

Ordinance Governing the Flying of flags on town flagpoles.

1. Purpose

The Town of Ledyard hereby establishes the following rules and procedures for the display of privately owned flags exclusively on a designated flagpole located within the town.

A. By adopting this ordinance, the Town Council declares that the flagpoles owned or maintained by the Town of Ledyard are not intended to serve as a forum for public free expression. Instead, they are designated as non-public forums for the display of Commemorative or Organization Flags authorized by the Town Council, representing the official sentiments of the Council and constituting government speech.

2. Process

- A. As an expression of the Town's official government speech, the Town Council may authorize the display of a flag solely on the designated flagpole located within the town.
- B. The Town Council will only consider a request to display a flag if the request is made by a member of the Ledyard Town Council during a regular or special Town Council meeting.
- C. At a duly noticed and agendized Town Council meeting, a majority of the Council Members present and voting must approve the display of the flag.
- D. Each flag will be displayed for a period of time that is reasonable or customary based on its meaning or event, or for a specific duration agreed upon by the Town Council. Only one flag may be displayed at any given time. The flags must be temporarily donated to the town for use, be clean, free from holes or tears, and made of all-weather fabric. Flags must be the same size as or smaller than the United States and Connecticut flags. The town is not responsible for the condition of the flag once it is flown and may dispose of any flag that is not picked up within thirty (30) days after being flown. All flags will be flown in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code.
- E. For the purposes of this policy, a "flag" refers to a flag owned by a private individual, group, or organization that represents a specific historical event, cause, nation, or group of people that the Town Council chooses to honor or commemorate in alignment with the Town's mission and priorities. The following flags are not permitted as Commemorative or Organization Flags and will not be considered by the Town Council:
 - a. Flags representing a specific religious movement or creed.
 - b. Flags of a political party.

- c. Flags advocating for a specific outcome in an election.
- d. Flags of commercial organization.
- e. Flags that promote or may encourage violence, discrimination, prejudice, or racism.
- f. Flags representing private businesses.

3. Procedure

A. Application Process

An individual, group or organization who would like the Town Council members to consider a flag be adopted by the Town shall write to the Town Council at least one month ahead of the time frame wished for the flag to be flown to allow enough time for consideration and due process.

- Write to the Town Council no less than 30 days prior to the request of when the flag is to be flown. The request must contain contact name, address and phone number. It must also include the reason why they are requesting this flag be flown and for what date(s).

B. Town Council Process

An individual, group, or organization seeking consideration for a flag to be adopted by the Town Council must submit a written request to the Town Council at least one month prior to the desired time frame for the flag to be flown, to allow sufficient time for consideration and due process

The Town Council will then discuss and vote on the request at the next meeting, as specified in the agenda.