



Memorandum

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Sam Liccardo

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 09/01/2021

SUBJECT: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF THE ETHIOPIAN FLAG RAISING AS A CITY SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT, TO EXPEND CITY FUNDS AND AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE EVENT

Approved:

Date:

September 1, 2021

RECOMMENDATION

1. Retroactively approve the Ethiopian Flag Raising to be held from September 1-8, 2021 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses or community groups to support the event.
3. Place the item on the September 14, 2021 Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 72517, which required Councilmembers to submit a memorandum to the Rules Committee regarding proposed City Council sponsored Special Events and the proposed use of any funds for special events.

Council Policy 2-1, Section C.3, allows "Flags Displayed in Conjunction With Official Ceremonial Items: Other flags may be displayed in conjunction with official actions, ceremonial items, or proclamations of the City Council."

On Monday, September 1, 2021, the City of San José raised the Ethiopian Heritage Flag as a ceremonial flag in honor of the Ethiopian New Year which takes place on September 11. The City has flown the Ethiopian Heritage flag, a simple green, yellow and red flag, for the past fifteen years, although it is not the official government flag. Over time, various governments ruling in Addis Abbab have altered the traditional flag by adding insignia of some type, most recently a five-pointed star. The Ethiopian-American community will celebrate the Ethiopian New Year in San José by displays of their common heritage--including song, prose, and the

09/01/2021

Subject: Ethiopian Flag Raising

Page 2

heritage flag--not with any political statements about one particular sitting government or another. The Ethiopian heritage is represented by this simple green, yellow and red flag. The flag-raising honors the Ethiopian-American community residing in the San José metropolitan area, and the event has no relationship to a specific political party or government in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian community made the request to continue to fly the same Heritage flag for 2021 and in the years to come. The Heritage flag will fly from September 1 – 8, 2021 with no onsite ceremony.

ANALYSIS

Approval by the Rules and Open Government Committee and the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council's prior direction regarding Council Special Events. For the Ethiopian Flag Raising Ceremony, the Mayor's Office will be using office funds to pay some event expenses. In compliance with existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Mayor Liccardo will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event in his Disclosure of Fundraising Report. Approval of this memorandum will enable the Mayor, the City departments and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. If cash donations are received, the Office of the City Clerk will deposit the funds to the City's Gift Trust fund and follow the City's normal cash collection procedures. Subsequently, the City Clerk will return to the City Council for necessary actions involving the receipt and appropriation of funds consistent with the Special Events resolution and standard City procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

This action does not meet the criteria set below; however, the Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City's Website for the 09/14/2021 Council Agenda.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP17-011, Temporary Special Events resulting in no changes to the physical environment.

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

For questions, please contact Toni Taber, City Clerk, at (408) 535-1260.