

TJ Welch
410 Escalona Drive
Capitola, CA 95010

February 2, 2022

VIA EMAIL ONLY (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us)

City of Capitola City Manager
Capitola City Hall
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010

Dear Mr. Goldstein,

I am writing to formally request the addition of the flag representing law enforcement to the approved list of Non-Governmental Flags per the City Flag Policy Number: V-18, issued May 27, 2021.

The flag, also known as the "Thin Blue Line" flag has a long history throughout the world. According to Wikipedia, its origins begin in 1854 with the Scottish highlanders who wore red coats and were identified as the thin red line, which is now associated with firefighters. In 1922, Police Commissioner Richard Enright used the phrase and in the 1950's, Los Angeles Police Chief Bill Parker popularized the term "thin blue line" in speeches and even a TV show called The Thin Blue Line. Chief Parker used the term to reinforce the role of LAPD. As he explained, the thin blue line, representing the LAPD, was the barrier between law and order and social and civil anarchy.

Today, like no other time, our law enforcement representatives need support from the communities they serve. One only needs to watch the one news cycle to see the chaos and lack of order when our police are not supported. We are in unprecedented times regarding the unprovoked killing of police officers killed in the line of duty. The City of Capitola has an opportunity to demonstrate their support for OUR police officers that stand ready to protect our community every day by adopting the law enforcement flag as part of the Non-Governmental Flag policy and flying that flag each year during National Police Week observed in May. This year national Police Week will be observed May 11-16, 2022.

On behalf of neighbors and friends in Capitola who appreciate our police officers, I am requesting the adoption of the law enforcement flag and the flying of that flag at City Hall during National Police Officer Week.

Flag Description: US Flag in black and white with a blue stripe on the 6th row from the bottom (picture attached).

Dimensions: 4' x 6'

