



Honorable Mayor Darrell Steinberg
Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

August 20, 2020

Dear Mayor Steinberg,

On behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of California, I am writing to share our organization's deep disappointment in your recent decision to remove city law requiring individuals to stand and salute for the national anthem with no opportunity for public comment.

As you know, the City adopted this ordinance in May 1928 at the request of the VFW as part of a package of protocols on handling the flag. While we fully respect and understand every citizen's individual rights, we are displeased to hear that the Sacramento City Council placed this repeal on the consent calendar – deciding that public input was not warranted for this very important conversation.

The national anthem is intended to unite, not divide, all Americans. The members of our organization stand for the national anthem to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedom. We stand to show our patriotism and appreciation for the liberties that we enjoy each day.

Although we understand the City's position, we firmly believe that there should have been an opportunity for discussion. It is our hope that you will consider this for future decision-making.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John G. Lowe".

John G. Lowe
State Commander

Cc: Vice Mayor Jeff Harris
Councilmember Angelique Ashby
Councilmember Allen Warren
Councilmember Steve Hansen
Councilmember Jay Schenirer
Councilmember Eric Guerra
Councilmember Rick Jennings, II
Councilmember Larry Carr

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA