



## **CITY OF MELROSE FLAGPOLE POLICY**

### **Purpose:**

This policy addresses the flying of flags on flagpoles located on City property. This policy reserves the use of flagpoles and selection of flags to the City acting through the Mayor or THE Mayor's designee.

The City has determined that the flagpoles on City property are not open to use by the public. Therefore, City flagpoles are a nonpublic, governmental forum intended solely for the expression of speech by the City of Melrose, subject to the limitations as set forth in this policy.

The decision as to which flags to fly on City flagpoles shall be at the sole discretion of the Mayor or the Mayor's designee.

### **Policy:**

On any flagpole located on City Property the City may fly the flag of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the City of Melrose, and flags representing individual City Departments or Melrose Public Schools as approved by the Mayor or the Mayor's designee. The City may also fly any official United States military flag, including the POW-MIA flag and any related honorary and memorial United States military flags on any flagpole located on City property.

### **The Ceremonial Flagpole:**

The City's ceremonial flagpoles, which include the right flagpole (nearest to the Melrose Post Office) located on the south side of City Hall on Essex Street and the flagpole located in front of the Melrose Public Library on East Foster Street, have traditionally been used for the expression of speech by the City as a nonpublic, governmental forum and will continue to be used as such.

As an expression of the City's official sentiments, the City acting through the Mayor or the Mayor's designee may fly a ceremonial flag for any of the following purposes:

- (a) In accordance with a proclamation of the President of the United States or the Governor of the Commonwealth;

- (b) In recognition of governments and/or territories recognized by the United States<sup>1</sup>; (c) In honor of or to commemorate a particular holiday or special occasion; (d) In honor of or to commemorate official actions or ceremonial events.

In all other respects, and to the extent feasible, the flying of flags on flagpoles located on City property shall be done in accordance with the federal and state law including U.S. Flag Code at 4 U.S.C. § 1 et seq., and Chapter 2, Sections 6 and 6A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

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<sup>1</sup> See United States Department of State list of sovereign states with a definite territory recognized as independent by the US. <https://www.state.gov/independent-states-in-the-world>