

[insert municipality], Vermont

Flag Policy

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION. The purpose of this flag policy ("Policy") is to establish guidelines for the display of flags by the [insert name of municipality] ("Town"), of (1) flags of governments recognized by the Federal Government, and (2) other flags within the Town pursuant to standards set forth herein. This Policy is for expression of governmental speech and was not created, nor intended to create a public forum for private expression. Unless otherwise specified, this Policy applies to the display of any flag by the Town. For the purposes of this Policy, the meaning of the word "flag" includes banners, and pennants.

SECTION 2. FEDERAL AND STATE FLAGS.

- a. Federal and State flags displayed by the Town must be displayed in conformance with the Federal and State policies and laws, as stated in the United States Code, Title 4, Chapter 1 and the Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 1, Chapter 11 respectively.
- b. Notwithstanding the standards and requirements of this Policy, the Selectboard by resolution at a regular or special meeting, or by its designee may order flags of the United States of America ("United States") and the State of Vermont to be lowered to half-staff including in observance of a specific event or circumstance.

SECTION 3. OTHER STANDARDS FOR ALL FLAGS.

- a. Flags must be flown in the following order of precedence: first, the United States flag; second, the State of Vermont flag; and third, other flags approved pursuant to this Policy.
- b. Any flag displayed with the United States flag must not be larger than the flag of the United States.
- c. No such flag may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right.
- d. The flag of the United States must be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags are grouped and displayed from staffs.
- e. Ownership of Flags. Any flag displayed by the Town must be purchased and owned by the Town.

SECTION 4. OTHER FLAGS. Flags other than the United State flag and the State of Vermont flag may be displayed subject to the approval of the Selectboard. The Town's flag displays are not intended to serve as a forum for free expression by the public. The following other flags may be displayed by the Town as an expression of the Town's official sentiments and are not displayed to sponsor the expression of a third party.

- a. Flags of Governments Recognized by the United States.

- b. Flags Displayed in Conjunction with Official Town Events or Ceremonies.
- c. Commemorative flags. A "commemorative flag" means a flag that identifies with a specific holiday, event, cause, theme, nation, person or group of people that the Selectboard chooses to honor, recognize, or commemorate consistent with the Town's official policies, priorities, resolutions, or sentiments. Examples of commemorative flags include, but are not limited to, Sister Cities, POW/MIA, Heritage Month or Day (e.g., Black History Month, Pride Month, Asian/Pacific American History, National Hispanic Heritage, and Indigenous Peoples' Heritage), Earth Day, or Award/Accomplishment Recognition, or Visiting Groups.
 - a. The Selectboard will only consider requests to display a Commemorative Flag made by the members of the board or its designee (e.g. Town Manager, Administrator, Mayor, Administrative Assistance, etc.). *[insert Town Manager, Administrator, Mayor, etc. if desired]*.
 - b. Requests to raise a Commemorative Flag made by members of the public or other private groups will not be considered.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Policy will become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Selectboard.

Adopted (date): _____

Signatures:

_____	_____
_____	_____
