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics. But unfortunately, this basic academy introduction to ethics and principles is most likely the last time they will be instilled with these essential and crucial elements of the public safety profession. There is little or no training and continuing commitment provided to insure the highest ideals of allegiance to the community and its people and the ready offering of individual service and friendship to all members of society without regard to their race or social standing (Peel's Principles of Law Enforcement).

In the much-needed proposals for police reform and reimagining public safety, the focus on ethics and principles appears, to me, to be entirely missing.

What is desperately needed (missing) for the American policing profession, in addition to the many ideas being generated, such as deploying mental health workers, peace officer immersion programs, and community involvement in the selection processes for employing peace officers, is continuous career long training and indoctrination of peace officers, from police chiefs and sheriffs to every officer in the ethics and principles of law enforcement. When community policing was reintroduced during the 1970s, there was no unified definition of what it was. Community policing meant different things to different law enforcement groups. Some progress has been made in defining community policing, but in our current societal political divide, we have a great deal of work still to do.

This is my **short list** of very important issues that require action to correct and rebuild trust in the policing profession: **1.** Develop continuous and career long De-escalation training for every peace officer in the nation; **2.** Develop the Exemplary Peace Officer model created in California to serve as the model for peace officers throughout the country; **3.** Adopt the California Code of Professional Conduct and Responsibility for Peace Officers for every peace officer in the country; **4.** Define the concept of Professionalism for the American law enforcement service; **5.** Review and revise the concept of Limited Qualified Immunity for peace officers so they are accountable for their behavior and actions; **6.** Actively promote anti-racism values for peace officers and remove known white supremacists from serving as peace officers; **7.** Disallow police unions from making monetary donations to candidates for public office at any and all levels of government; and **8.** Provide more police training in the Guardian concept of policing and begin training to de-militarize police agencies where needed.

How have we come to the sad situation in this country where segments of our population feel compelled to train their children to fear the police? How and why do we find excuses for the continuous killings of unarmed African Americans? I believe we know the answer to these questions.

Let us all fight long and hard to make this country safe for everyone, which we say is among our highest values enshrined in the Constitution of the United States of America.

5. Reinvent the police-community conversation.
6. De-prioritize, decriminalize, and offer restorative remedies for minor, victimless offenses through warm hand-off programs, an expansion of the specialty court system, and other measures.
7. Work with County partners to build an integrated, "Crisis Now"-type model for behavioral health emergencies.
8. Expand the City's community navigator workforce.
9. Commit to a vision of reimagined public safety.

These commission recommendations along with staff response and recommendations will have been referred back to the council for discussion and actions at its April 6, 2021 council meeting. For background information, the full tri-commission report and the Davis Police Department response and recommendations see:

<http://documents.cityofdavis.org/Media/Default/Documents/PDF/CityCouncil/CouncilMeetings/Agendas/2021/2021-04-06/05-Reimagining-Public-Safety.pdf>

Going forward the Davis Human Relations Commission is focusing on supporting additional community conversations about public safety and racial disparities in policing in Davis. To this end the commission is taking a 3 prong approach to solicit additional community input and discussion:

1. Holding a forum hosted by the Human Relations Commission:
2. Include and collaborate with the efforts of Yolo People Power organization and their Local Voices project.
3. Include the efforts of the UCD Public Deliberation group research through the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research.

The Davis Human Relations Commission studies and makes recommendations regarding problems in the city which arise from alleged discrimination prohibited by state and federal law or local statutes and report such information to the City Council. The commission is interested in broad and inclusive conversations in Davis related to this and other issues. We welcome you to attend our meetings the 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. For more information and agenda see

<https://www.cityofdavis.org/city-hall/commissions-and-committees/human-relations-commission>

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Reports from the April 7th DDC Board Meeting

Resolution of the DDC Board

by Saira Delgado

"In light of recent events, the Davis Democratic Club Board reaffirms its support for inclusion and belonging for people of all backgrounds. During the COVID-19 pandemic, inflammatory and xenophobic rhetoric has put members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community at risk. Prior statements at the federal level have stoked unfounded fears and perpetuated stigma about the AAPI community, increasing rates of harassment and hate crimes against our AAPI neighbors. The Davis Democratic Club stands with our neighbors, colleagues, and friends in preventing discrimination, racism, and hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Yolo County, California, and the United States."

Action by the DDC Board

By Bob Bockwinkel

Jesse Salinas, Yolo County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters, has distinguished himself by educating young students in civics, introducing them to elected officials and engaging them in the political process through such activities as voter registration. Among other creative programs, he has assembled 100 students to meet in small groups with twenty elected officials enabling the students to learn the governmental roles of these officials. Experience shows that involvement in civic and political processes at an early age will lead to a lifetime of informed and active engagement.

To further all of Jesse's outstanding accomplishments, the Board has contributed financial support to his political action fund.

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www.davisdemocraticclub.org

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