



**TOWN OF LOS GATOS
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 09/21/2021

ITEM NO: 9

DATE: September 16, 2021
TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Laurel Prevetti, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Consider a Flag Policy Update during the Next Strategic Priorities Discussion

RECOMMENDATION:

Consider a Flag Policy update during the next Strategic Priorities discussion.

BACKGROUND:

At its August 24, 2021 meeting, the Policy Committee listened to public testimony and discussed potential modifications to the Flag Policy and/or a new policy for artwork or symbols on Town property, including streets (Attachment 1). This item was motivated by past resident requests to fly flags of the Town's Sister Cities and flags to support interests of the community (e.g., the Rainbow Flag during Pride Month). The public comments received in June for the rainbow crosswalk also raised potential policy questions.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee had a robust discussion and brainstormed different approaches, including the possibility of the Arts and Culture Commission (ACC) to assist in the development of an updated Flag Policy. The ACC might be in a good position to identify the criteria for additional flag displays due to its role in understanding different cultures within Los Gatos.

The Committee unanimously agreed to request staff notify the Arts and Culture Commission of their potential role as it may relate to a modified Flag Policy and forward the potential modifications to the Flag Policy item to the full Town Council for discussion and direction before any further staff work occurs. The Committee had no interest in addressing a new policy for artwork or symbols on Town property, including streets.

Reviewed by: Assistant Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Finance Director

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CONCLUSION:

As staff gave this item more thought, staff is recommending that a potential Flag Policy update be considered during the next Strategic Priority discussion. The Liaison to the ACC has been notified of this potential role should the item become a Strategic Priority for next year.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Council could direct the preparation of an update at this time; however, given existing work commitments on existing Strategic Priorities, Council would also need to identify which Strategic Priorities should be placed on hold to create capacity to do this work.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Discussion of this item has no financial impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

This item is not a project defined under CEQA, and no further action is required.

Attachment:

1. Report to Policy Committee with Existing Town Council Flag Policy