

From: "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>
Date: 4/27/2016 2:52:29 PM
Subject: Vietnamese Heritage Flag

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Protocol office has been working with members of the Vietnamese Heritage Association, regarding their request to raise the flag of South Vietnam (also sometimes referred to as the Heritage and Freedom flag of Vietnam) on City flag poles. The request to raise the flags was declined, and below are some key messages outlining the position we have taken. You can use the messages below when responding to any inquiries or refer people to speak to Paul Hendren in the Protocol office 604.873.7648.

- It is the City's long standing policy to fly the flags of other sovereign nations with which Canada has official diplomatic relations.
- The request to fly the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag was declined, because it is not recognized by the Government of Canada as the flag of a sovereign nation with which it has official diplomatic relations.
- The City can reconsider flying the Vietnamese Heritage and Freedom Flag when the Government of Canada officially recognizes it and raises it on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.
- The City of Ottawa has the same flag policy as us, regarding raising the flags of other sovereign nations. When dealing with the same request their response was that as a municipality they have no authority to fly a national flag that is not recognized by the Government of Canada, and they will reconsider their position if the Government of Canada raises the flag on Parliament Hill.
- While the Vietnamese Heritage Association's request to fly the flags was declined, they have been given a permit to hold a Journey To Freedom Day community event at McAuley park on Saturday, April 30th, commemorating of the exodus of Vietnamese refugees and their acceptance in Canada after the fall of Saigon and the end of the Vietnam War

Best

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