



**WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE
CITY COUNCIL
City of Maplewood, Missouri**

City Council Chambers, City Hall
7601 Manchester Road, Maplewood, MO 63143

Tuesday, March 25, 2025
6:30 PM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Discussion regarding proposed Flag Display Policy
 - a. Sample resolutions for Transgender Day of Visibility and LGBTQ Pride Month flag displays
4. Adjournment

Addressing the Council

Individuals wishing to speak during Public Hearings or Public Comment periods must sign in before the meeting and will be called to the podium when it is their turn. Each speaker has a three-minute time limit. Written comments may be emailed to cityclerk@maplewoodmo.gov by 12:00 PM (noon) on the meeting day. The Council will receive all emailed comments, but comments will not be read aloud during the meeting.

Accessibility Notice

The City of Maplewood is committed to making public meetings accessible to all residents. To request accommodations or assistance, please contact the Deputy City Clerk at cityclerk@maplewoodmo.gov or 314-646-3602, or Relay Missouri at 800-736-2966 (TTY). Please make your request at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to ensure appropriate arrangements can be made.

Virtual Access

Watch this meeting live or view previous meetings at www.youtube.com/@cityofmaplewood8819

Posted on March 21, 2025, at Maplewood City Hall and maplewoodmo.gov

Memorandum



To: Mayor and City Council
From: Amber Withycombe, City Manager
Date: March 20, 2025
Re: **Flag Display Policy and Commemorative Flag Displays**

Following a recent request from Council Member Homa regarding flying the Transgender Pride Flag at City Hall on March 31st for Transgender Day of Visibility, I have prepared draft documents for Council consideration. This matter arises from both the Council's prior Resolution R22-22 (adopted in 2022, declaring March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility) and recent constituent interest in ensuring the flag would be displayed this year.

Mayor Greenberg has indicated his preference for establishing a formal flag display policy before authorizing additional commemorative flags beyond the U.S., Missouri, Maplewood, and POW flags currently displayed. He has expressed interest in receiving Council and public input on this policy decision.

For your review, I have attached:

1. A draft Flag Display Policy that establishes guidelines for commemorative flag displays on City property
2. A sample resolution specifically authorizing the display of the Transgender Pride Flag on March 31st annually
3. A sample resolution authorizing the display of the LGBTQ Pride Flag during the month of June every year

For context, the city currently flies the POW flag as part of our war memorial and has displayed the LGBTQ Pride Flag during the month of June for the last few years. However, we have not previously flown the Transgender Pride Flag, though former Mayor Knapper did issue a proclamation for Trans Day of Visibility in the past.

If Council wishes to proceed with displaying the Transgender Pride Flag for March 31st this year, prompt consideration of these documents at the March 25th meeting would be necessary to implement the display in time. Alternatively, Council may prefer to first establish the general flag policy before considering specific commemorative flag authorizations.

I also recommend that Council consider formalizing our existing practice of flying the LGBTQ Pride Flag during the month of June through a similar resolution. This would bring our current practice into alignment with the proposed flag policy and ensure consistency in our approach to commemorative flag displays.

RESOLUTION

R22-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, DECLARING MARCH 31ST AS THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY.

WHEREAS, Maplewood will help to lead the way in extending nondiscrimination protections and equal benefits to Trans and non-binary people, including Trans youth throughout our community and in our Maplewood Richmond Heights School District, and we recognize that we must advocate with and for our Trans community to ensure their civil rights and voices are protected and heard; and

WHEREAS, in Maplewood, we believe in the inherent value of each and every resident of our city, including our Trans and non-binary residents and community members, without exception; and

WHEREAS, 1.4 million Americans are transgender and have bravely overcome serious hardships to create and build thriving communities in the face of systemic violence, prejudice and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, while we celebrate visibility, we must also acknowledge the epidemic of violence against Trans people, in particular Black Trans women, and that we, as a community, must work together to end this epidemic and for each Trans person killed or lost this year and in years past we mourn, and we honor their lives, their names and their legacy of bravery; and

WHEREAS, Trans women activists and icons Storme' DeLarverie, Marsha P. Johnson, Miss Major and Syliva Rivera were instrumental in the creation of modern gay rights movement in the United States with the Stonewall Inn Uprising in 1969; and

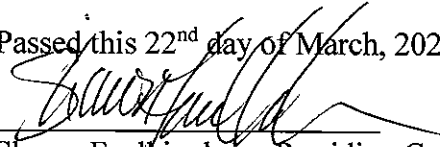
WHEREAS, Trans and non-binary Americans have made profound strides challenging and persevering social and political norms that had forced many to live in secrecy regarding their gender identity; and


WHEREAS, legal victories won by Trans activists have expanded judicial recognition of constitutional protections for gender identity and expression, and provided a greater number of people with the basic protections needed to ensure human dignity and self-determination, but these rights are still not universally guaranteed, with regressive measures still being pursued by the Missouri General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, because of the determined activism and advocacy of Trans people, they are now able to be their true self while serving as religious and educational leaders, participating in athletic competitions, star in film and television, and serve in prominent government positions, countering decades of harmful exclusion.

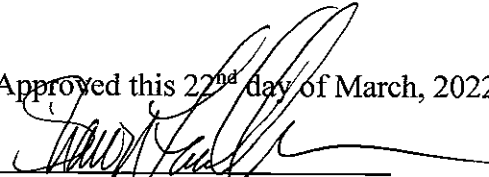
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS: The City of Maplewood declares March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility.

Passed this 22nd day of March, 2022


Shawn Faulkingham, Presiding Councilmember

Attest: 
Karen Scheidt, Deputy City Clerk

Approved this 22nd day of March, 2022


Shawn Faulkingham, Presiding Councilmember

Attest: 
Karen Scheidt, Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF MAPLEWOOD FLAG DISPLAY POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidelines for the display of flags on property owned or controlled by the City of Maplewood to ensure consistency and compliance with flag protocols while allowing for commemorative displays that reflect the city's values and observances.

POLICY

1. Primary Flag Display

- The United States flag, the State of Missouri flag, and the City of Maplewood flag shall be the primary flags displayed at City Hall.
- These flags shall be displayed in accordance with the United States Flag Code and Missouri state law.

2. Commemorative Flag Displays

- The City Council may authorize, by resolution, the display of commemorative flags that represent:
 1. Government speech reflecting the city's official values and observances
 2. Officially recognized commemorative days, weeks, or months
 3. Significant historical or cultural events relevant to the Maplewood community

3. Authorization Process

- Commemorative flag displays must be authorized by a majority vote of the City Council through resolution.
- The resolution shall specify:
 1. The flag to be displayed
 2. The location(s) for display
 3. The duration of the display
 4. Any specific flag protocols to be observed

4. Display Locations and Priority

- Primary location: Secondary flagpole at City Hall (below the U.S., Missouri, and Maplewood flags)
- At no time shall a commemorative flag replace or fly higher than the United States, Missouri, or Maplewood flags

5. Flag Condition and Maintenance

- All flags shall be maintained in good condition
- Flags that become torn, faded, or otherwise damaged shall be removed and properly retired
- The City Manager shall be responsible for ensuring proper flag maintenance

6. Annual Calendar

- The City Council may establish an annual calendar of commemorative flag displays
- This calendar shall be reviewed and approved annually

7. Implementation

- The City Manager or designee shall be responsible for implementing this policy
- Any interpretive questions shall be referred to the City Council

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

This policy establishes commemorative flag displays as government speech expressing the city's official values and observances. It does not create a public forum for private expression. All flag displays under this policy represent the official position of the City of Maplewood.

SAMPLE

RESOLUTION

R25-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE TRANSGENDER PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL ON MARCH 31ST IN OBSERVANCE OF TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

WHEREAS, by Resolution R22-22, adopted in 2022, the City of Maplewood declared March 31st as Transgender Day of Visibility; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to further recognize this observance through the display of the Transgender Pride Flag; and

WHEREAS, such display represents the City’s commitment to belonging, inclusion, and support for all residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. The Transgender Pride Flag shall be displayed at City Hall on March 31st of each year in observance of Transgender Day of Visibility.

Section II. The flag display shall follow all protocols established in the City’s Flag Display Policy.

Passed this XX day of Month, 2025

Barry Greenberg, Mayor

Attest:

Tanya Bohlken, Deputy City Clerk

Approved this XX day of Month, 2025

Barry Greenberg, Mayor

Attest:

Tanya Bohlken, Deputy City Clerk

RESOLUTION

R25-XX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AUTHORIZING THE DISPLAY OF THE LGBTQ PRIDE FLAG AT CITY HALL DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

WHEREAS, the City of Maplewood has flown the LGBTQ Pride Flag during the month of June since 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has declared Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging to be a priority through the adoption in 2023 of the Welcome Maplewood plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to formalize this existing practice to align with the City's Flag Display Policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section I. The LGBTQ Pride Flag shall be displayed at City Hall during the month of June each year.

Section II. The flag display shall follow all protocols established in the City's Flag Display Policy.

Passed this XX day of Month, 2025

Barry Greenberg, Mayor

Attest:

Tanya Bohlken, Deputy City Clerk

Approved this XX day of Month, 2025

Barry Greenberg, Mayor

Attest:

Tanya Bohlken, Deputy City Clerk