

## Title III, Section 525

### THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ POLICY ON OFFICIAL FLAG DISPLAYS ON COUNTY FLAGPOLES

#### I. PURPOSE

- A. This policy is intended to regulate the public display of flags flown outside County buildings on County-owned flagpoles.
- B. This policy does not regulate the use of special-circumstance or events flags for display on streetlights or other public infrastructure apart from flag poles, which is subject to approval by the Department of Community Development and Infrastructure.
- C. This policy does not apply to County-owned buildings or properties that are wholly occupied by a third party or non-governmental entity.

#### II. GENERAL FLAG POLICY

- A. County flagpoles are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression or method of communication or speech by members of the public and the determination of what flags may be flown on County flagpoles is reserved for the Board of Supervisors.
- B. Weather permitting, the flags identified in the section below may be flown at all County facilities where a flagpole is present, including but not limited to:
  - 1. 701 Ocean Street;
  - 2. 500 Westridge Drive;
  - 3. Emeline Campus;
  - 4. Sheriff-Coroner Offices;
  - 5. Freedom Boulevard Campus;
  - 6. Simpkins Family Swim Center and other parks facilities;
  - 7. Main Jail, Juvenile Hall and other detention facilities;
  - 8. Buena Vista Landfill and Ben Lomond Transfer Station; and
  - 9. Sanitation services offices and corporation yards.
- C. The Board of Supervisors has determined that the following flags may be flown on County flagpoles:
  - 1. The U.S. Flag;
  - 2. The State of California Flag;
  - 3. Official County flags; and
  - 4. Commemorative flags as specified in Section III below.
- D. Flags may be lowered to half-staff in accordance with a Presidential proclamation or proclamation by the California governor, at the request of a County Supervisor, or at the discretion of the County Administrative Officer to commemorate the deaths of County staff or those who made significant contributions to the County's cultural or political history.

### **III. COMMEMORATIVE FLAGS**

- A. Commemorative flags are non-governmental flags that have significant cultural importance, such as the Pride Flag, Progress Flag, POW-MIA Flag, Black History Flag, etc. The use of commemorative or other third-party flags outside County buildings on County-owned flagpoles is prohibited except as specified below.
- B. Requests to display commemorative flags on County flagpoles must come from a member of the Board of Supervisors or the County Administrative Officer and be approved by a majority of Board members during a meeting conducted under the Ralph M. Brown Act.
- C. Commemorative flags may be displayed on flagpoles for a duration that is relevant to the purpose of commemoration, but no longer than 31 consecutive days.
- D. Commemorative flags should be consistent with County goals, priorities, and strategic plans, as determined by the Board of Supervisors.