

# CITY OF TURLOCK FLAG POLICY



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## **Article I. Introduction**

### ***Section 1.01 Goal***

The City of Turlock's (City) goal for the display of flags is to ensure proper flag etiquette at City facilities while promoting patriotism in the community. The display of flags shall support the objectives of the City and present the City in a positive and professional manner.

### ***Section 1.02 Purpose***

The purpose of this policy is to establish that the Flag of the United States of America (US Flag), the Flag of the State of California (State Flag), Military Flags and City of Turlock Flags including the City's Public Safety Flags (hereinafter referred to as "Other Flags") are encouraged and approved for display at City facilities.

### ***Section 1.03 Applicability***

This policy applies to all flags identified herein that are flown at City facilities.

### ***Section 1.04 1,000 Flags Initiative***

The US Flag is a symbol of pride and freedom for all Americans. To encourage patriotism and appreciation for our Country, the City of Turlock has a city-wide 1,000 Flags Initiative encouraging the display of the US Flag in our community on residential homes, businesses, civic organizations and along identified corridors within the City from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Refer to the City of Turlock's 1,000 Flags Initiative for more information. The display of the US Flag encouraged through the initiative shall follow the guidelines set forth in the flag policy.

### ***Section 1.05 References***

United States Code (U.S.C.A.), Title 4  
United States Code (U.S.C.A.), Title 36  
California Government Code, Sections 430-439

## **Article II. General Provisions**

### ***Section 2.01 Policy***

The City's policy relative to the display of the US Flag, the State Flag, the Military Flags and other flags at City facilities shall be in accordance with United States Code (U.S.C.A.), Title 4 and Title 36 and California Government Code, Sections 430-439.

### ***Section 2.02 Display***

2.02.1 The US Flag together with the State Flag shall be displayed daily at major City operated facilities. Locations at which the Flags are to be displayed include, but are not limited to, City Hall, Public Safety Facility, Fire Stations located inside city limits,

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Corporation Yard, Senior Center and other City property where flagpoles exist, e.g., certain City parks.

- 2.02.2 When the US Flag, State Flag, and Military Flag(s) are displayed with other flags, the US Flag shall be placed in the position of first honor at all times and the State Flag shall be placed in the position of second honor.
- 2.02.3 The US Flag and State Flag shall be displayed only from sunrise to sunset if illumination is not provided. If properly illuminated, the Flags may be displayed twenty-four (24) hours per day.
- 2.02.4 The US Flag and State Flag shall not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when all-weather Flags are utilized.
- 2.02.5 Flags displayed on the same halyard shall have the US Flag at the peak, with the State Flag directly below the US Flag in such a manner as not to interfere with any part of the US Flag. All other flags shall be displayed at a position subordinate to the State Flag.
- 2.02.6 When the US Flag and State Flag are displayed at the same time on a separate flagpoles, the staffs shall be of equal height, the flags shall be of equal size, and the State Flag shall be positioned to the US Flag's left. The US Flag shall be hoisted first and lowered last.
- 2.02.7 The US Flag and State Flag, and any other displayed flag adjacent to these, shall be flown at half-staff during any of the following circumstances:
- During a national day of mourning or remembrance as declared by the President of the United States. The period of time that the Flags remain at half-staff shall be determined by Presidential order.
  - During a state day of mourning or remembrance as declared by the Governor of the State of California. The period of time that the Flags remain at half-staff shall be determined by gubernatorial order.
  - On Memorial Day each year, the Flags shall be displayed at half-staff until noon only, then raised to the top of the staff.
  - Thirty (30) days from the death of the President or a former President; ten (10) days from the day of death of the Vice President, the Chief Justice or a retired Chief Justice of the United States, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, a Secretary of an executive or military department, a former Vice President, or the Governor of a State, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a Member of Congress.

- By order, and for the period prescribed, by the Turlock City Council.
- Upon the death of a current or former City of Turlock Councilmember or upon the death of a current employee of the City, Stanislaus County, or Turlock Rural Fire Department who dies as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty. The Flags shall remain at half-staff from the time of death until interment.
- An occasion befitting a local day of mourning or remembrance as determined by the City Manager of the City of Turlock. The length of time that the Flags remain at half-staff shall be prescribed by the City Manager.
- When displayed at half-staff, the US Flag and State Flag shall be first hoisted to the peak for a moment and then lowered to the half-staff position. The Flags shall be again raised to the peak before they are lowered for the day. When displayed from adjacent staffs, the US Flag shall be raised and lowered first.

2.02.8 No other flag shall be displayed above the US Flag.

2.02.9 When the US Flag is displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union (blue field) to the north in an east and west street, or to the east in a north and south street

2.02.10 When the US Flag is displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the US Flag should be on the right (the flag's own right, the observer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

2.02.11 The City of Turlock recognizes that any rule or custom pertaining to the display of the US Flag may be altered, modified, or repealed, or additional rules with respect thereto may be prescribed, by the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, whenever deemed to be appropriate or desirable. Any such alteration or additional rule shall take precedence over the practices set forth in this policy.

### ***Section 2.03 Disposal of US Flag or State Flag***

When the US Flag or State Flag, deteriorates to such a condition that in longer serves as a fitting emblem of display, it shall be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning. All fire stations are flag disposal sites.

### ***Section 2.04 Display of Flags Outside City Hall***

The three (3) flags displayed in front of City Hall shall be reserved only for the display of the US Flag, State Flag and City of Turlock Flag. The US Flag shall be displayed in first position of honor at the highest point in the center. The State Flag shall be displayed in second position of honor to the right of the US Flag. The City of Turlock Flag shall be placed in the third position to the left of the US Flag.

***Section 2.05 Display of Flags Outside the Public Safety Facility***

- 2.05.1 The three (3) flags displayed in front of Public Safety Facility shall be reserved only for the display of the US Flag, State Flag and City of Turlock Public Safety Flag. The US Flag shall be displayed in first position of honor at the highest point in the center. The State Flag shall be displayed in second position of honor to the right of the US Flag. The City of Turlock Public Safety Flag shall be placed in the third position to the left of the US Flag.
- 2.05.2 The five (5) flags displayed on the corner roundabout of the Public Safety Facility shall be reserved only for the display of the United States Military Flags. The United States Military Flags shall be displayed in the following order, US Army, US Marine Corp, US Navy, US Air Force and US Coast Guard. In any period, such as in wartime, where the US Coast Guard is operating as part of the US Navy, the US Coast Guard Flag would precede the US Air Force Flag. The flagpole immediately opposite the main entrance is the start of the circle and flags should be displayed in a clockwise order.

***Section 2.06 Display of Flags Inside City Hall and Other Facilities***

If the US Flag is displayed in a lobby area it must be displayed in the first position of honor. This position is on the left side of the lobby upon entrance.

***Section 2.07 Display of Flags in the City Council Chambers***

The US Flag, State Flag and City Flags shall be the only Flags displayed in the City Council Chambers. The US Flag shall be displayed in the first position of honor. This position is on the Mayor and City Council's right as they face the audience. The State Flag shall be displayed in the second position of honor. This position is on the Mayor and City Council's left as they face the audience. City Flags shall be displayed to the left of the State Flag, to the Mayor and City Council's far left as they face the audience.

***Section 2.08 Display of Flags at the War Memorial Canon at Central Park***

The US Flag, United States Military Flags and the POW/MIA Flag shall be the only Flags displayed at the Canon. The US Flag shall be displayed in the first position of honor, in the center at the highest point. The US Army Flag shall be displayed to the right of the US Flag. The US Marine Corp Flag shall be displayed to the left of the US Flag. The US Navy Flag shall be displayed to the right of the US Army Flag. The US Air Force Flag shall be displayed to the left of the US Marine Corp Flag. The US Coast Guard Flag shall be displayed to the right of the US Navy Flag. The POW/MIA Flag shall be displayed to the left of the US Air Force Flag. Facing the US Flag reading from left to right the order is US Coast Guard, US Navy, US Army, US Flag (at the center and highest point), US Marine Corp, US Air Force and POW/MIA Flag. In any period, such as in wartime, where the US Coast Guard is operating as part of the US Navy, the US Coast Guard Flag would precede the US Air Force Flag.

**Section 2.09 The City's Flagpoles**

- 2.09.1 The City's flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The City's flagpoles are to be used exclusively by the City, where the City Council may display a commemorative flag as a form of government expression. The City will not display a commemorative flag based on a request from a third Party, nor will the City use its flagpoles to sponsor the expression of a third party.
- 2.09.2 It is not the practice of the City of Turlock to accept third party requests to display any flag. If a third party is wanting to do a display for a commemorative, cultural or other purpose, they may refer to the City of Turlock's Public Art Policy and consider doing a display in the designated area on the second floor of City Hall.

**Section 2.10 Purchasing of Flags**

The City may only purchase US Flags and State Flags made in the United States of America.

**Section 2.11 Definitions**

Half-Staff – The position of the Flag when it is one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

Executive or Military Department – Any agency listed under Sections 101 and 102 of Title 5, United States Code.

Member of Congress – A Senator, Representative, Delegate, or the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico.