

Levesque, Jennifer

From: Karen Asher [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 11:54 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: June 2025 agenda vote for Pride Flag

To whom it may concern,

As a citizen of Merced, I hereby ask that you take note , I do not want a pride flag in our Bob Hart Square. Our city has enough division , no need to add confusion to our local citizens of what is right or wrong in the eyes of God . This is a obamanation of God's creation and plans for Man and women. He created us, it's our duty to stand for what is right in the eyes of God almighty !

Sincerely

Karen Asher

--

Karen Asher

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Jeffrey Carter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 4:06 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Commemorative flags Item M3

Merced City Council

Concerning commemorative flags. The key word being "commemorative". Check the application. These are to be for a commemorative event. Not somebody's personal life choices. That is an individual's personal statement. if they wish to display a flag about that, let them do it in front of their own house. Not the cities.

This year, listen to the people and not a few screaming individuals that DEMAND you display their personal life choices. That does not qualify as being "commemorative". Merced does not need the controversy with all the other more important things going on. The only flags that should be flown are USA, state of California, veterans, MIA, POW, and an actual commemorative event. See City policy C-7. Please read it.



Please, no Pride flag.

Thank you
Jeffrey Carter

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Shayla Dastrup [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 10:01 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Public comment: Opposition to Proposed Cell Tower on 1717 Olive Ave

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Members of the Merced City Council,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a cell tower in the dirt field at the corner of Teak and Parsons. This site is alarmingly close to Chenoweth Elementary, where children spend a significant portion of their day.

There are well-documented concerns regarding the potential health risks associated with prolonged exposure to cell towers, particularly for children whose developing bodies may be more vulnerable to radiation. Other communities have already taken steps to remove similar towers from locations near schools due to these concerns, prioritizing the safety and well-being of their residents.

I respectfully request that you deny approval for this location and prioritize the health and well-being of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,
Shayla Dastrup
Chenoweth PTC Treasurer

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Tracy Del Real [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:44 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Item M.2

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to voice my support of
item# M.2. 24-1182 SUBJECT: Request to Display the African American Flag in Bob Hart
Square in Honor of Black History Month as Submitted by the NAACP
Beginning on February 1, 2025 Through February 28, 2025 and to
Include this Request on the Annual Flag Calendar Adopted by the City
Council
Thank you, Tracy Del Real
[REDACTED]

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Tracy Del Real [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:47 PM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Item M.3

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to voice my full support of
Item M.3. 25-016
SUBJECT: Adoption of a Resolution to Display the Pride Flag at Bob
Hart Square for the Month of June 2025 per City Council Policy C-7
Thank you, Tracy Del Real
[REDACTED]

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January 2025

City of Merced City Council
678 West 18th Street,
Merced CA 95340

RE: AT&T MOBILITY - NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND
NETWORK NEW CELL SITE APPLICATION - Bear Creek Community Church

Dear Councilmembers,

Under the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, Congress established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) and directed it to ensure the building, deployment, and ongoing operation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (“FirstNet”), the first nationwide high-speed broadband network dedicated to public safety.¹ The FirstNet Authority’s mission is to provide and maintain a single, interoperable platform that consistently satisfies the demanding communications needs of the public safety community in California and across the country. New radio access network (“RAN”) sites are essential to the success of the program and delivering the mission critical coverage public safety needs to communicate and save lives.

This network has been a top priority for first responders and public safety agencies in California and throughout the country, and has been designed based on their specific, expressed needs, with coverage and capacity being paramount. Simply put, coverage enables a first responder to send and receive data, and capacity ensures speed and quality of those communications. New RAN infrastructure connected to FirstNet will improve communication for first responders where that infrastructure has been currently lacking. The FirstNet Authority and our private-sector partner, AT&T, have worked with the California public safety community to identify coverage needs throughout the state to improve emergency communications in everyday use as well as for large-scale emergencies, such as the recent wildfires that ravaged the state.

¹ See Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), <https://www.congress.gov/112/bills/hr3630/BILLS-112hr3630enr.pdf>

In December 2017, Governor Brown opted into the FirstNet Authority plan for RAN deployment in California and thus authorizing construction of the FirstNet network in areas of the state where public safety needs coverage and capacity. By opting-in, the Governor enabled public safety to rapidly access broadband services in California, while also allowing the prompt buildout and deployment of the network which began in March of 2018. His decision also directed the FirstNet Authority to take on all the risks, costs, and responsibilities associated with deploying the network in California for 25 years, and take immediate steps to make prioritized services and features available to public safety in the state.

This network not only needs to serve your local community but will also serve the thousands of first responders that have already adopted FirstNet in California that may respond to your next major emergency. The FirstNet Authority requests your consideration in our efforts to build new sites to achieve required coverage and capacity for our vital mission in service of public safety.

We have two Senior Public Safety Advisors assigned to California: Chris Baker and myself. We are retired Chief Fire Officers with extensive fire service, law enforcement, and technical experience. We are available to assist you at any time. I may be reached at kevin.nida@firstnet.gov, or (202) 868-7670 and Chris may be reached at chris.baker@firstnet.gov, or (240) 751-8027. For your reference, attached is additional information about the FirstNet Authority and the network we were entrusted by Congress to establish.

Sincerely,



Kevin R. Nida, Senior Public Safety Advisor
First Responder Network Authority

Attachments:

1. Primer on the FirstNet Authority's Congressional Mandate to Deploy a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network.
2. FirstNet Network Management-Operations Officer Letter.



First Responder Network Authority
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, M/S 243 • Reston, VA 20192 • www.firstnet.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

On March 28, 2017, AT&T was awarded the federal government contract to deploy and operate the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN), following an open, transparent, and competitive procurement process—as well as consultation with state, local, tribal, and federal stakeholders—consistent with the First Responder Network Authority’s (FirstNet Authority) enabling statute. The NPSBN contract between the FirstNet Authority and AT&T has a period of performance of 25 years from the date awarded.

Per the terms and conditions of the NPSBN contract, and given that all U.S. states and territories and the District of Columbia (states) opted into the FirstNet Authority plan for network deployment, AT&T is responsible for providing a comprehensive network solution to each of the states. This comprehensive network solution includes: the deployment and provisioning of a nationwide Core Network and Radio Access Network equipment and services (e.g., cell sites, backhaul, aggregation, national transport networks and operation centers); a device ecosystem; deployable capabilities; operational and business support systems; an application ecosystem; network services; integration, maintenance, and operational services; and ongoing evolution of these systems required to function fully as an operational wireless 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) standards-based Long Term Evolution (LTE) NPSBN.

The FirstNet solution provided by AT&T brings Public Safety Entities across the country a dedicated interoperable broadband network with quality of service, priority usage, and preemption. In addition, the NPSBN is physically hardened, as needed, and is resilient, secure, and highly reliable. Furthermore, the NPSBN provides to public safety agencies local control over prioritization, preemption, provisioning, and reporting.

The NPSBN and associated devices are branded as FirstNet, consistent with applicable laws and regulations. AT&T is responsible for marketing; product management; sales; distribution; customer care; communications; strategic partnership; and network deployment, operation, maintenance, and evolution. However, in accordance with its statutory duties and responsibilities, the FirstNet Authority maintains rigorous oversight of the NPSBN and AT&T’s obligations under the contract.

If you have any questions with regard to this letter, please contact Kimberly Luke at Kimberly.Luke@firstnet.gov, 202-868-3683.

Sincerely,

Richard Reed

Chief Network Management and Operations Officer (CNMO)

First Responder Network Authority

PRIMER ON THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO DEPLOY A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

- *Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions*
(https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/TopTenFAQs_190906.pdf)
- *FirstNet: The Future of Public Safety Communications*
(https://firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/Branding_the_Future_of_Public_Safety_Communications_0.pdf)
- The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) was charged by the U.S. Congress to ensure the development, building, and maintenance of a nationwide mobile broadband network dedicated to meeting the needs of the public safety community. Over the past several years, the FirstNet Authority has made great strides toward fulfilling this purpose, including the establishment of a public-private partnership with AT&T, Inc. (AT&T) to deploy the nationwide public safety broadband network across the country and adoption of FirstNet service by hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals. As FirstNet matures and public safety reaps the benefits of a network dedicated to providing them with needed capabilities and features, the FirstNet Authority is focusing on the next stages of fulfilling its mission. The FirstNet Authority is committed to a vision where a dedicated and differentiated broadband communications experience transforms public safety operations to save lives and protect communities. This vision encapsulates the entirety of the “FirstNet Experience” from AT&T’s deployment of the FirstNet network to the FirstNet Authority’s value-adding activities and investments, which make FirstNet different from any other public safety communications experience. Over time, the FirstNet Authority’s work will help enable public safety to communicate in new and ever more useful ways to help transform public safety operations. (*First Responder Network Authority Roadmap*, at 3, https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet_Roadmap.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=1055&force=0).
- *As with many bold public policy initiatives, the creation of FirstNet ensued from disaster and tragedy. Although the idea that all first responders across the United States should share one nationwide network existed prior to September 11, 2001, the events of that terrible day inspired collaborative action from public safety and Congress. As Congress directed, FirstNet is working toward the deployment of a single, interoperable platform for public safety communications that will bring dedicated priority wireless broadband services to millions of public safety personnel at the local, state, tribal, and Federal levels. . . . Authorized by Congress in 2012, FirstNet will fulfill a fundamental need of the public safety community and is the last remaining recommendation to be addressed of the 9/11 Commission. FirstNet’s mission is to ensure the deployment, and operation of a nationwide public safety broadband network (network) for public safety entities. Leveraging Long Term Evolution (LTE)5 technology standards, up to \$7 billion in funding from spectrum auctions, and a nationwide license of 20 MHz of radio frequency spectrum, the FirstNet network is intended to dramatically increase the safety and capabilities of all of those who serve in a public safety capacity, and thereby further protect the American people. Public safety, and thus the American people, will benefit from the availability of a dedicated wireless broadband network prioritized for first responders, the economies of scale afforded by a*



PRIMER ON THE FIRSTNET AUTHORITY'S CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE TO DEPLOY A NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

national, commercial standards-based network, and the force of innovation in applications which to date has only been enjoyed by consumers. (2014 Annual Report to Congress, at 1, [https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet Annual Report to Congress-FY 2014.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=644&force=0](https://firstnet.gov/system/tdf/FirstNet%20Annual%20Report%20to%20Congress-FY%202014.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=644&force=0))

- During the events of September 11, 2001 (9/11), first responders could not communicate with each other. Some radios did not work in the high-rise World Trade Center; radio channels were overloaded by the large number of responders trying to communicate; and public safety radio systems operated on various frequencies and were not interoperable. There were also non-technical issues. Officials struggled to coordinate the multi-agency response, and to maintain command and control of the numerous agencies and responders.

The 9/11 Commission called for the “expedited and increased assignment of radio spectrum for public safety purposes.” Increased spectrum would allow public safety agencies to accommodate an increasing number of users; support interoperability solutions (e.g., shared channels); and leverage new technologies (e.g., live video streams) to enhance response.

In 2012, Congress acted on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. In Title VI of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96), Congress authorized the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allocate additional spectrum for public safety use; established the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and authorized it to enter into a public-private partnership to build a nationwide public safety broadband network; and, provided \$7 billion out of revenues from spectrum auctions to build the network....

FirstNet has made progress in implementing the provisions in the act. In March 2017, FirstNet awarded a 25-year, \$6.5 billion contract to AT&T to build and maintain the nationwide network for public safety. FirstNet provided AT&T with 20 megahertz (MHz) of broadband spectrum, which AT&T can monetize for public safety and non-public safety use. AT&T is providing FirstNet access to its infrastructure, valued at \$180 billion, and \$40 billion to maintain and improve the network.

In September 2017, FirstNet/AT&T presented states with plans detailing how the network would be deployed in each state. Governors could opt to have AT&T deploy the network (i.e., opt in), or have the state assume responsibility for the deployment (i.e., opt out). By January 2018, all 50 states and 6 territories opted in. This was viewed as a victory for FirstNet, AT&T, and public safety stakeholders who had long advocated for a nationwide network for public safety. (Congressional Research Service, *The First Responder Network (FirstNet) and Next-Generation Communications for Public Safety: Issues for Congress*, April 27, 2018, <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45179>)



Levesque, Jennifer

From: Amelia Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 11:16 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Dupont, Darin
Subject: 1.6.25 Council Meeting, Items M2-M3

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing in support of flying both the African American and Pride flags at Bob Hart Square this year. These flags serve as a message of inclusion to the diverse members of our city and are just one of the many ways we can and should show our support.

While I acknowledge others may have strong feelings in opposition to flying these flags, the recognition of the symbol is equally applicable to honoring the unique American legacies of the African American and LGBT communities.

With hopes that your votes support diversity in Merced,
Amelia Johnson, MPH
City of Merced, District 1

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: nanalyn lopez [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:42 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Flag

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

M3

Important that the pride flag be present downtown during pride month- let's be on the right side of history shall we. Embarrassing there's even a question.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: planningweb
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 11:52 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Lee, Jessie
Subject: FW: CUP#1277 Cell Tower

Hello,

Please see another public comment below for tonight.

Thanks,



Kayla Abarca

Administrative Assistant II, Planning Department
City of Merced | 678 W 18th Street | Merced, CA 95340
(209) 385-6954 Direct | (209) 385-6858 Dept Phone
abarca@cityofmerced.org | www.cityofmerced.org

From: Sherri Morris [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 11:48 AM
To: planningweb <planningweb@cityofmerced.org>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: CUP#1277 Cell Tower

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

The proposed tower says it's designed to minimize visual impacts & blend with the existing environment.
The existing building church WILL NOT screen the tower from the view of residence's on Vickie Ct., Teak Ave., Parsons
The tower will be in direct view from our windows & our yards.
The proposed area is a small field with nothing for the tower to blend in with.
I invite you to our neighborhood to come see this area from our yards & our windows, to see what our views will be.
Don't just see it from a picture of a map.
It's noted that our neighborhood is a R-1-6 zone residential area.
R-1-6 promotes quiet residential atmosphere & preserving the aesthetics & property values of the neighborhood.
Allowing this tower in our neighborhood is not what R-1-6 zoning is about.
I am opposed to having this tower erected in our residential neighborhood.

I'd also like to say that i have never received any mailed/email notices regarding all meetings..
I have NEVER been notified from the planning commission.
I have received my meeting notices from my neighbors.

I have attached pictures of various towers in the Merced area. As you can see these towers are not in residential neighborhoods.

They do not blend with existing areas.

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Karen Orong [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 7:07 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Pride flag

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED] Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I don't want to see the pride flag in Bob Hart square for one day let alone a month Why don't we have the same amount of attention to our seniors or our veterans instead of giving it to a fringe group

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Michael Rench [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 11:04 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Item on Council Agenda

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Clerk,

I have learned that there is an item on the Monday Council Agenda to authorize flying the “pride” flag at Bob Hart Square in June of 2025.

Please note that I am opposed to the City making a statement of implied endorsement of these ideas: homosexual behavior, bisexual promiscuous behavior, mental illness (people believing something they are not/“trans” behavior), etc.

While the city government should have tolerance for all lifestyles, it is inappropriate for the City to endorse and encourage these alternate behaviors.

The City should stay out of such matters. Therefore, I encourage a “NO” vote on this matter.

Michael Rench
Merced, CA

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: imlivinggood [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 5, 2025 12:53 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Item M3

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Representative, with regards to Item M3 I respectfully request that the Pride Flag not be displayed in Bob Hart Square, or any other public location. No special class of people should be allowed to misuse public property or otherwise benefit from our tax dollars. As far as being "inclusive", may I suggest that the American Flag fly high and proudly in Bob Hart Square as well as any other public locations paid for by taxpayer dollars. As a Veteran, the American Flag is the most "inclusive" symbol I have ever known! American Soldiers have died defending this extremely inclusive symbol. If it's inclusion that anyone desires, I would simply like to remind everyone that our Pledge of Allegiance ends with the words "for all". This means EVERYONE, and not just a special entitled class of citizens. Thank you for your time and consideration. Gary Stanford, Merced, California.

Sent from my Galaxy

Sent from my Galaxy

Sent from my Galaxy

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: LaTanya 'Tanya' Ri'Chard [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 8:43 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Pride Flag

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Today I learned of a motion to fly the Pride Flag in Bob Hart Square during Pride Month. This is a no brainer. Fly the flag. If people are upset by a flag flying it says more about the kind of person they are than it does about queerness. The LGBTQIA2S+ Community deserves to be acknowledged and celebrated just as all communities do.

LaTanya 'Tanya' Ri'Chard, CMPSS, ECC
MPSS-VSOLRD

[REDACTED]

'The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause. The mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.' A Catcher in the Rye. J.D. Salinger.

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Jose Rubalcava [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 3, 2025 9:34 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: We don't need or want the pride flag on bob's hart square on june 2025 nor anywhere else

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Sent from my iPhone

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: Lynn Stapp [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 9:45 AM
To: cityclerk
Subject: Proposed cell tower

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning

It was brought to my attention that AT&T would like to place a cell tower at the back of the church property near many residential homes and a school, again. The address is 1717 Olive Ave, close to my home.

This proposal was already denied by planning commission. The neighborhood voiced their concerns/ disapproval at a planning commission meeting. The neighborhood voiced their disapproval at a city council meeting. The city of merced does not want it on their property. The other neighborhood church doesn't want it on their property.

Why are we being ignored? AT&T needs to stop. The planning commission already made the decision that this was not an appropriate location for a cell tower and the decision should stand.

Sincerely
Lynn Stapp

Sent from my iPhone

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Levesque, Jennifer

From: planningweb
Sent: Monday, January 6, 2025 7:44 AM
To: cityclerk
Cc: Lee, Jessie
Subject: FW: Appeal of Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1277

Good morning,

Please see the public comment below.

Thanks,



Kayla Abarca
Administrative Assistant II, Planning Department
City of Merced | 678 W 18th Street | Merced, CA 95340
[\(209\) 385-6954](tel:(209)385-6954) Direct | [\(209\) 385-6858](tel:(209)385-6858) Dept Phone
abarca@cityofmerced.org | www.cityofmerced.org

From: Sheryl Wight [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 4, 2025 9:21 AM
To: planningweb <planningweb@cityofmerced.org>
Subject: Appeal of Denial of Conditional Use Permit #1277

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a 21 year property owner at 3170 Vickie Court, and have been following this serious issue of the building of a cell phone tower on the premises of Bear Creek Community Church.

I, along with many of my neighbors, have been attending all of the public hearings regarding this issue. We are clearly fiercely and unwaveringly opposed to having a cell phone tower constructed literally in many of our backyards, and just as concerning, across the street from an elementary school. In previous hearings, you have heard the countless number of reasons why this neighborhood is opposed to such construction. Yet, despite your denial of the permit, AT&T is pressing forward with an appeal.

Please put the residents, the people of this city, over profits for AT&T.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Wight

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