



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: City Clerk Vázquez Flores

SUBJECT: COUNCIL POLICY FOR OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

At the January 19, 2021, Council Meeting, Mayor Pro Tempore Parker requested staff to develop a policy for the outdoor display of commemorative flags at Civic Plaza.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Resolution establishing a Council Policy for the Outdoor Display of Commemorative Flags at the Watsonville Civic Plaza Flag

DISCUSSION:

The City flies the U.S., California, and City flags at the Civic Plaza in front of the Library entrance, but the City does not have a flag policy. The City does comply with [Chapter 1-The Flag of Title 4](#) of the United States Code and [Executive Order 10834 of August 21, 1959](#) to display the U.S. Flag and treats the California State Flag similarly.

Over the years, the City Council has approved commemorative flags on a case-by-case basis. On May 19, 1990, the Council authorized display of the Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) flag at the City Plaza below the State of California flag. On February 23, 2010, the Council authorized the creation of a City flag and its display at the Civic Plaza.

Most recently, on January 19, 2021, the Council approved the display of the Pride Flag. At that time, some Council members expressed concern for the lack of a formal policy for the approval and display of commemorative flags.

Staff researched policies from other cities; all require that the Council approve each commemorative flag, which is consistent with the City Council's past practice.

This policy will establish a formal process for approving and allowing commemorative flags to be displayed only at the Watsonville Civic Plaza (275 Main Street) poles. The commemorative flag would be displayed below the City flag; both flags would be the same size (4' x 6'). The commemorative flag would be displayed not more than thirty-one (31) days. If Council

approves more than two flags for one month, then each flag would be displayed not more than fifteen (15) days each.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

This action is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan priority 05-Community Engagement & Well-Being.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This policy provides that flags may be purchased at City expense, not to exceed \$100 each. The maximum amount would be \$2,400 annually if Council authorized two (2) flags each month. The funds would come from the Council's budget for office equipment and supplies.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The Council could change the policy. The Council could also table the item or continue the item and request that an ad hoc Committee be formed to revise this policy.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.