



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES

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Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

ROBERT M. STEVENS
DIRECTOR

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To: Robert W. Healy, City Manager

From: Robert Stevens, Director *R. Stevens*

Re: Council Order #003, dated 6/2/97

Date: June 16, 1997

With respect to Council Order #003, dated 6/2/97, the following is provided:

The City, (Executive Branch-Veterans/DPW), currently displays 10 American and 5 POW flags at various city locations. In addition, the Recreation Department is responsible for displaying and maintaining an American Flag at the Danehy Park, on Sherman Street. The City's Executive Branch does not display flags at any schools, the School Department oversees that responsibility.

Flags, that are maintained by the Executive Branch, are flown at the following city locations:

1. FLAGSTAFF PARK, Mass. Ave., & Garden Street
8x12 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag
2. CITY HALL, 795 Mass. Ave.
3x5 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag
3. CITY HALL ANNEX, 57 Inman Street
3x5 American Flag
4. LOMBARDI BUILDING, 831 Mass. Ave.
3x5 American Flag
5. CAMBRIDGE COMMON, Garden Street
3x5 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag

6. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, 147 Hampshire Street
5x8 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag
7. CAMBRIDGE CEMETERY, Coolidge Ave.
5x8 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag
8. GOLD STAR PARK, Gore Street
5x8 American Flag
9. HOYT FIELD, Western Ave.
5x8 American Flag
3x5 POW Flag
10. WARREN PALS MEMORIAL PARK, Jefferson Street
5x8 American Flag

There is no uniform, institutionalized system in place for replacing worn flags. Usually, we receive notification from the DPW that a flag is worn and we in turn provide DPW with a new flag. The Fire Department is responsible for the Flagstaff Park flag.

With respect to the flag flown at Flagstaff Park, as mentioned in Mr. Diefenback's letter, he was correct in stating that the flag was hanging by one rope and it was torn. However, before we could replace the flag and rope (lanyard), the pole itself required painting. Due to the height of the pole, only a steeplejack (private contractor) could access the top. As a result, it took several days to advertise and hire a private sector contractor (steeplejack). That fact, coupled with several days of very inclement weather, resulted in the pole not being painted until just prior to Memorial Day. At that time a new flag was flown (the Fire Department puts the flag up). Our normal turnaround time for flag replacement is one day *after* notification.

With regard to raising and lowering some flags, I believe leaving the flags up during the evening hours is more acceptable to the citizens and veterans of Cambridge as opposed to lowering each flag in the evening.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

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4.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

June 23, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item Number 17, regarding the care and maintenance of City flags, Public Works Commissioner Ralph Dunphy reports the following:

The Public Works Department and the Veterans Department will implement a plan to better maintain American flags flying in City parks and on public buildings by monitoring the condition of the flags and replacing those flags that show signs of wear.

In addition, please find attached a response from Director of Veterans' Services Robert Stevens.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/dls

Consent Agenda #4

1 5-385

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Seventeen, regarding the care and
maintenance of City flags.

In City Council June 23, 1997

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