


STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 05-27-2022
	Title: United States Flag Display and Etiquette	No. 1.13
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 10-09-2018
	Reference: Previous 1.4.3	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper display of and etiquette to the flag of the United States of America.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to follow existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America.

PROCEDURE:

Display of the Flag at the Police Building

It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and stationary flagstaffs. However, the flag may be displayed at night upon special occasions but must be illuminated during the hours of darkness. The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously. Display of the

Flag Inside of the Police Building or Other Building

When displayed on a staff, in an office or on a speaker's platform the U.S. Flag should be to the right of the speaker as he faces the audience. Any other flag should be to his left. The U.S. Flag should be at the center and the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs. The flag of the United States may also be located to the right of the other flags and either slightly higher or at the same height. When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union (blue border and stars) should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left.

Display of the United States Flag during A Parade

When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the United States flag should be on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.

When the United States Flag Should Be Flown at Half-Staff

The flag will be flown at half staff when authorized or so ordered by Presidential Proclamation or the Governor's Office. When being placed at half-staff, the flag should first be brought to the top of the staff then lowered to half- staff.

Etiquette and Handling of the Flag of the United States

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America. The flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, state flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.

A U.S. Flag may be mended, washed or dry-cleaned. The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.

A color guard member at funerals involving deceased department members shall display the ceremonial flag. The Chief of Police or his designee shall use a casket flag, with a custom wooden memorial case, for funerals as directed. The department shall provide the custom wooden memorial case. The flag shall be provided by the department if not supplied by the funeral home. The flag is to be draped on the casket with the union at the head and over the left shoulder of the deceased. The flag should not be lowered into the grave, nor allowed to touch the ground. The flag will be folded and given to the next-of-kin after the funeral.

During rendition of the National Anthem when the flag is Display, all present except those in uniform should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. Officers in uniform are to have hats on and render a hand salute at the first note of the anthem and retain this position until the last note. When the flag is not displayed, those present should face toward the music and act in the same manner they would if the flag were displayed there. During the pledge of allegiance to the flag, those people not in uniform; men should remove their hat with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, their hand being over the heart. Women should place their right hand over their heart. Officers in uniform are to have hats on, remain silent, face the flag, and render a hand salute.

The commander of the Color Guard shall be the highest-ranking department member on the color guard squad. The commander shall be responsible for maintaining all ceremonial flags and equipment to include custom wooden casket case supplies.