



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: CITY COUNCIL**

**FROM: WHITNEY McDONALD, CITY MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
AGENDA ITEM 11.a. – MAY 25, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION  
ESTABLISHING A CITY FLAG DISPLAY POLICY AND AUTHORIZING  
DISPLAY OF THE LGBTQ+ PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE  
MONTH OF JUNE, 2021**

**DATE: MAY 25, 2021**

Attached is correspondence received for the above referenced item.

cc: Assistant City Manager/Public Works Director  
City Attorney  
City Clerk  
City Website (or public review binder)

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**From:** Michelle Chariton (MC) <mcharito@calpoly.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 11:06 PM  
**To:** public comment  
**Subject:** The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021 - With PRIDE YES!

Dear Arroyo Grande Council Members,

In today's Discussion And Consideration Of Adoption Of Resolution Establishing A City Flag Display Policy And Authorizing The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021 Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution adopting a Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy. It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

I strongly and with PRIDE agree! To the adoption of the Flag Display Policy will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and also provide a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, as may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments. Authorizing display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Michelle Chariton, CEM  
Pronouns she/her/hers  
Assc. Director Capital Projects  
Facilities Planning and Capital Projects Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA \_\_\_\_\_ Cell 805-801-9818 office 805-756-6734  
mcharito@calpoly.edu afd.calpoly.edu/facilities

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**From:** cheryl dettrick [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 6:12 AM  
**To:** public comment  
**Subject:** PRIDE and Proud of Arroyo Grande!!

Dear Arroyo Grande Council Members,

In today's Discussion And Consideration Of Adoption Of Resolution Establishing A City Flag Display Policy And Authorizing The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021.

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution adopting a Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy.

It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

As a single mother of twins, and representing our diverse family of two moms, and a dad, I strongly and with PRIDE support the inclusion and support of all families in our community. The adoption of the Flag Display supported by policy that will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and which also provides a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments.

Authorizing the display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

This will also demonstrate to our family, children, and friends the importance and relevance of inclusivity and equity in our community, especially in these turbulent times where its is even more important to bring us together.

Thank you for modeling this important representation of diversity, equity and inclusion, Arroyo Grande! We are PROUD of you!

Cheryl Dettrick  
Arroyo Grande resident  
Single, gay mom of twins 8 year olds  
Businesswoman

Cheryl Dettrick, M.S., Owner/Principle Consultant  
Resource Development Services, LLC

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/f0b589f0/1t7Ow2oAiUaXNaQApz76fA?u=http://resourcedevelopmentservices.godaddysites.com/>

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/2c6dacb5/RgOfNTMfEUq8wkwTPWpkwQ?u=http://www.linkedin.com/in/cdettrickrds>

[REDACTED] (cell)

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**From:** Erica Andrade <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** public comment  
**Subject:** Celebrate PRIDE Month

Dear Arroyo Grande Council Members,

In today's Discussion And Consideration Of Adoption Of Resolution Establishing A City Flag Display Policy And Authorizing The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021 Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution adopting a Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy. It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

I strongly and with PRIDE agree! To the adoption of the Flag Display Policy will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and also provide a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, as may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments. Authorizing display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the City's commitment to diversity.

Sincerely,

Erica Andrade

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**From:** Erica Castello [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:24 PM  
**To:** public comment  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Pride!

Dear Arroyo Grande Council Members,

In today's Discussion And Consideration Of Adoption Of Resolution Establishing A City Flag Display Policy And Authorizing The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021 Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution adopting a Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy. It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

**I strongly and with PRIDE agree!** To the adoption of the Flag Display Policy will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and also provide a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, as may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments. Authorizing display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Thank you!

Ms. Erica Marie Castello

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**From:** Kathy Castello [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 25, 2021 2:49 PM  
**To:** public comment  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Pride

Dear Arroyo Grande Council Members,

In today's Discussion And Consideration Of Adoption Of Resolution Establishing A City Flag Display Policy And Authorizing The Display Of The LGBTQ+ Pride Flag At City Hall During The Month Of June, 2021 Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution adopting a Flag Display Policy and also authorize the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall during the month of June, 2021 in accordance with the proposed Policy. It is also recommended that the Council discuss and consider authorizing the display of the LGBTQ+ Pride Flag during the month of June, 2021, at Heritage Square Park, where the first Five Cities LGBTQ+ Pride Celebration occurred in 2019.

**I strongly and with PRIDE agree!** To the adoption of the Flag Display Policy will clarify practices to be followed for the display of flags on City property, and also provide a procedure for the display of commemorative flags, as may be authorized by the City Council, as an expression of the City Council's official sentiments. Authorizing display of the Pride Flag in recognition of LGBTQ+ Pride Month will commemorate an important social movement and demonstrate the *City's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity.*

Thank you!  
Katherine Castello

**From:** Bruce Berlin [REDACTED] >  
**Date:** May 25, 2021 at 3:08:57 PM PDT  
**To:** Caren Ray Russom <crayrussom@arroyogrande.org>, Jimmy Paulding <jpaulding@arroyogrande.org>, Whitney McDonald <wmcDonald@arroyogrande.org>, Keith Storton <kstorton@arroyogrande.org>, Kristen Barneich <kbarneich@arroyogrande.org>, Lan George <lan@touchpointfix.com>  
**Subject:** Item 11A- Pride Flag

Hello Mayor and City Council-

Just in case I dont make it to Public Comment- please receive and consider my attached letter regarding ITEM 11A.

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Thank you-

**Bruce Berlin**



Virus-free.

<https://link.edgепilot.com/s/6ebd62ec/L76WhhwmcU6rL0CmCN4TgQ?u=http://www.avg.com/>

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May 25, 2021

RE: ITEM 11 A- Flag Policy and Pride Flag Flying

Dear Mayor Russom and City Council-

Thank you to AG City Staff for the staff report – and to City Council for bringing forth this item on the agenda. Pride month is just a few days away and in my opinion is worthy of further consideration and recognition. I want to urge you to support the flying of the Pride Flag during Pride Month in June.

For some historical context and meaning- the original pride flag was designed by an honorably discharged Army veteran and openly gay activist named Gilbert Baker. It first flew at a Gay Freedom Day Parade in 1978, -- some 43 years ago- and now is displayed around the world as a symbol, not of any particular political movement, but of general solidarity with the LGBTQ community. It is meant to recognize and uphold their worth as fellow human beings, created equal and endowed with certain unalienable rights, as affirmed by no less an authority than the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

It is about recognizing that LGBT people exist in our community, that they deserve respect and dignity, and that our community will not stand for intolerance or hate. This is about acceptance."

Pride can mean many things; perhaps a high regard for yourself and those around you, or maybe a sense of patriotism for your country of residence or birth. However, for the world's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and other queer-identified citizens (referred to hereafter as LGBTQ+), "pride" is a celebration of identity and the advances that have been made in the fight for equal protections and human rights for the LGBTQ+ community.

Pride celebrations span the globe in the months of May and June- sometimes with millions of attendees (like the massive annual festival in Sao Paulo, Brazil), and sometimes with small gatherings held in secret (like in Uganda, where homosexuality is outlawed).

In Arroyo Grande, we should celebrate and show support for our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community's right to live out loud – during Pride month and



every month. By flying the pride flag in our City and on our flagpoles, we send a clear message that our town is welcoming and inclusive to all, regardless of how you identify or who you love. This town is not some idyllic old west town- made up of “proud Americans”- we are as diverse and complex, a community that exists in nature, by birth and by biology, and by expression- and we are supportive of that diversity- and the many expressions of love and inclusion that we share as human beings.

It is entirely appropriate for Arroyo Grande to express support for a population of its residents who have faced discrimination and bigotry and who must continue to fight against it. Flying the rainbow pride flag expresses this support and provides a learning opportunity for those who claim not to understand what it stands for.

The LGBTQ community has been among the most marginalized historically and has recently been the target of hate crimes.

**There is a lot of discrimination, antagonism and hate against the LGBTQ community that is often not talked about. As cities, we not only have to look at matters of day-to-day life, but also set standards within our communities, promoting inclusiveness and rejecting hate.”**

Statistically- the most recent studies show that about 5.6% of the US population currently identifies as LBGTQ+. In our town of ~19,000 that means over 1,050 people openly identify with this community- and likely there are many more that are likely living covertly as LBGTQ too.

Alarmingly, the young adults, age 14-25, in this LBGTQ community are experiencing a 14% suicide rate- which is nearly double the suicide rate for the larger youth community at large. Isn't it time to help these young people be comfortable in their own skin and be welcome in our community and accepted as who they are?

May 25. 2021

RE: ITEM 11 A- Flag Policy and Pride Flag Flying

Like me, a middle-aged cisgender heterosexual white male, who has struggled and stumbled with the new vocabularies and the awkwardness and understandings it brings. I will continue to open my mind to other realities and experiences by those who identify differently. Their struggle and experience is real.

Times and mindsets are changing and being more inclusive and accepting does not have to be a threat to your moral/ religious/ or fundamental beliefs. Perhaps your grandson or granddaughter, your niece or nephew, are struggling with their acceptance and orientation, and are afraid to “come out” and be who they are. Isn't it time to tell them that you love them and accept them- no matter how they identify? What is it going to take to get you to accept somebody born with a different orientation than your own? Their feelings, their biology is real and should not be shamed or punished or ridiculed.

Many of our younger generation have grown up in a world where there is more equality, more acceptance of sexual and gender difference, and they truly value it and are comfortable with it. Those of us who are older must do whatever we can to support them and support equality and inclusivity as a broader, non-threatening perspective- a more humanistic view- so that we can not only hold onto those rights that have been gained but those equality and non-discriminatory rights we must all continue to fight for.

Hate and discrimination may still have a foothold, but it is temporary; whether or not the Pride flag can be flown on a government building won't stop the overwhelming majority of us who are fighting on the side of progress. We are all humans, regardless of our skin color or our orientations.

The flag raising would be congruent with similar historical firsts in many Cities, States, and Countries across the world- who can all see that our shared histories have often not openly acknowledged or accepted the LGBTQA community and as such, done harm in inhibiting those that are afraid to show their love and orientation.

It seems that the biggest issue with flying a flag which represents a population of human beings who have been persecuted for the last century in this country for their identities is that everyone wants to be something other than American before they are American. People want to be known for also being gay, or Asian, or Latinx, and some opponents might assert that this is what divides our country. We are a salad bowl and not a patriotic melting pot any longer. The analogy for American greatness and diversity has become bastardized; but for too long the melting pot analogy requires in particular people of color and the LGBTQ+ community to blunt their identities, their cultures, and their humanity in order to fit the blond haired, blue eyed American standard for pulling oneself up by his bootstraps and fitting a prescribed lifestyle that is one-size-fits-all.

The factual truth is, in this country, diversity means that we are different by birth, and that's okay. Some people are born into a non-Western, non-Uncle Sam-approved culture, and assimilation should mean that they can feel safe practicing the holidays, traditions, dresses, foods that come from these cultures. Likewise, some people are born with an inclination not to be attracted to a gender that Disney movies and Hollywood classics preach is the end-all be-all of romantic happiness for the gender with which that person was born. This does not make the LGBTQ+ community any less American; they are also proud to freely speak about their hopes for this country, their experiences, their own American dream. I am proud to oppose speech that seeks to divide Americans by engendering intolerance.

So, we fly the pride flag, to honor folks you may see as fundamentally "different," but who have every right to this country as you do. And should we fly any other flag beneath the stars and stripes in celebration of their ability to overcome whatever injustices have been done to them, who are proud of their heritage and existence despite the struggles imposed upon them by overwhelmingly intolerant groups, sometimes including our own government, we will do so with love.

May 25, 2021

RE: ITEM 11 A- Flag Policy and Pride Flag Flying

This concept that it needs to be “us” versus “them” is so divisive and limiting. It is us, as all of Humanity, -all of “god’s children” if you will- and how we will learn to respect various diverse backgrounds, accept and welcome people of color, people of a different gender or sexual orientation as Human beings, as their lives, their love, their dreams and hopes that matter just as much as our own.

I hope to see the Pride flag flying high- as a beacon of Love.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Berlin', written in a cursive style.

Bruce Berlin

Arroyo Grande