



City of Lowell - Law Department

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Thomas A. Golden, Jr., City Manager 

FROM: Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor;

DATE: June 28, 2022

SUBJECT: MOTION RESPONSE: May 24, 2022 – Councilor Robinson - Request City Council Begin Discussions on Establishing a Fund Out of the Mayor's Office that Will Allow the City of Lowell to Make Contributions to Community Groups that are Performing Flag Raisings, Community Celebrations and Dedications at City Hall.

The Anti-Aid Amendment generally prohibits the appropriation of public dollars to charitable undertakings which are not publicly owed.

While direct contributions to community groups for flag raising ceremonies may withstand constitutional review, there is another approach which achieves these same goals, without, in any way, triggering the Anti-Aid Amendment. Specifically, the City could established a fund, or utilizing an existing fund, for the purchasing of flags, or other expenditures in furtherance of community celebrations.