



## RESOLUTION NO. 41642

1 BY REQUEST OF MAYOR WOODARDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS BUSHNELL  
2 AND DIAZ

3 A RESOLUTION adopting a policy that provides guidance of when and where  
4 commemorative flags may be raised in the City of Tacoma.

5 WHEREAS federal and state laws provide protocols for flying the  
6 United States, Washington State, and the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action  
7 ("POW/MIA") flags at certain government buildings, and

8 WHEREAS Tacoma is an inclusive, welcoming city, that strives to build belief  
9 and trust with all people in our community, and

10 WHEREAS the selection and display of commemorative flags on city  
11 facilities communicates messages that reflect the viewpoint and values of the City  
12 as a government and the City Council as a governing body, and

13 WHEREAS providing a clear process when honoring our diverse  
14 communities when raising commemorative flags further strengthens trust in public  
15 institutions in the City, and

16 WHEREAS the City Council desires to adopt a policy for display of  
17 commemorative flags on certain city buildings that will provide clear direction to the  
18 public and clarify how to honor and celebrate our communities and issues through  
19 display of commemorative flags; Now, Therefore,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

21 Section 1. The City hereby adopts the policy set forth in attached Exhibit  
22 "A" as the Commemorative Flag Policy of the City of Tacoma and directs the  
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City Manager to implement the Commemorative Flag Policy as set forth therein,  
and may be amended from time to time.

Section 2. That commemorative flag policies for Tacoma Public Utilities, the  
Tacoma Public Library, and the Tacoma Municipal Court are to be determined by  
the Public Utilities Board, Library Board, and Tacoma Municipal Court, respectively.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney



## EXHIBIT "A"

### CITY OF TACOMA COMMEMORATIVE FLAG POLICY

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3 The Commemorative Flag Policy establishes the guidelines for display of  
4 commemorative flags on City of Tacoma facilities, provided that, commemorative  
5 flag policies for Tacoma Public Utilities, the Tacoma Public Library, and the Tacoma  
6 Municipal Court are to be determined by the Public Utilities Board, Library Board,  
7 and Tacoma Municipal Court, respectively:  
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9 1. Definitions. The following terms shall have the meaning given herein:  
10 "Commemorative Flag" shall mean a flag that is associated with a specific event,  
11 cause, theme, or group of people that the City Council chooses to honor, recognize,  
12 or commemorate consistent with the City's official policies, priorities and  
13 sentiments, and does not include advertising media, such as banners.  
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15 2. Dimensions of commemorative flags. A commemorative flag must be the  
16 same size or smaller than the United States or Washington State flags being  
17 displayed adjacent to the commemorative flag.  
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19 3. Approved commemorative flags. The City Council approves the display of  
20 the following flags as commemorative flags on the dates as set forth below and at  
21 the locations set forth in subsection 4 herein:  
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23 A. The Progress Pride Flag. The Progress Pride flag is typically flown in the  
24 month of July, is raised in support of the LGBTQIA2S+ community, in  
25 celebration of PRIDE events, and as a statement to the public that  
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1 discrimination, harassment and harm to LGBTQIA2S+ individuals is not  
2 acceptable and will not be tolerated;

3 B. The Trans Pride Flag. The Trans Pride Flag is typically flown on  
4 March 31 and November 20, is in support of the transgender community  
5 to recognize the Transgender Day of Visibility and the Transgender Day  
6 of Remembrance, in celebration of the lives and contributions of trans  
7 people, while also drawing attention to the public of the shared  
8 responsibility our community has to our trans friends, family, and  
9 neighbors, to continue to support them, help educate the public, fight for  
10 change, and eliminate hate-filled violence;  
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12 C. The Juneteenth Flag. The Juneteenth Flag is typically flown on June 19,  
13 in honor of the City, State and Federal Juneteenth holiday, is a  
14 celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States  
15 and is raised to encourage City employees and community members to  
16 learn more about this period in our history and commit to working for a  
17 society in which all people are truly free; and  
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19 D. Orange Commemorative Flag (gun violence awareness). An orange  
20 commemorative flag is typically flown for Gun Violence Awareness Day  
21 and Wear Orange Weekend, which fall on the first Friday and weekend of  
22 June and is raised to bring awareness about gun violence prevention,  
23 and as a statement of the City's commitment to end senseless gun  
24 violence with evidence-based solutions, pledge to do all we can to keep  
25 firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun  
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ownership to help keep our children safe and protect everyone in our community.

4. Display of Commemorative Flags - Location. Whenever a commemorative flag is displayed, it should be displayed at the following four locations, provided that, additional locations to display commemorative flags may be identified by the City Manager:

- A. The Tacoma Municipal Building North (733 Market Street);
- B. The Tacoma Dome (2727 East "D" Street);
- C. The Tacoma Police Department Headquarters (3701 South Pine Street);
- and
- D. The Tacoma Fire Department Headquarters (901 Fawcett Avenue).

5. Approval of Display of Commemorative Flags. Commemorative flags that are not pre-approved as set forth in Section 3 above, may be displayed on the city facilities set forth in Section 4 above, if the display is approved by motion or resolution of the City Council following a determination that the commemorative flag proposed for display communicates messages that reflect the viewpoint and values of the City of Tacoma as a government and the City Council as a governing body.

6. Requests for Display of Commemorative Flags. The City Council will only consider requests to display an additional commemorative flag if that request is made by a member of City Council and the request explains how the display of the flag represents and communicates the viewpoint and values of the City as a government and the City Council as a governing body. Requests to display a



1 commemorative flag made by an individual or other public or private group will not  
2 be considered by the City Council.

3 7. Display of City of Tacoma Official Flag. The City Manager may direct the  
4 display of the official flag of the City of Tacoma on City facilities to create civic pride,  
5 denote a sense of place, and reflect the vibrancy of our residents and our  
6 community, provided the City Council has not authorized another commemorative  
7 flag for the same location and same period of time.

8 8. Exceptions and Limitations. The following flag displays are not subject to  
9 this policy:

10 A. Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA). Display of the POW/MIA  
11 flag when required under federal or state law;

12 B. United States Flag – Half-Staff. Display of the United States flag when  
13 required to be flown at half-staff. The commemorative flag would also be  
14 required to fly at half-staff, and if the location does not have the  
15 infrastructure to fly the commemorative flag at half-staff, the  
16 commemorative flag should be removed during that time period;

17 9. Availability of Commemorative Flags. When a commemorative flag is  
18 approved or pre-approved by the City Council for display, the best practice is to  
19 work with community partners to secure flags to fly in association with the  
20 commemorative event being celebrated. The commemorative flag should be  
21 returned to the community partner after the event or securely stored for future use.  
22 Commemorative flags will not be displayed in circumstances in which the City is  
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unable to secure donated commemorative flags or funding for display of commemorative flags.

10. Tacoma Venues and Event (TVE). Tacoma Venues and Events is authorized to display flags at all TVE venues when the flag is associated with a specific event held at that location.