

Capitola City Council Members
420 Capitola Ave, Capitola, CA 95010

March 23, 2020

RE: Proposal to Fly Police Flag-March 24, 2022, Agenda Item 8A

City Council Members,

I respectfully ask that you accept this letter as my response to the City Managers recommendation to deny flying the police flag during National Law enforcement week annually. It is my opinion, that if the city is going to fly non-governmental flags, they should be flags that honor city, state, and country, but not causes or political persuasions.

After spending a career in public safety, sitting on many state boards, and serving eight years as a planning commissioner for the City of Capitola, I find that facts are best suited for writing staff reports, as opposed to using talking points from the internet. I believe the city chose the latter. I will attempt to respond with factual information.

Is the police flag a desecration of the U.S. Flag?

Fact 1. The city's suggestion that the police flag is a desecration of the American flag is a false narrative that activist groups use. I have attached a copy of the flag code for your review, but it clearly states §1. Flag; stripes and stars on the flag of the United States shall be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; and the union of the flag shall be forty-eight stars, white in a blue field. (July 30, 1947, ch. 389, 61 Stat. 642.) Two additional stars were added in 1959 and 1960 for the last two states of Hawaii and Alaska added to the union. ¹ Even PolitiFact, far from a conservative source has rated this narrative as false. Staff is correct that the American Legion has not taken a position regarding the flag. This is because the police flag is not a desecrated version of the U.S. flag since it has black and white stripes, a field of black with stars and one blue stripe.

Does the police flag create an "Us vs. Them" environment?

Regarding the city staff reports statement about an article written by *The Marshall Project*, which references another article written by criminologist Michael D. White. ² The article referenced does not mention any flag or an "Us vs. Them" environment. It is written specifically about police officers killed in the line of duty by ambush. Statements such as this, is how certain groups mislead others by redefining a meaning to meet a false narrative. **Fact 2.** The thin blueline has always been defined as the courageous who stand between the lawful and lawlessness.

Regardless of the unfounded reference, the theory of a flag being divisive could be true for any flag, including the U.S. flag and even the *Progressive flag* recently adopted by the city.

I find it interesting that when a city council member brought her desire to fly the Progressive flag at city hall, the city chose to agendaize the item as “Administrative Policy Regarding Proper Flag Procedures at the City Hall Complex. With one sentence regarding the Progressive flag that states *the following flag(s) are approved for the following locations and time periods. The City Council may update this list at its discretion.*

Fact 3. There is no discussion, no pros or cons or comments on *what some people say*. One might think the city was just trying to add the new policy without anyone noticing. I think it would only be fair to use the same deep dive into the Progressive flag as the city staff chose to conduct with the police flag. I am sure that you will find some of the information as inflammatory as I did.

Is the Progressive flag divisive?

There is no shortage of concerns from parents of school age children that the LGBTQ+ community is trying to indoctrinate kids in schools to the beliefs and views of the LGBTQ+ community. **Fact 4.** the state of Florida just passed the *Parental Rights in Education Bill*, that bans schools from teaching children ages kindergarten to third grade about sexual orientation and gender identity. ¹¹ Text from law states *Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.*

Why would this even have to be a law? However, the LGBTQ+ community fought the bill, ¹² falsely calling it the “Don’t say gay bill”, as they proudly displayed the Progressive flag in protest. It should not matter what your political affiliation is, or your personal sexual preferences, No one should be teaching kids about these things without parental approval. Even then, it should not be an option for kids from kindergarten to third grade to be taught sexual topics.

Fact 5. Many believe it is the parents who should have the responsibility to educate their kids. The LGBTQ+ community has made this an issue under the umbrella of acceptance. ¹³ A mother from the neighboring town of Spreckles lost her daughter to suicide and is blaming the schools pride club for her death.

FACT 6. ¹⁴ The Archives of Sexual Behavior, in a study of 229 convicted child molesters, found that “eighty-six percent of offenders against males described themselves as homosexual or bisexual.”

I could go on, but I think you get the point. The Progressive flag that represents the LGBTQ+ community does not exist without being divisive in our communities.

Is it the Police Flag or the hatred for police?

Fact 7.^{3,4,5} Flags are frequently stolen from public and private property, even those flags honoring cops who died in the line of duty. It doesn't appear to be from those afraid of racist cops either, it appears to be lawless individuals with total disdain for law enforcement. Aside from the links provided above, a local church who proudly demonstrated their support of police officers captured two young females on video stealing a police flag from the church property.

Are people intimidated by police officers?

I could not find statistics regarding individuals intimidated by police. Although, there are several articles where people state they are intimidated by a police presence. However, I have no doubt that there are those out there since so much disinformation and lies are made about our police officers. **Fact 8.** Recently, ⁶Harvard University removed their police force because students did not like being watched by police. One student interviewed stated "I am well aware that the police are not there to keep me actively safe," Instead, she said, "it implies that we're being watched and policed, which is not a pleasant feeling." These are the true anti-government and biased individuals. The same individuals who want to defund the police.

It is unfortunate, that we have come to a place in our country that people say they do not feel safe with police officers in their presence. Note that in the statement above, she states *police are **not** there to keep us actively safe.* I submit this is because of the false narratives that is continually being spread by activist groups and supported by media and politicians throughout the country.

This past year, some of our city council members participated in a demonstration by an activist group that marched through Capitola. The protesters demeaned our officers calling them names and even spitting at them. Not one city leader defended our officers. As the group walked past our police station, they stopped, took a knee and shouted *hands up don't shoot.* **Fact 9.** ⁷A false narrative born out of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson. The city also participated in this demonstration by not charging the required permit fees and insurance bond. I believe 100% in the first amendment and the right for groups to protest, but I do not believe the city should have made an exception for fees and insurance. This is especially true since many businesses had to close.

In contrast, weeks later the city denied a sound permit to a local church to have a paddle out for one of our community members who was killed by a shark while surfing. This person actively worked with our BIA in marketing and was admired by those who knew him. After a lot of discussion, the city finally allowed for the permit to be approved but charged the full fee schedule and required the insurance bond. All of this so a pastor and the wife could share a few words before the paddle out. I am embarrassed by a city decision that would demonstrate such bias.

Is the flag tied to white supremacist and anti-government beliefs?

This must be the most unsettling statement in the entire biased staff report. It is biased reports and statements like this that cause distrust of our government. **Fact 10.** Not all of those who attended the rally were white supremacist, extremist, or anti-government. In fact, the majority of those attending the January 6 protest are honorable upstanding citizens that just wanted to voice their concerns, which happens to be a constitutional right and separates our great country from others. Of the tens of thousands who attended the rally, approximately 725 were arrested. **Fact 11.** Of those arrested, ^{8,9}none of them were charged with insurrection as falsely stated by the city staff report.

I completely support the arrest and conviction for anyone guilty of breaking the law, but to tie everyone there with insurrection is dishonest and an abuse of the city managers office. An important fact that the city manager left out of his report regarding the protest on that January 6th. I understand that some, including the city manager and his staff have made this flag political. But I am appalled that the city would go to the extreme depths to identify the police flag to white supremacist and the January 6 protest. **FACT 12.** Let me remind you that regardless of your political affiliation, or your view of cops, the one single group, let's call it the thin blue line, that stood between the politicians and those who broke the law, were the Capitol police officers.

There is one other important fact left out of the city staff report. **Fact 13.** ¹⁰The Progressive flag that the city adopted under the guise of a new flag policy, was also present at the January 6 protest.



[LGBTQ fly the rainbow flag at the January 6 riot.](#)

It is no secret that I have been disappointed in the actions and inactions of our city manager and city council for their lack of support of our cops. During covid the city council hid behind zoom computer meetings and city hall hid behind plexiglass, it was our cops and public workers who dealt with the public face-to-face every single day. To make matters worse, the city cut the police officers pay.

I have a question for you. Did the city consider reimbursing our employees for their loss of pay after receiving covid reimbursement money from the government that was based on the employees' salaries?

I have heard from several people in the community that you have already made your minds up on this matter and that may very well be. Despite the city managers recent statement that the city would never fly a flag of Ronald Reagan, I would just leave you one of his wise statements.

"Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid." Be Unafraid.

-Ronald Reagan

Respectfully,

TJ Welch

References

1. [Politifact factcheck Blank and white Police Flag h](#)
2. [Ambush killing of police](#)
3. [Thin Blue Line Flag stolen from memorial in Minnesota](#)
4. [Thin Blue Line flag honoring late mesa police officer stolen](#)
5. [Police flag to honor fallen officer stolen](#)
6. [Harvard to close police station](#)
7. [Reminder hands up don't shoot is a fabricated narrative from the Michael Brown case](#)
8. [January 6 Insurrection one year later](#)
9. [Reminder not one person involved with the Jan 6 riot has been charged with insurrection.](#)
10. [Protesters wave the rainbow flag at Capitol](#)
11. [Florida Bill HB 1557](#)
12. [Florida Parental Rights Bill passes protecting K-3rd Grade](#)
13. [This Mom believes that the transgender movement took her daughter's life](#)
14. [Pedophiles link to homosexuals and or bisexual](#)