
POLICY NUMBER: 26-025
RESIDENTIAL FLAG POLES

PURPOSE:

To establish a standard for the issuance of permits for ground-mounted and building-mounted flag poles.

POLICY:

Unless otherwise directed by the City Building Official, Building & Safety Division staff shall enforce the following requirements regarding flag pole installations:

1. Exempt Installations

- a. Ground-mounted flag poles not exceeding seventeen feet (17') in height; and
- b. Building-mounted flag poles not exceeding eight feet (8') in length, when installed adjacent to single-family dwellings or duplexes (R-3 occupancies) and used exclusively for the display of local, State, or National flags, shall be exempt from the requirement for a building permit.

2. Setback Compliance

All flag pole installations shall comply with applicable setback requirements as established in the City's Municipal Codes.

3. Electrical Installations

Electrical permits shall be required for any wiring or fixtures installed to provide illumination of flag poles.

4. Structural Requirements

Structural calculations, prepared and stamped by a California licensed or registered design professional, shall be required for:

- a. Ground-mounted flag poles greater than twenty feet (17') in height; and
- b. Building-mounted flag poles greater than eight feet (8') in length.

Such calculations must be submitted to and approved by Building & Safety Division prior to issuance of a building permit.

ANALYSIS:

A recent inquiry provided the opportunity to evaluate the impacts of exempting fees and building permits for smaller ground-mounted or building-mounted flag poles traditionally installed upon or adjacent to residences. These flag poles are most often used to display the American flag during holidays such as Veterans Day, Independence Day, and similar occasions.

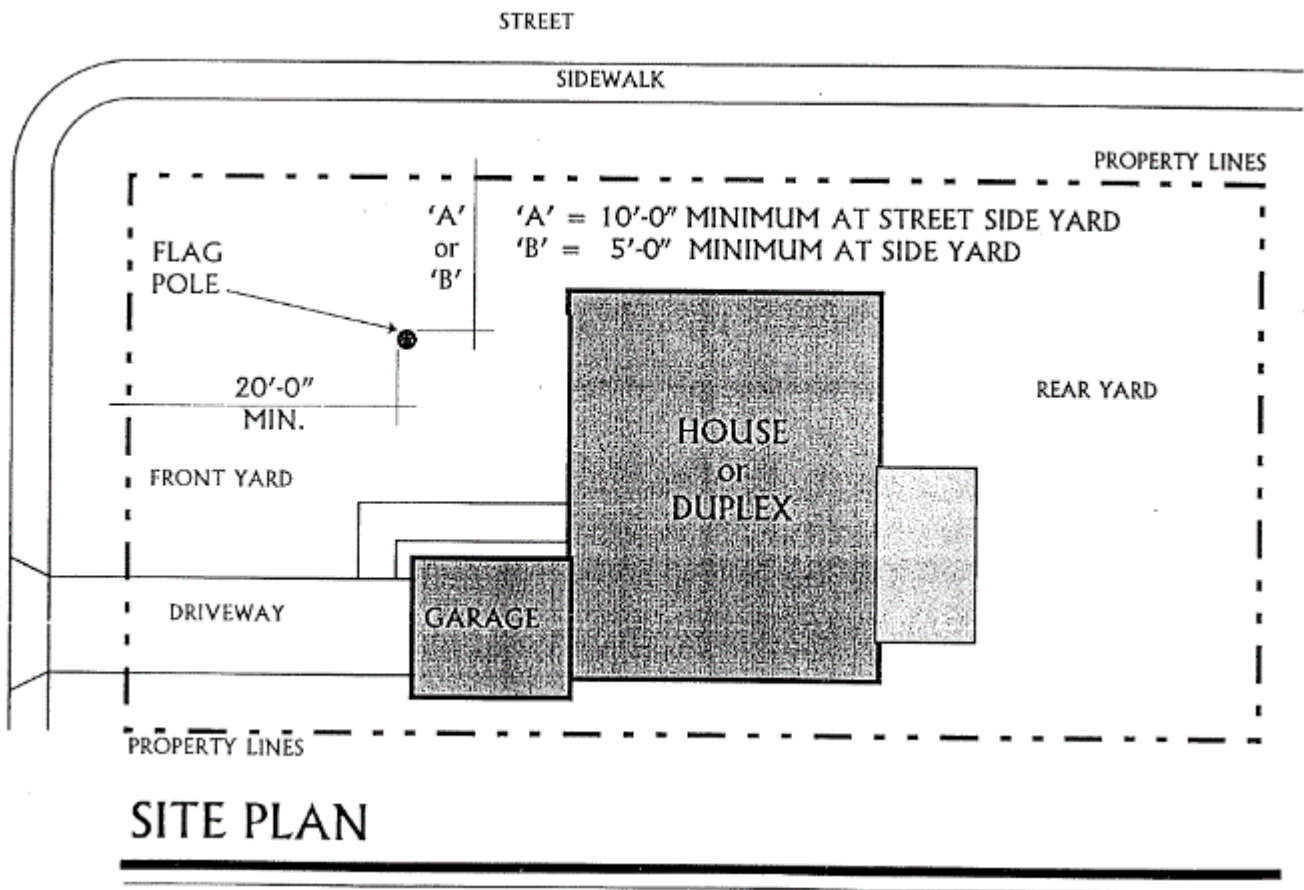
In developing this policy, consideration was given to potential structural problems caused by inferior installations or high wind exposure, weighed against the costs and administrative burden

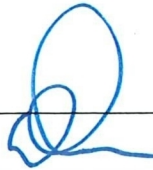
imposed on residents when permits are required. While such problems may arise if installations are not properly performed, they can generally be avoided or minimized through reasonable installation practices. This policy identifies key issues requiring consideration when installing a flag pole.

INFORMATION:

Exempting smaller flag poles from permitting requirements reduces unnecessary costs and bureaucracy for residents, while still ensuring that life-safety considerations are addressed through guidance on proper installation practices. This policy is intended to balance public safety with reasonable accommodation for homeowners wishing to install flag poles, particularly for the display of National, State or local flag on traditional observances such as Veterans Day, Independence Day, and similar occasions; CANNOT be used for commercial purposes)

Note: Consult the supplier of your flag pole for minimum concrete footing size, installation instructions, and requirements for attachment to your house before installing.



Approved: David Dent <i>Deputy Director/Chief Building Official</i>	Signature: 
	Date: 3/4/22