

**NAACP**  
Martha's Vineyard Branch

Friday, April 15, 2022

Mr. Timothy Carroll  
Town Administrator  
Town of Chilmark  
401 Middle Road  
Chilmark, MA 02535

Via email: [townadministrator@chilmarkma.gov](mailto:townadministrator@chilmarkma.gov) and in hand

**RE: Request to be added to Select Board Agenda to discuss raising the Progress Pride Flag in the Town of Chilmark**

Dear Mr. Carroll:

We, the NAACP Martha's Vineyard Branch, believe that it is important that all of our LGBTQ+ community – residents, workers, and visitors of Chilmark feel safe and respected. Therefore, we are requesting the Progress Pride Flag be raised on a prominent flagpole beginning no later than Wednesday, June 1, 2022, for at least the month of June (Pride Month). We are proposing this show of support at the Chilmark Town Hall, Chilmark Fire Station, and Chilmark Police Station.

**Progress Pride Flag**

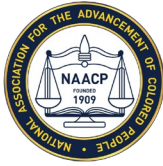
The Pride Flag is a symbol of love, peace, equality, inclusion, a reminder to LGBTQ+ community members that they are accepted and respected. Daniel Quasar's Progress Pride Flag includes five-colored chevrons (representing the most marginalized individuals in our communities - Transgender and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) to have a greater emphasis on inclusion and progression.

**History of Request**

Last year we wrote to you with this same request to fly the Progress Pride Flag on prominent flagpoles in Town but were denied. The reason cited for not flying the Progress Pride Flag was that it needed to be taken to the Town's Legal Counsel for authorization but did not hear back.

The NAACP Martha's Vineyard Branch was disappointed that the Town of Chilmark did not accept nor raise the Progress Pride Flag that we offered to bestow to you. Chilmark was the only Martha's Vineyard Town to not raise the Progress Pride Flag in 2021. This year we must

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Martha's Vineyard Branch**  
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insist that the Progress Pride Flag be displayed on a flagpole in a central location in the Town of Chilmark, as a symbolic gesture of the Town's respect and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

### **US Flag Policy (Federal, State, and Municipal Government)**

The United States has adopted the US Flag Code that can be found in 4 USC Ch. 1. Subsection 7(c) requires, "No other flag or pennant should be placed above or, if on the same level, to the right of the flag of the United States of America..." Further subsection 7(e) allows for other flags to be flown on the same halyard as the U.S. Flag. Specifically, it states, "

"When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staff, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the United States flag's right." See 4 USC Ch. 1. Subsection 7(e).

Further State Law allows for the Progress Pride Flag to be flown on the same halyard as the United State Flag. Specifically, M.G.L. Chapter 2, sections 5, 6, and 6A all allow for such display for Progress Pride Flag.

The Massachusetts State House has a flag policy which also allows for the Progress Pride Flag to be flown on the same halyard as the U.S. Flag. The Progress Pride Flag was raised for the first time on Friday, June 12, 2020. [See Exhibit 1]. Last, municipal governments often adopt a flag policy which tracks the same policy as the statehouse [See Exhibit 2 City of Boston flag policy.]

Therefore, we respectfully request your authorization to raise the Progress Pride Flags within the Town of Chilmark starting Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Thank you for taking our request and concerns under advisement. We look forward to hearing back from you as soon as possible and are prepared to attend any meeting to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Arthur Hardy-Doubleday (he/him)  
NAACP Martha's Vineyard Branch President

Jennelle Gadowski (she/her)  
LGBTQ+ Committee Chair

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# Exhibit 1



# Exhibit 2

**City of Boston**  
**Property Management Department**

**Flag Raising Policy**

1. The City of Boston, acting through the Commissioner of Property Management, may allow the raising of flags on City Hall Plaza (Plaza) outside of City Hall to commemorate an event or occasion.
2. A third-party organization or individual may request that the City raise a particular flag on the Plaza. All such requests will be reviewed and processed by the City of Boston Property Management Department and presented to the Commissioner of Property Management for final review. The Property Management Department will notify the applicant organization whether the event is approved or denied, such decision to be made in the City's sole and complete discretion.
3. Applicants must complete an event application at the following web site, [https://www.cityofboston.gov/propertymanagement/event\\_application.asp](https://www.cityofboston.gov/propertymanagement/event_application.asp).
4. Requests to raise flags must be made at least four (4) weeks prior to the requested date and should generally include the following information.
  - a. Name of the requesting organization;
  - b. Contact information;
  - c. Requested event or occasion;
  - d. Date or time period of event or occasion;
  - e. Explanation or purpose of the event or occasion;
  - f. Description of the applicant organization including any local, national or international affiliation, brief history, website address, nonprofit status, and any other relevant information.
5. Applicants may be required to pay for security, custodial, or other costs, if City resources are required.
6. In some instances, Applicants may be required to apply for special event or other permits depending on the scale of the event.
7. Please refer to the City of Boston Flag Raising Rules found in Exhibit 1.

**City of Boston**  
**Property Management Department**

**Flag Raising Rules**

1. At no time will the City of Boston display flags deemed to be inappropriate or offensive in nature or those supporting discrimination, prejudice, or religious movements.
2. Flag raisings must occur on a normal business work day, generally between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Requests to raise a flag on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday will normally be referred to the business day before or after the weekend or holiday. If an applicant requests a flag raising outside of the above times, he or she must seek a waiver from the Commissioner of Property Management Department and provide an adequate justification. The decision of the Commissioner will be final.
3. All flag raising events must be open to members of the public. Guests must adhere to the City of Boston policy not to discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, etc.
4. The guest must deliver the appropriate size flag to the City of Boston PMD and retrieve the guest flag after the raising. The flag must be clean and serviceable flag with dimensions no less than 3 feet wide by 5 feet long and no greater than 10 feet wide by 15 feet long. PMD and the City of Boston will not be responsible for guest flags not retrieved.
5. All events must be consistent with the City of Boston's sustainability goals, including its efforts toward making Boston a zero waste city.
6. If ordered, flags may be lowered to comply with the U.S. Flag Code. If the Governor or other appropriate authority orders that the U.S. Flag be flown at half-staff, no other flag may be flown higher than the U.S. Flag.
7. Guest flags will normally only be flown 24 hours or less.

Exhibit 1.

<b>TITLE</b>	please sign
<b>FILE NAME</b>	2022 Letter to To... Flag Raising.pdf
<b>DOCUMENT ID</b>	ef4b39a913e8f9c3034f59c90f998cfb34501783
<b>AUDIT TRAIL DATE FORMAT</b>	MM / DD / YYYY
<b>STATUS</b>	● Signed

## Document History



SENT

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:13:46 UTC-4

Sent for signature to Jennelle Gadowski (jennellegadowski27@gmail.com) and Arthur Hardy-Doubleday (arthur@doubledaylaw.com) from arthur@doubledaylaw.com  
IP: 173.162.210.250



VIEWED

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:14:04 UTC-4

Viewed by Jennelle Gadowski (jennellegadowski27@gmail.com)  
IP: 173.162.210.250



SIGNED

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:15:28 UTC-4

Signed by Jennelle Gadowski (jennellegadowski27@gmail.com)  
IP: 173.162.210.250



VIEWED

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:18:16 UTC-4

Viewed by Arthur Hardy-Doubleday (arthur@doubledaylaw.com)  
IP: 173.162.210.250



SIGNED

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:18:31 UTC-4

Signed by Arthur Hardy-Doubleday (arthur@doubledaylaw.com)  
IP: 173.162.210.250



COMPLETED

**04 / 15 / 2022**

15:18:31 UTC-4

The document has been completed.