



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
STAFF REPORT**

Meeting Date: November 7, 2022		Subject: City of Wilsonville Flag Policy and Update to Wilsonville Code Section 6.150	
		Staff Member: Amanda Guile-Hinman, City Attorney	
		Department: Legal	
Action Required		Advisory Board/Commission Recommendation	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information or Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Council Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda		<input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Denial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None Forwarded <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable Comments: Sought input from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee and will seek its recommendation once the Council provides feedback on a draft City of Wilsonville Flag Policy and draft update to Wilsonville Code Section 6.150.	
Staff Recommendation: N/A			
Recommended Language for Motion: N/A			
Project / Issue Relates To:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Council Goals/Priorities:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted Master Plan(s): DEI Committee Strategic Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable	

ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:

Review draft of City Flag Policy and draft revision to Wilsonville Code (WC) Section 6.150 and provide any feedback to staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Wilsonville Flag Policy will codify a framework for the City to display commemorative flags on City flag poles and in City facilities, among other regulations. In response to Council concerns from the September 8, 2022 work session, proposed revisions to WC 6.150 will prohibit the display of banners on City streetlights and other poles except for City-sponsored events. This Staff Report explains the background leading to the current draft Flag Policy (Attachment 1) and the proposed revisions to WC 6.150 (Attachment 2).

A. Background

On September 8, 2022, City Council held a work session on a draft flag policy. The impetus to create a City of Wilsonville Flag Policy arises from five (5) key considerations, which was discussed in detail in the September 8, 2022 staff report and at that work session.

1. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Strategic Plan (the “Plan”) that the Council adopted via Resolution No. 2979 on July 18, 2022 includes a Strategic Action item of “Visual representation (flags, symbols, holiday decor on City property).”
2. In January 2022, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in the matter, *Shurtleff v. City of Boston*, 142 S. Ct. 1583 (2022). That case involved a lawsuit brought against the City of Boston by a private organization when the city refused to display the organization’s self-described “Christian flag” on one of the city’s flag poles in its City Hall Plaza when the city allowed other groups and individuals to hoist a flag of their choosing on the particular flag pole. The Court found that the city did not shape or control the messages of previously allowed flags and did not have any written policies or internal guidance about what flags groups could fly on the City flag pole.
3. Currently, Wilsonville Code (WC) 6.150(2) allows persons who obtain a special event permit to display banners consistent with the regulations stated in WC 6.150(2). That section includes reference to a plan set out by the Public Works Department, which is currently a written internal banner policy that has not been updated since 2011.
4. The City has an internal banner policy for banners that may be placed on certain streetlights. This internal policy should be updated and incorporated into any overarching commemorative flag policy to provide one document for the City and the public to reference.
5. In December 2021, the League of Oregon Cities published its *Guide to the Public Display of Flags on Government Buildings*, which staff relied on to develop the draft City Flag Policy.

At the September 8, 2022 work session, Council directed staff to bring forward a revision to WC 6.150 in conjunction with the Flag Policy whereby the Code provision would limit banners that the City allows on its streetlights to either City events or events that the City supports in some fashion.

Staff took the draft Flag Policy (Attachment 1) and proposed revisions to WC 6.150 (Attachment 2) to the DEI Committee at its September 13, 2022 meeting. The DEI Committee had no further suggested revisions to either document.

B. Revisions to WC 6.150

Following the Council's September 8, 2022 work session, staff drafted revisions to WC 6.150 to reflect the Council's request that only banners that are for City or City-sponsored events are allowed on City streetlights. As a refresher, Council's request was based, in part, on the City's maintenance and control of the streetlights. Only City staff or City contractors are permitted to put up and take down banners on the applicable City streetlights.

The substantive revision to WC 6.150 is in subsection (2), which allows banners only for City or City-sponsored Large Special Events. Pursuant to Council's feedback, other Large Special Events can still place other signs in the City to advertise their events, but cannot put up banners on City streetlights and other City poles.

This revision does not impact the banners in Villebois that are separately regulated by the Master Sign and Wayfinding Plans approved as part of each Sub Area Plan (see Section 6.1.1.3 of the Flag Policy).

EXPECTED RESULTS:

An adopted Flag Policy and revise WC 6.150 to codify a framework for the City to display commemorative flags on City flag poles and in City facilities.

TIMELINE:

Staff plans to attend the December 2022 DEI Committee meeting to seek a recommendation from the Committee to the Council to adopt the City Flag Policy and revisions to WC 6.150. Staff will then return to Council for adoption.

CURRENT YEAR BUDGET IMPACTS:

N/A

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

Staff sought feedback from the DEI Committee at its August and September 2022 meetings on the draft Flag Policy and staff will seek a recommendation from the DEI Committee at its December 2022 meeting for Council to adopt the Flag Policy and revisions to WC 6.150.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OR BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY:

As identified in the DEI Strategic Plan, flags can serve as visual representation of the City's mission and values. As identified in the 2021-23 City Council Goals, the Council identified the opportunity to continue supporting a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion and to create an environment where people feel safe to engage.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City may decide to forgo a Flag Policy and choose not to display commemorative flags on City flag poles or in City facilities.

CITY MANAGER COMMENT:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft City of Wilsonville Flag Policy
2. Draft revisions to WC 6.150