



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: April 9, 2024

Initiated By: City Council

Prepared By: Anthony Carnesecca

Approved By: Gabriel Engeland

Subject:

Flag Raising June 2024 – Juneteenth

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the raising of the Juneteenth flag in June 2024.

POLICY QUESTION(S) FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

- In accordance with the City's flag raising policy, shall the City of Los Altos recognize the Juneteenth flag as government speech and raise the Juneteenth flag for the time period June 18, 2024 through June 25, 2024 at City Hall?

FISCAL IMPACT

None

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not applicable

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

November 29, 2022 & May 23, 2023

SUMMARY

- The City Council approved the Los Altos Flag Raising Policy on November 29, 2022. The policy provides that the City Council may authorize the display of flags other than the country, state, and city flags on City property, including to commemorate an event or occasion in the form of a resolution if the flag is recognized as government speech.
- Last year, City Council raised the Juneteenth flag for the time period June 19, 2023 through June 25, 2023 at City Hall.

PURPOSE

City Council to review whether the City of Los Altos recognizes the Juneteenth flag as government speech and raise the Juneteenth flag for the time period June 18, 2024 through June 25, 2024.

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting on November 29, 2022, the Los Altos City Council approved Resolution 2022-90 which established the City' flag raising policy. A copy of the resolution is attached to this staff report.

Los Altos' flag raising policy says that in addition to the flags of the United States, the State of California, and the City of Los Altos, "the City Council may authorize the display of other flags on City property, including to commemorate an event or occasion." Authorization to fly an additional flag must be in the form of a resolution.

At its regular meeting on March 26, 2024, the Los Altos City Council approved placing on its agenda the question of whether to fly the Juneteenth flag in the month of June 2023.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived at the port of Galveston Texas and announced that slavery had been ended with General Order No. 3. Juneteenth was declared a federal holiday by President Joe Biden in June 2021. The Juneteenth flag is a symbol for the Juneteenth holiday in the United States. Activist Ben Haith designed the Juneteenth flag in 1997 using the colors of red, white, and blue from the American flag with a bursting star of freedom through the new horizon of opportunity across the center of the flag. The Juneteenth flag image has been included as an attachment to this staff report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Flag Raising Policy
2. Resolution
3. Exemplar of the Juneteenth Flag