



**CONSIDER INPUT FROM THE HUMAN RELATIONS
COMMISSION FOR RECOGNIZING CAUSES WITHOUT
ESTABLISHED COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS**

General Services Department

April 3, 2024

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BACKGROUND

1. On January 17, 2023, the City Council adopted a Flag Policy, which established guidelines for commemorative flags.
2. On February 23, 2023, staff solicited input from the Human Relations Commission on a commemorative flag schedule .
3. On May 2, 2023, the City Council approved the display of established commemorative flags but did not provide direction for groups or causes without an established commemorative flag.



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BACKGROUND

4. On June 6, 2023, the City Council adopted Resolution 23996 authorizing the display of commemorative flags:
 - Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27 only)
 - Black History Month (February, entire month)
 - Women’s Suffrage Victory Flag (March, entire month)
 - LGBTQ Pride Month (June, entire month except for June 19)
 - Juneteenth (June 19 only)



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BACKGROUND

5. On January 16, 2024, the City Council discussed the commemorative flag schedule for the upcoming year (two-step process):
 - Step 1: Approved the following flag schedule: Holocaust Remembrance Day, Black History Month, Women’s Suffrage Victory Flag, LGBTQ Pride Month, and Juneteenth.
 - Step 2: Adopted a resolution on February 27, 2024 authorizing the display of these flags.



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BACKGROUND

6. On February 27, 2024, the City Council approved the addition of the Disability Pride Month flag and directed staff to return to the City Council with a resolution authorizing the display of the Disability Pride Month Flag during the month of July.



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION INPUT

On January 31, 2024, staff solicited Human Relations Commission (HRC) input for recognizing groups and causes which do not have an established commemorative flag:

- Dr Martin Luther King Day
- Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month
- Indigenous Peoples Day
- Native American Heritage Month



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION INPUT

HRC ideas which may be implemented immediately upon Council direction:

- a. **Proclamations** issued during corresponding recognition month
- b. **Light up City Hall/Grier Pavilion** in associated color as applicable during corresponding month, if possible
- c. Add the groups and causes to the **City's Cultural Holidays and Celebratory Months calendar** for social media recognition.



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HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION INPUT

HRC ideas which require a longer implementation timeframe:

- d. **Student Poster Art Contests**, with winners announced and posters displayed at City Hall during the corresponding recognition month.
- e. **RiversideTV** public service announcements, interviews and stories broadcast during the corresponding recognition month.



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ADDITIONAL CAUSES SUPPORTED BY HRC

The HRC also recommends expanding the list of groups and causes for recognition that do not have established commemorative flags to include:

- **Human Trafficking Awareness Day (January 11)**
- **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month(March)**
- **Lunar New Year (late January/mid February)**
- **Deaf Awareness Week (last week of September)**
- **Mental Health Awareness Month (May)**
- **Black Balloon Day (March 6)**
- **National Poverty in America Awareness Month (January)**



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STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Strategic Priority 5 – High Performing Government

Goal 5.5 – Foster a culture of safety, well-being, resilience, sustainability, diversity and inclusion across the City organization

Cross Cutting Threads



Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Governmental Processes Committee:

1. Consider the Human Relations Commission's suggestions for recognizing groups and causes which do not have an established commemorative flag by issuing Proclamations, lighting up the Grier Pavilion in associated colors, adding the groups and causes to the City's Cultural Holidays and Celebratory Months calendar, holding student poster art contests, and utilizing RiversideTV programming during the corresponding recognition month; and



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RECOMMENDATIONS

2. Consider the Human Relations Commission's suggestion to expand the list of groups and causes without commemorative flags for recognition, consisting of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month, Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month to include: Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Lunar New Year, Deaf Awareness Week, Mental Health Awareness Month, Black Balloon Day, and National Poverty in America Awareness Month; and



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RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Recommend that the City Council consider the options selected by the Committee for recognizing groups and causes without an established commemorative flag.

