



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, MMC
City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 17, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of Black History Month 2025 Flag Raising and Tower Lighting Sponsored by Council District 1 as a City Council Sponsored Special Event to Expend City Funds and Accept Donations of Materials and Services for the Event

Recommendation

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on December 11, 2024:

(a) Approve the Black History Month 2025 Flag Raising scheduled on February 7, 2025, as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds;

(b) Approve the Black History Month 2025 Tower Lighting scheduled from February 7, 2025 to February 14, 2025, as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds; and

(c) 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. (Kamei)

[Rules Committee referral 12/11/2024 - Item B.5]



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Vice Mayor Rosemary
Kamei, District 1

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 12/5/2024

APPROVED: 

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2025 FLAG RAISING AND TOWER LIGHTING SPONSORED BY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 AS A CITY COUNCIL SPONSORED SPECIAL EVENT TO EXPEND CITY FUNDS AND ACCEPT DONATIONS OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES FOR THE EVENT

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the Black History Month 2025 Flag Raising scheduled on February 7, 2025, as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
2. Approve the Black History Month 2025 Tower Lighting scheduled from February 7, 2025, to February 14, 2025, as a City Council sponsored Special Event and approve the expenditure of funds.
3. Approve and accept donations from various individuals, businesses, or community groups to support the event.
4. Place the item on the December 17, 2024, Council Agenda for action.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2005, the City Council adopted Resolution 72517 which requires Councilmembers to submit a memorandum to the Rules Committee regarding proposed City Council sponsored Special Events and the proposed use of any funds.

Black History Month 2025 Flag Raising will be held on February 7, 2025, at San José City Hall Rotunda and sponsored by Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei. This special event celebrates Black History Month by raising the Pan-African Flag at City Hall, and brings together African American community members and leaders to share in culture and cuisine. The event is free and open to the public.

The display of the Pan-African Flag on February 7, 2025 is permitted under Council Policy 2-1, C.3 – 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.”

The Tower lighting colors will be red, yellow, and green, which are colors associated with the Pan-African Flag and Black History Month. According to Dr. Tyler D. Parry, Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, the red represents the blood shed by those who have died fighting for freedom and equal rights, yellow references the flag of Ethiopia, and green represents the continent of Africa¹.

ANALYSIS

City Council Policy 7-14, City Hall Event Lighting Policy, Sections B.1 and C.1 allows Tower lighting in conjunction with proclamations for official actions or ceremonial items as approved by City Council. It also allows for extended lighting beyond one cycle between sundown and sunrise.

Approval by the City Council of the event will ensure compliance with the Council’s prior direction regarding Council Special Events. In observance of existing fundraising disclosure requirements, Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei will report any cash or in-kind donations received for the event on their Disclosure of Fundraising Report (DFR-1). Approval of this memorandum will enable Council District 1, City departments, and the Office of the City Clerk to proceed with the event. Any cash donations received will be processed pursuant to the City’s normal financial and budgetary procedures.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

The Office of the City Clerk will post the item on the City’s Website for the December 11, 2024 Rules Committee Agenda and the December 17, 2024 Council Agenda.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP15-077, Temporary Special Events.

Reviewed by:

TONI J. TABER, CMC
City Clerk

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

¹ Samantha Olson, “What Are the Black History Month Colors and What Do They Mean?,” *Seventeen*, February 1, 2023, <https://www.seventeen.com/life/a42708948/black-history-month-colors/>.