

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: May 26, 2026

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

From: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

Topic: Resolution governing the display of flags for Village-owned flagpoles

PURPOSE

In 2019, the Homewood Business Association sponsored the purchasing of Pride Flags that were then installed by Public Works staff throughout the downtown. The flag installation culminated with a “Pride Party Event” in Martin Square sponsored by the “Lighthouse LGBTQ,” a non-profit organization supporting LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. After being flown for roughly three or four weeks, the flags were removed and returned to the respective sponsoring businesses. In 2020 and partially into 2021, COVID suspended all events and activities.

Since 2020, staff has received requests to fly a variety of flags commemorating events and designated months of observation and celebration. In an effort to insulate the Village from potential litigation resulting from the creation of a public space for private speech, staff drafted a resolution establishing allowable flag displays for Village-owned flagpoles.

PROCESS

Homewood is known as a welcoming community that is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. While our neighborhoods and communities of association are reflective of “differences” in every sense of the word, Homewood also exists as a local government responsible for providing municipal services to roughly 19,463 people.

One of local government’s key roles is to create and foster a climate and community where diverse cultures, associations, ethnicities, and people from all walks of life are welcomed – where individuals, groups, and agencies are free to promote and express their religious, cultural, and sexual orientation without retaliation and fear. A municipality should not abandon its goal of neutrality and create a divide by marketing and promoting one ideology, belief, perspective, and/or culture over another. These actions run counter to the definition and establishment of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

While we recognize that there are a number of diverse groups, cultures, ethnicities, and heritages to celebrate as part of the American and even international experience, Homewood encourages our residents to engage their constitutional rights in celebrating those experiences.

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



Homewood Flagpoles

Municipalities maintain neutrality by intentionally restricting access to public property (flags, poles, etc.) to ensure that the property is only used for its designated official function, avoiding any space for private expressive activity.

OUTCOME

Per request, staff drafted a resolution that will only allow government flags to be erected on Village-owned flagpoles, thus insulating the Village from potential litigation resulting from the creation of a public space for private speech.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass a resolution establishing allowable flag display for Village-owned flagpoles.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution