

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
WATSONVILLE ESTABLISHING A COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE
OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS AT THE
WATSONVILLE CIVIC PLAZA**

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville displays the United States Flag, the California State Flag and the City of Watsonville Flag at the Watsonville Civic Plaza; and

WHEREAS, the City complies 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; and

WHEREAS, the City of Watsonville does not have a policy regarding the display of commemorative flags; and

WHEREAS, at its January 19, 2021, meeting, Mayor Pro Tempore Parker requested that City staff bring a flag display policy for Council consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to establish a policy that provides guidance and standards for the outdoor display of commemorative flags other than the United States, California, and City flags.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

That the Council hereby establishes a Council Policy for the Outdoor Display of Commemorative Flags at the Watsonville Civic Plaza, a copy of which Policy is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

COUNCIL POLICY FOR THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS AT THE WATSONVILLE CIVIC PLAZA

PURPOSE:

This Policy shall guide the outdoor display of commemorative flags at the entrance of the Watsonville Civic Plaza at 275 Main Street, on the Corner of Main and Second Streets (Civic Plaza Flagpoles).

In adopting this policy, the City Council declares that the City of Watsonville's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum free expression of the public, but rather for the display of Federal, State, and City flags, and any commemorative flags as may be authorized by the City Council as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments.

GUIDANCE:

Commemorative Flags

1. For purposes of this Policy, the term "commemorative flag" shall mean any flag that identifies with a specific date, historical event, cause, nation or group of people, whereby the City honors or commemorates the date, event, cause, nation or people by displaying the flag.
2. The Civic Plaza Flagpoles are not a forum for free expression for or by the public.
3. Unless previously approved by Council, Commemorative flags shall not be displayed on flag poles inside or outside City facilities except the one Civic Plaza Flag pole on which the City flag is flown. Commemorative flags shall be displayed below the City of Watsonville flag.
4. The City shall display commemorative flags only if authorized by the Council.
5. The Council shall only consider a request for authorization to display a commemorative flag if made by a member of the Watsonville City Council.
 - a. Such authorization shall be only by resolution at a regular or special meeting of the Council and approved by the affirmative vote of at least four members of the Council.
 - b. All requests shall be submitted at least forty-five (45) days prior to the requested date to allow time to add to the City Council agenda. Council will not consider more than one request per calendar from the same group or person. A picture of the official flag shall be submitted by the group or person submitting the request to a Council Member.
 - c. Both the City and commemorative flags shall be the same size and not to exceed 4' x 6' when displayed at the same time.
 - d. The City will bear the cost, not to exceed \$100 of any commemorative flag authorized by Council resolution.
6. Commemorative flags shall be authorized for display for a period of time that is reasonable or customary for the ceremony or the subject to be commemorated,

but no longer than thirty-one (31) continuous days. If the Council authorizes more than two (2) flags for one month, then each flag shall be displayed no more than fifteen (15) days each.

7. Authorization for display is an expression of the official sentiments of the Council, consistent with the City's values and should incorporate themes of diversity, equity, social justice, and inclusion.
8. Commemorative flags will be flown in accordance with all applicable provisions of federal and state laws.