

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report



Meeting: January 26, 2023

From: City Manager Department

Subject: "Armed Forces Flag" Request in Accordance with Policy V-18: Outdoor Display of Governmental and Non-Governmental Flags on City Property

Recommended Action: Consider request to fly the "Armed Forces Flag" the week of May 13 through May 20, 2023, in accordance with Policy V-18: Outdoor Display of Governmental and Non-Governmental Flags on City Property and either 1) approve request or 2) deny request.

Background: On May 27, 2021, the City Council adopted Policy V-18: Outdoor Display of Governmental and Non-Governmental Flags on City Property. Section IV: Non-Governmental Flag Procedure states that: "Any person wishing for the City to display a Non-Governmental flag that is not on the "Approved Non-Governmental Flags List" [...] must submit a request to the City Manager's office. Requests should be submitted at least 60 days in advance of the first date on which the flag is requested to be flown. The request must include a photograph and dimensions of the flag, and the dates on which the flag is requested to be flown. The City Council shall determine whether the request will be granted, denied, or granted in part."

The full Flag Policy is included as Attachment 1.

Discussion: On November 2, 2022, a member of the public submitted a flag request to fly the "Armed Forces Flag" the week of May 13 through May 20, 2023 (Attachment 2).

Armed Forces Day was first proclaimed in 1950 by President Truman, with the intention to pay tribute to all branches of the U.S. Military and those who actively serve. The day was first officially celebrated on May 20, 1950. On March 18, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed Presidential Proclamation 3399, which officially declared Armed Forces Day a national holiday on every third Saturday in May. Armed Forces Day is not one of the 12 permanent federal holidays observed by the United States Government. Armed Forces Day is May 20, 2023.

The most current presidential proclamation for Armed Forces Day reads as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, continuing the precedent of my predecessors in office, do hereby proclaim the third Saturday of each May as Armed Forces Day.

I direct the Secretary of Defense, on behalf of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the Coast Guard, to plan for appropriate observances each year, with the Secretary of Defense responsible for soliciting the participation and cooperation of civil authorities and private citizens. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to provide for the observance of Armed Forces Day within their respective jurisdictions each year in an appropriate manner designed to increase public understanding and appreciation of the Armed Forces of the United States. I also invite veterans, civic leaders, and other organizations to join in the observance of Armed Forces Day each year.

Finally, I call upon all Americans to display the flag of the United States at their homes and businesses on Armed Forces Day, and I urge citizens to learn more about military service by attending and participating in the local observances of the day.

Fiscal Impact: Minimal; if approved, the City would pay for the cost to purchase and maintain an Armed Forces Flag.

Attachments:

1. Flag Policy
2. Flag Request Received Nov. 2, 2022

Report Prepared By: Chloé Woodmansee, Assistant to the City Manager

Reviewed By: Julia Moss, City Clerk; Tamar Burke, Assistant City Attorney

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager