

2024-03-19 CC AGENDA  
PUBLIC COMMUNICATION - MISC. - TATTERED FLAGS

**From:** "Pimentel, Chris (Mayor Pro Tem)" <cpimentel@elsegundo.org>  
**Date:** March 12, 2024 at 10:13:02 PM PDT  
**To:** T Kazen <tkazen06@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** ALL ELECTED OFFICIALS <ALLELECTEDOFFICIALS@elsegundo.org>  
**Subject: Re: Request for Investigation: Tattered Flags**

Tyler,

Thank you! That is a key detail. As addressing it may be an item for the council to discuss in a meeting, we cannot discuss it on a group email thread.

I will reply on a separate thread - standby.

Chris Pimentel  
Mayor Pro Tem  
El Segundo

On Mar 12, 2024, at 9:35 PM, T Kazen <tkazen06@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm sorry, I may have worded it wrong. I said worn in a sense of respect, these flags are rather torn and falling at the seams. Attached in this email are photos I've collected. From what I've gathered from the Public Works department and the businesses themselves, these flags are owned and maintained by the city. I'm sorry for any miscommunication I may have caused.

Thank You for your time,  
Tyler Kazen  
Troop 267

On Tue, Mar 12, 2024 at 9:25 PM Pimentel, Chris (Mayor Pro Tem)  
<[cpimentel@elsegundo.org](mailto:cpimentel@elsegundo.org)> wrote:  
Tyler

Thank you for this. I think you have stumbled upon something dear to us all: an opportunity for education. "Flag Custom" and the "Flag Code" differ in a number of aspects, but this particular one has a wrinkle. While by custom we do not display a tattered flag (unless it has historical significance), Title 4 of the US Code is somewhat vague (if I remember correctly - and I may not) that flags need only to be "fit" for display. But what is "Fit"?? This vague term leaves whether or not a worn flag should be replaced somewhat in the eye of the beholder, and guides us to defer to our community's sense of propriety.

What I recommend, and would embrace, is all of us casually, and courteously, approaching places where we see tattered flags, and remind them that the scouts continue their longstanding and fantastic tradition of providing a respectful method of retiring a flag. Perhaps there's even a concurrent program where the scouts could offer to help replace them for a summer fundraiser.

All of that said, Flag Code is a gloriously nuanced area- where we learn how to drape the colors (not on your hood!) and how to orient them (blue to the north of a building with multiple main entrances!), and most importantly, as you have pointed out, how to cherish them for all that they symbolize. I'm happy to help!

Chris Pimentel  
Mayor Pro Tem  
El Segundo

On Mar 12, 2024, at 7:46 PM, T Kazen <[tkazen06@gmail.com](mailto:tkazen06@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Elected Officials,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Tyler Kazen, and I am a member of Boy Scout Troop 267 here in El Segundo. I am reaching out to you regarding the worn American flags displayed above businesses in our city.

Recently, there have been concerns raised by citizens, elderly, and veterans about the condition of these flags down Main Street. As you know, a flag, much like any symbol, serves its purpose and eventually reaches the end of its life. It's a natural cycle, and the respectful disposal of these flags is an important tradition.

It has come to our attention that many of these flags have reached this point, and as a result, they no longer reflect the image of pride and respect that we want to embody as a community. The tattered and worn appearance does not honor the symbolism and history behind our flag.

I believe it is time for us to consider a proper and respectful retirement for these flags. This could involve a community effort, perhaps organized by the Public Works Department, to collect these flags and ensure they are retired in accordance with proper flag etiquette. This initiative would not only show our commitment to our national symbol but also involve the community in a meaningful and unifying way. I, personally, do not know the schedule of the regulated flag substitutions, however, with the recent weather, this is by no fault Public Works. I'm sure as you know, there is a flag drop-off bin in front of the scout house for such flags, if you wish to drop them off there.

I understand the challenges and responsibilities the Public Works Department faces, but I urge you to consider this proposal. It would not only address the concerns raised by our citizens, residents, and veterans but also uphold the dignity of our flag.

Please let me know if there is anything else I may need to speak of or email regarding the flags, as I would appreciate any feedback or thoughts you might have on this matter. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Tyler Kazen

Boy Scout Troop 267

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<IMG\_6560.jpeg>