



AGENDA REPORT SUMMARY

Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Subject: Los Altos Flag Raising Policy Update

Prepared by: Anthony Carnesecca, Economic Development Administrator

Reviewed by: Jon Maginot, Assistant City Manager

Approved by: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

Attachment(s):

1. Resolution No. 2022-90 Flag Raising Policy
2. Resolution No. 2023-XX Flag Raising Policy

Initiated by:

City Council

Previous Council Consideration:

November 29, 2022

Fiscal Impact:

None

Environmental Review:

Not applicable

Policy Question(s) for Council Consideration:

- Does the Council wish to

Summary:

- City Council created the process that allows third-party organizations to apply for a particular flag raised on specified City flagpoles at the November 29, 2022 meeting as a one-year pilot program.
- The City has received only two applications from a Council member to fly Progress Pride and Juneteenth flags, which were reviewed and approved by City Council.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution No. 2023-XX adopting the Flag Raising Policy as a permanent program now that the pilot period has elapsed.



Subject: Los Altos Flag Raising Policy Update

Background

At the November 29, 2022 meeting, City Council adopted a flag raising policy as a pilot policy set to be reviewed in late 2023.

This policy allows City Council to review flag raising requests and approve them on a case-by-case basis. When a flag raising is approved, the City Council determines that the particular flag falls under government speech. Public agencies have the right to free speech on their own property, which means the City Council can convey any message or symbol as their own speech on their own property without opening it into a public forum.

Discussion/Analysis

Over the past year, the City has received only two applications from a Council member to fly Progress Pride and Juneteenth flags, which were reviewed and approved by City Council. These flags were each raised for a one-week period at the City flagpole in front of the City Council Chambers.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution No. 2023-XX adopting the Flag Raising Policy as a permanent program now that the pilot period has elapsed.