



COUNCIL AGENDA: 9/17/2019

ITEM: 2.12

FILE NO: 19-835

# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Toni J. Taber, CMC  
City Clerk

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** September 17, 2019

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**SUBJECT: Retroactive Approval of the Ethiopian Flag Raising Ceremony as a City Sponsored Special Event, to Expend City Funds and Authorization to Accept Donations of Materials and Services for the Event.**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on September 11, 2019:

- (a) Retroactively approve the Ethiopian Flag Raising Ceremony scheduled on September 6, 2019 as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds; and
- (b) Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.

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

[Rules Committee referral 9/11/19 - Item G.1.b]



# Memorandum

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** August 30, 2019

APPROVED:

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

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the Ethiopian Flag Raising Ceremony to be held on September 6, 2019 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 10, 2019 Council Agenda for action.

## BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution 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 in Special Event Accounts.

On November 2, 2006, the City Council revised Council Policy 2-1, which allows for the exhibition of Federal, State, City and ceremonial flags at City buildings.

On Friday, September 6, 2019, the City of San Jose will raise 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 ten 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 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 2019 and in the years to come.

**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.

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

Mayor Liccardo will issue an information memo detailing the results of the events.

**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 09/10/2019 Council Agenda.

**COORDINATION**

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

**CEQA**

Not a project.

Reviewed by:

TONI J. TABER, CMC  
City Clerk

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