

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE,
REAFFIRMING PRIOR RECOGNITION OF THE FLAG OF THE FORMER REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM AS THE OFFICIAL FLAG OF THE VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN
GARDEN GROVE AND OPPOSING THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG OF THE SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ON CITY PROPERTY

WHEREAS, refugees and immigrants from the former Republic of Vietnam came to the United States and settled as free Vietnamese Americans who are honored and remembered for their sacrifices for freedom and human rights and for their ongoing contributions to our democratic society;

WHEREAS, since 1975, the City of Garden Grove has become home to one of the largest Vietnamese-American populations in the United States, and the local Vietnamese-American community has become a significant factor in the rich cultural diversity enjoyed by the residents of the entire community;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of Vietnamese Americans recognize and embrace the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag, also known as the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam, comprising three horizontal stripes of red upon a field of gold, as the flag of the Vietnamese-American community;

WHEREAS, the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag represents the long history and culture of Vietnam, and many Vietnamese Americans continue to remember and honor this flag as a symbol of free Vietnamese people and their struggle for freedom and democracy;

WHEREAS, the City commemorates over three decades of Vietnamese-American achievement in America and in the City and celebrates their contributions that strengthen the community and their commitment to the principles of democracy, justice, and protection of human rights by which the nation was founded;

WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded on the ideal that all people are endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances;

WHEREAS, the City respects the rights of all its residents to engage in free speech, to engage in political activity, to lawfully assemble, and to exercise all their constitutional rights;

WHEREAS, with the adoption of Resolution No. 8486-03, the City has recognized the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag as the flag of the Vietnamese-American community within its jurisdictional limits;

WHEREAS, for the past 42 years, the communist Socialist Republic of Vietnam has demonstrated a pattern of consistent violations of human rights and religious freedom by imprisonment of many intellectuals, bloggers, writers, and doctors who have raised concerns regarding human rights in Vietnam;

WHEREAS, to many Vietnamese-Americans in the city, the flag of the communist Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a symbol of dictatorship and tyranny;

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese-Americans who fled Vietnam do not recognize or condone the Vietnam communist regime;

WHEREAS, the State of California is home to the largest Vietnamese-American population in the United States of America, and the City is home to a high percentage of Vietnamese-American residents;

WHEREAS, the people of the former Republic of Vietnam were valiant in their resistance to the aggression of communist North Vietnam, and refugees from the Republic of Vietnam who emigrated to the United States of America and settled in the City should be honored and remembered for their sacrifices such that the only flag depicting the Garden Grove Vietnamese community should be the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam (Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag);

WHEREAS, although the flag of the communist Socialist Republic of Vietnam may be the flag of a sovereign nation, it does not represent the Vietnamese-American community in Garden Grove;

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the culture and history of the Vietnamese people in Garden Grove should be celebrated and honored with the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag; and

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Grove has a strong history of standing together as a community to advance the cause of freedom and democracy and desires to express its policy of opposing the display of the flag of the communist Socialist Republic of Vietnam on City property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE THAT:

SECTION 1. The City hereby reaffirms its prior recognition of the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag as the official flag of the Vietnamese-American community in Garden Grove, and that this flag may be displayed on any city-owned property at any city-controlled or sponsored Vietnamese-American event, subject to compliance with the City's standard permitting requirements.

SECTION 2. The City expresses opposition to the display of the flag of the communist Socialist Republic of Vietnam on City property.