



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: May 15, 2023		Subject: Commemorative Flag Request – Pride Flag	
		Staff Member: Zoe Mombert, Assistant to the City Manager	
		Department: Administration	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 1 st Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance 2 nd Reading Date: <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee recommends that City Council authorize the display of a commemorative Pride Flag at City Hall for the month of June.	
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Council authorize the commemorative flag request.			
Recommended Language for Motion: I move to authorize the display of a commemorative Pride Flag at City Hall for the month of June.			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Should the City of Wilsonville display a commemorative Pride Flag at City Hall for the month of June.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City Council adopted the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Strategic Plan (Plan) on July 18, 2022 (Resolution No. 2979) which included three (3) objectives and 15 strategic actions. One of the strategic actions within *Objective 3: Inclusive Cultural Events, Celebrations and Holiday Recognitions* is “Visual representation (flags, symbols, holiday decor on City property)”. As the City was finalizing the strategic plan, it became clear that a flag policy was needed. The City’s flag policy (attached) was adopted in January 2023 and allows commemorative flags to be displayed on City Property in conjunction with official actions, ceremonies, or proclamations. The Council will consider requests from council members, the city manager and city boards.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee met on May 9 and voted to recommend that the City Council display a commemorative Progress Pride Flag at City Hall for the month of June. Pride month is celebrated in June of each year and is included on the cultural calendar, adopted by City Council on January 5, 2023. In addition to displaying the Pride flag at City Hall, the Boones Ferry masthead will display the traditional Pride symbol for the second year in a row and the Library will have a book display as well.

Pride month is celebrated around the world and acknowledges people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual and more communities (LGBTQIA+) during the month of June. According to the Human Rights Campaign website, the original Pride flag was created in 1978 after activist Harvey Milk asked artist Gilbert Baker to design the gay pride symbol. The symbol included a nine color rainbow. The traditional pride flag, with six colors, was developed after Harvey Milk was assassinated and the pride flag was in high demand and remains one of the most common pride flags. The Human Rights Campaign website provided the following meaning for the rainbow symbol:

- *Red symbolizes life*
- *Orange stands for healing*
- *Yellow equals sunlight*
- *Green stands for nature*
- *Indigo represents serenity*
- *Violet symbolizes the spirit of LGBTQ+ people*

In 2017, the Philadelphia City Council commissioned a new version of the pride flag (Philadelphia Pride Flag) to include representation of people of color and acknowledge their contributions to the LGBTQ+ movement. The Progress Pride flag was then designed by Daniel Quasar, which evolved from the Philadelphia flag. The popular Progress Pride flag includes additional stripes over the traditional Pride flag. The Human Rights Campaign website provided the following significance of the additional stripes:

- *White, pink, and light blue represent the Trans community*
- *Black and brown represent communities of color consistent with the Philadelphia Pride flag*

- *The black stripe is also a gesture to the thousands of people that the community lost during the HIV/AIDS crisis in 1980s and 1990s.*

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee specifically recommended the Progress Pride Flag be displayed because it included representation of the Trans community and people of color, thereby being more inclusive.

EXPECTED RESULTS:

The commemorative flag is intended to show support and acknowledge community members who identify as LGBTQIA+ as a part of the City’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

TIMELINE:

The commemorative flag would be displayed for the month of June.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

There are funds available in the administration special projects budget to cover the nominal cost to purchase the flag.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is made up of 13 community members who represent diverse community perspectives. The committee holds monthly meetings that are open to the public to provide input. The strategic plan and cultural calendar were both developed during public meetings and adopted by City Council during at their public meetings.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

The commemorative flag is intended to show support and acknowledge community members who identify as LGBTQIA+ as a part of the City’s commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could deny or modify the request.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENT:

1. City of Wilsonville Flag Policy
2. Progress Pride Flag Image