

Good evening,

I want to take a moment to speak with you about something that means a great deal to all of us—how we honor the veterans of Jonesboro.

First and foremost, let me be clear: our commitment to recognizing and honoring those who have served our country is unwavering. The men and women who wore the uniform deserve our deepest respect, and that will never change.

Recently, we've taken a closer look at our veterans flag display program. While it was created with the best intentions, we've identified a couple of important concerns that we cannot ignore.

Some of the names submitted were not fully verified for military service, and as a city, we have a responsibility to ensure that every individual we honor is properly vetted and recognized with accuracy and integrity.

In addition, the original program allowed for flags to be displayed indefinitely for a one-time fee of \$25. While well-meaning, this structure is not financially sustainable for the city over time when you consider maintenance, replacement, and program administration.

Because of these issues, we have made the difficult—but necessary—decision to temporarily discontinue the current flag display program while we reevaluate and improve it.

I understand that this may be disappointing, especially for families who participated in good faith. Please know that this decision is not about taking anything away—it is about doing this the right way, with the dignity and care our veterans deserve.

Our goal moving forward is to develop a revised program that:

- Ensures proper verification of service
- Maintains long-term sustainability
- Provides a meaningful and lasting tribute to our veterans

We will be engaging the community, including veterans and their families, as we redesign this effort.

Jonesboro will continue to honor its veterans—not just in words, but in thoughtful, lasting action.

Thank you for your understanding, and thank you to all who have served.