



**Administrative Policy Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, August 25, 2026 at 10:00 AM**

City Hall • Mayor's Conference Room
1737 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Columbia, SC 29201
City Clerk's Office: (803)545-3045 or cityclerk@columbiasc.gov

The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., District II, Chair
The Honorable Peter M. Brown, District IV • The Honorable Sam P. Johnson, At-Large

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

1. December 16, 2025 Administrative Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Committee Discussion

2. Proposed Flag Policy

Adjournment



ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Administrative Policy Committee conducted a meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2025 at City Hall (Mayor's Conference Room), 1737 Main Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. The Honorable Edward H. McDowell, Jr., Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and the following members were present:

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Edward H. McDowell	Chair	Present
Aditi Bussells	Member	Present
Peter M. Brown	Member	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 28, 2025 Administrative Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Dr. Bussells, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the October 28, 2025 Administrative Policy Committee Meeting Minutes.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

2. Honorary Street Naming in honor of Curtis Elkins

There was consensus of the committee to endorse the honorary street naming in the Golden Acres community in honor of Curtis Elkins for City Council consideration.

3. Honorary Street Naming in honor of Rosewood Elementary School

There was consensus of the committee to endorse the honorary street naming in honor of Rosewood Elementary School for City Council consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Erika D. Moore Hammond, MMC, CPM
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO.: R-2026-

Establishment and Statement of Flag Display Policy

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia, South Carolina (“City”) establishes this Flag Display Policy to provide clear, consistent standards for the display of flags on City property and City-maintained rights-of-way. All of these are City-owned flagpoles that are designated exclusively for government speech. Flag displays communicate the City’s official governmental messages, value, and identity via shared civic symbols, all of which the City strives to ensure represent all residents regardless of background, religion, or political affiliation; and,

WHEREAS, the following policies shall apply to flags flown by the City and on City property:

Application:

- A. This policy applies to all flag displays on:
 - 1. City-owned buildings and facilities, including City Hall, police and fire stations, parks, community centers, and public works facilities;
 - 2. City-maintained rights-of-way where the City controls displays; and
 - 3. City-owned flagpoles in public spaces, plazas, and parks.
- B. This policy does not apply to:
 - 1. Property owned or controlled by federal, state, county, or school district entities;
 - 2. Rights-of-way under the jurisdiction of SCDOT or other agencies; and
 - 3. Private property.

Authorized flags and banners:

- 1. *United States Flag*. Displayed in accordance with the U.S. Flag Code (4 U.S.C. §§ 1–10)
- 2. *South Carolina State Flag*. Displayed in accordance with South Carolina law and state protocol
- 3. *City of Columbia Flag*. The official municipal flag adopted by City Council

LEGAL DEPARTMENT DRAFT

4. *City-Sponsored Event and Program Banners*. Banners promoting City-sponsored events, programs, or initiatives may be displayed on City property, including streetlight poles and designated banner locations.
 1. These banners constitute government speech.
 2. Approval authority rests with the City Manager or designee.
 3. Banners must relate to official City business or City-sponsored events.

Display Standards and Protocols:

A. Order of Precedence

1. United States Flag
2. South Carolina State Flag
3. City of Columbia Flag
4. Any other flag or banner (displayed below all other flags). Note: If the POW/MIA flag is flown, it must be below the three above-listed flags but above others.

B. Size and Condition

1. No flag may be larger than the United States Flag.
2. United States and South Carolina flags should be of equal size when displayed together.
3. All flags must be clean, intact, and suitable for display.
4. Damaged or worn flags must be promptly replaced and retired respectfully.

C. Time of Display

1. Flags are normally displayed from sunrise to sunset.
2. Flags may be displayed 24 hours if properly illuminated.
3. Flags should not be displayed during severe weather unless all-weather flags are used.

D. Half-Staff Protocol

1. The United States Flag shall be flown at half-staff in accordance with Presidential proclamations and orders from the Governor of South Carolina.
2. The South Carolina State Flag shall be lowered whenever the United States Flag is lowered.
3. The City Manager may order half-staff displays upon the death of a City official, employee, or other circumstances deemed appropriate

E. Raising and Lowering

1. Flags shall be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
2. The United States Flag is raised first and lowered last.
3. When lowering to half-staff, flags shall first be raised to the peak before being lowered.

Prohibition on unauthorized flags and banners:

A. *No Unauthorized Flags.* No flags, banners, or pennants other than those listed above and properly approved may be displayed on City property or City-maintained rights-of-way.

B. *No Third-Party Requests.* The City will not consider or accept requests from individuals, organizations, or groups to display non-City flags or banners, including those representing private organizations, religious groups, advocacy groups, or commercial enterprises.

C. *Enforcement.* City staff shall remove unauthorized displays and may take appropriate enforcement action consistent with City ordinances.

Administration

A. *Responsibility.* The City Manager or designee shall:

1. Implement and enforce this policy;
2. Procure and maintain authorized flags;
3. Train staff on proper display protocols; and
4. Coordinate with other agencies regarding jurisdictional issues.

B. *Flag Procurement.* All U.S. and S.C. flags purchased by the City shall be made in the United States, consistent with state procurement expectations.

C. *Maintenance.* The Public Works Department shall regularly inspect and maintain all City flag displays.

D. *Policy Changes.* The City Manager may, when necessary, edit this policy so that it aligns with Federal, State, and legal guidance for proper display and care of flags.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council this _____ day of _____, 2026, that the above-stated Flag Display Policy is hereby APPROVED.

Requested by:

Councilman Tyler D. Bailey

Mayor

Approved by:

City Manager

Approved as to form:

ATTEST:

City Attorney

City Clerk

Introduced:

Final Reading:

LOCAL

Columbia hoists flag for Israel at City Hall. The move wasn't voted on

By **Morgan Hughes**

Updated October 9, 2025 11:12 AM  Gift Article



Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann (right) shared a photo Tuesday morning of a “We stand with Israel” flag flying at City Hall. Tracy Glantz tglantz@thestate.com

Listen to this article

The city of Columbia Tuesday raised a blue-and-white flag in front of City Hall reading “We stand with Israel.”

The statement, which comes amid a deadly conflict in Gaza in which a United Nations commission determined Israel has committed acts of genocide, garnered mixed opinions. Some residents thanked Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, [who posted a picture of the flag](#) on Facebook Tuesday morning. Others condemned the move, and at least one person asked why the city would weigh in at all.

TOP VIDEOS

00:01

02:00

But the decision to raise the flag wasn't approved by the whole of Columbia City Council. In a statement shared with The State, Rickenmann confirmed that the decision to fly the flag was his:

"There should be no shame in condemning Hamas, and standing with our Jewish community, who has a deep history in Columbia, and continues to play a vital role in our city," that statement read in part.

It appears there was no formal procedure followed before the flag was raised on the front of a prominent government building that pays no taxes and houses numerous city employees as well as the city council's meeting chambers.

Columbia City Council, of which the mayor is just one of seven votes, never discussed or voted on the decision to fly the flag. Columbia's form of government puts the city manager in charge of city operations and doesn't give the mayor any beyond that of the rest of the council.

One city council member confirmed that he saw the flag only after Rickenmann posted his statement online.

Rickenmann Tuesday morning shared a picture of the flag on Facebook, with the following caption:

“Today, we’re flying the flag to honor the lives lost on October 7, 2023, during the Hamas invasion of southern Israel.

“Two years later, we remember the victims and stand with the Jewish community while reaffirming our commitment to peace. Here in Columbia, we’re committed to standing against hate for all. As a city, we stand together against hatred, recognizing that our strength comes from our compassion, diversity, and shared commitment to peace and understanding.”

Rickenmann [visited Israel last year](#) with the U.S. Conference of Mayors.



Daniel Rickenmann

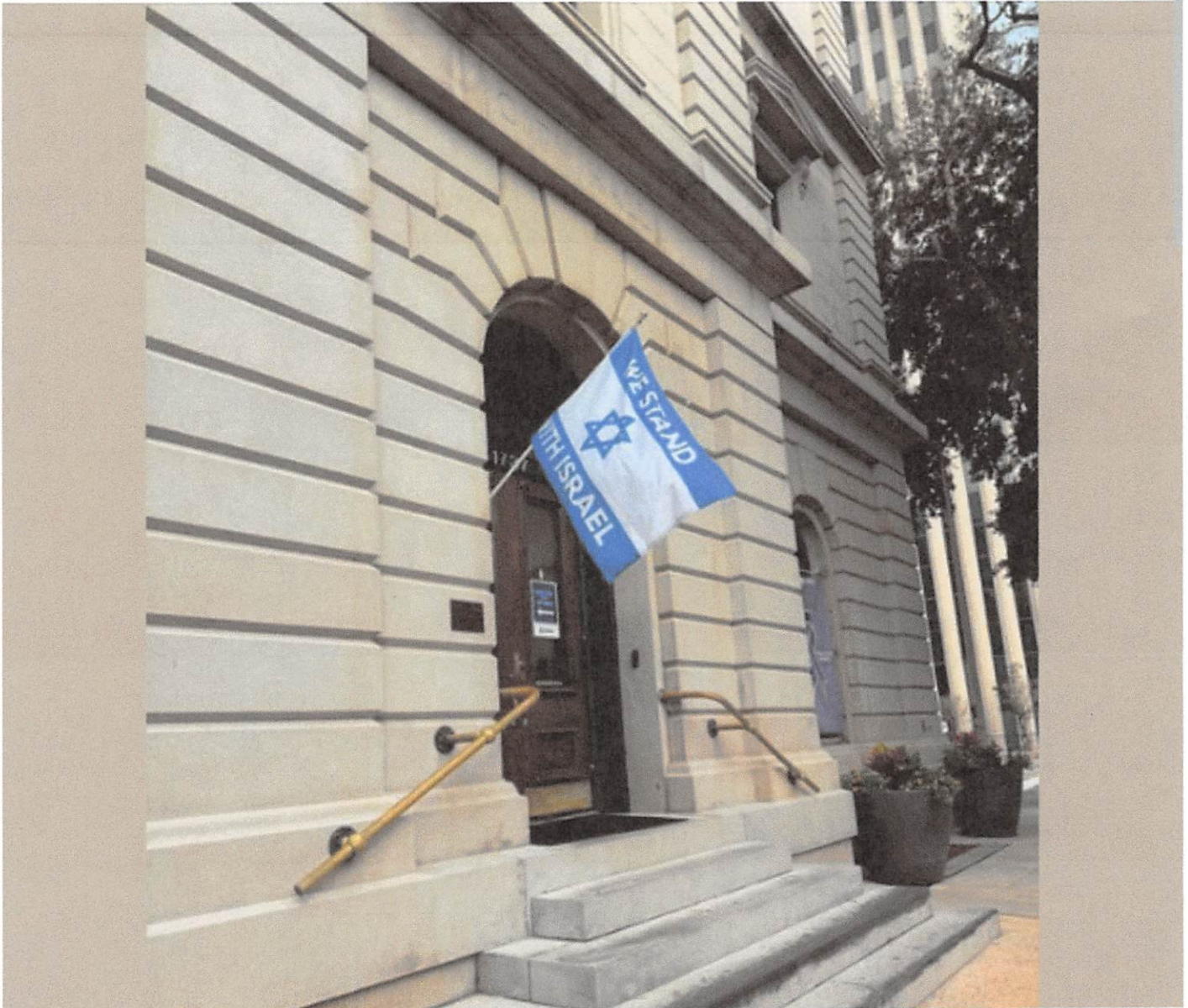
Yesterday at 9:07 AM · 🌐

...

Today, we're flying the flag to honor the lives lost on October 7, 2023, during the Hamas invasion of southern Israel.

Two years later, we remember the victims and stand with the Jewish community while reaffirming our commitment to peace. Here in Columbia, we're committed to standing against hate for all. As a city, we stand together against hatred, recognizing that our strength comes from our compassion, diversity, and shared commitment to peace and understanding.

[#togetherwearecolumbia](#) [#columbiasc](#) [#colasc](#) [#peace](#)



Columbia Mayor Daniel Rickenmann posted a photo Tuesday of a flag with the statement "We stand with Israel," which had been posted outside of Columbia City Hall. Screenshot taken Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025. *Facebook*

Questions about approving flags

● Opt-Out Signal Honored

At least one city council member has asked some questions about the mayor's decision.

In an email from Councilman Tyler Bailey to the rest of council, Bailey raised the question of whether the city should establish a policy around flying flags with potentially political messages outside of City Hall.

"I have been asked if this was a matter that was voted on. It may appear that way from the outside looking in," that email reads. He continues, "There are a lot of flags that some may view as political in nature that groups would like to see flown at City Hall. As a council, we have discussed staying away from State issues, and issues that may be considered political in nature."

That email also states, "I believe it may be prudent for us to consider a policy concerning the flying of flags outside of the American, State and City flags on city property."

Rickenmann's Facebook post had received over 140 comments as of Thursday morning. Many people thanked the mayor for his post, and many others promised to vote him out of office and posted links supporting Jessica Thomas, one of Rickenmann's opponents in the upcoming mayoral election on Nov. 4.

Thomas also issued a statement denouncing the mayor's post, [writing on Facebook](#), "No flag should fly over our City Hall that divides our people. The

audacity of this, when our city is filled with Arabs, Muslims, and Jewish residents who do not support what's happening in Gaza, to ignore the international courts, the global community, and the lessons of history, by flying the flag of a state under investigation for war crimes.”

On Oct. 7, 2023, [the militant Palestinian group Hamas killed nearly 1,200 people and took more than 200 hostages](#) during an attack on a music festival in southern Israel. Hamas still [has dozens of those hostages](#). Israel believes the group has 20 living hostages and the bodies of 25 dead hostages. In the two years since the Hamas attack, Israel has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, and a United Nations commission has [found that Israel did and continues to commit acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip](#).

Israel has bombed [hospitals, refugee camps, and schools](#), according to journalists, doctors and human rights groups working in and around the Gaza Strip. In the last two years, Gaza's Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-led government, [estimates 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, at least 20,000 of them children](#).

The United States government [considers Hamas a terrorist organization](#), and has held that designation for decades.

Wednesday evening, President Donald Trump [announced Hamas and the Israel government had agreed to a cease fire.](#)

The conflict in Gaza has led to sweeping protests, censures and heated debates across the world, including the U.S. There has been a rise in [anti-Islam](#) and [anti-Jewish](#) discrimination and attacks across the U.S. since the conflict in Gaza began, according to data tracked by organizations for both groups.

Students and professionals in the U.S. who have voiced support for Palestine have in several cases [been fired, suspended and expelled](#) for those opinions. Organizations [in support of Israel's actions say the country has a right](#) to defend itself.

Rickenmann's full statement about flying the flag:

"I, Mayor Daniel Rickenmann, chose to fly the flag outside to show support for the State of Israel, our democratic ally in the Middle East, and recognize the horrors and lives lost on October 7, 2023, in the attacks by the Hamas terrorist group. After visiting both the Gaza Strip and Israel in 2024, witnessing the aftermath of violence and visiting with survivors, I remain a supporter of ensuring all hostages are released and standing unapologetically against hate and discrimination for all. There should be no shame in condemning Hamas, and standing with our Jewish

 [Opt-Out Signal Honored](#) *a deep history in Columbia, and continues to play a vital role*

in our city. Hamas also stands in the way of the aspirations of the Palestinian people to self-determination. I hope the return of all the hostages and an end to the war will pave a pathway to peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis.”

This story was originally published October 9, 2025 at 8:51 AM.

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Morgan Hughes *The State*    (803) 771-8330

Morgan Hughes covers Columbia news for The State. She previously reported on health, education and local governments in Wyoming. She has won awards in Wyoming and Wisconsin for feature writing and investigative journalism. Her work has also been recognized by the South Carolina Press Association.

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