# Should West Hollywood have lowered rainbow flags to half-mast for homophobe Charlie Kirk?



West Hollywood officials have drawn a clear line amidst community backlash over the decision to lower city flags following the presidential proclamation honoring Charlie Kirk, the conservative activist whose political stance has been widely contentious within LGBTQ+ circles. The city has emphasised that the flags were lowered in strict compliance with federal protocol rather than as an expression of support for Kirk or his viewpoints.

According to the City of West Hollywood, the flag-lowering action adhered to its established Policy for Recognitions and Memorials, requiring municipal staff to follow presidential orders regarding flag protocol. The presidential proclamation, issued by former President Donald J. Trump shortly after Kirk’s assassination, mandated flags at half-staff across the United States and its embassies worldwide until sunset on September 14, 2025. West Hollywood officials stressed they do not endorse Kirk’s beliefs—particularly given the pain his views have inflicted on many in the LGBTQ+ community, especially transgender individuals.

This move, however, has ignited a strong emotional response within the city, known for its progressive values and staunch advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights. The city’s Matthew Shepard Human Rights Triangle, a symbol deeply woven into the fabric of the community’s identity and resilience, was also noted to have its flags lowered in accordance with the federal directive, sparking dismay among residents. The local government acknowledged this unrest and expressed openness to dialogue on ensuring future recognitions better mirror community values. The City Council is now poised to review and potentially revise the flag policy, considering whether a more discretionary, case-by-case approach might be appropriate to safeguard the symbolic meaning of such gestures.

The federal directive to lower flags for Kirk was mirrored by multiple states, illustrating the complex national response to his death. Governors across the country, including Florida’s Ron DeSantis, Pennsylvania’s Josh Shapiro, Colorado’s Jared Polis, and Massachusetts’ Maura Healey, issued similar orders or reaffirmed compliance with the presidential proclamation. These coordinated responses underscore the official respect accorded to Kirk’s memory despite the polarised political and social reactions to his legacy.

In West Hollywood’s statement, officials underscored their commitment to clarity and ongoing reflection: 'Our community deserves to know that our symbols of respect and mourning are consistent with our core values.' This nuanced stance speaks to the broader challenge facing cities like West Hollywood—balancing adherence to national protocols while remaining true to the specific values of a diverse and often politically engaged population.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://thepridela.com/2025/09/weho-reacts-to-outcry-over-tribute-to-anti-lbgtq-conservative-influencer-charlie-kirk/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=weho-reacts-to-outcry-over-tribute-to-anti-lbgtq-conservative-influencer-charlie-kirk> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.weho.org/Home/Components/News/News/11850/23> - The City of West Hollywood issued an official statement on September 14, 2025, addressing community concerns over lowering city flags in response to a presidential proclamation following the assassination of Charlie Kirk. The city clarified that the action was in accordance with its Policy for Recognitions and Memorials, which directs adherence to presidential directives regarding flag protocol. The statement emphasized that the decision should not be interpreted as an endorsement of Kirk's political views or actions. The City Council plans to discuss potential updates to the flag policy to better reflect community values.
3. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/09/honoring-the-memory-of-charlie-kirk/> - On September 10, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued a proclamation ordering the flag of the United States to be flown at half-staff at the White House, all public buildings, military posts, naval stations, and federal vessels, as well as at U.S. embassies and consular offices abroad, until sunset on September 14, 2025, in honour of Charlie Kirk. The proclamation serves as a mark of respect for Kirk's memory following his assassination.
4. <https://www.flgov.com/eog/news/press/2025/flags-half-staff-honor-charlie-kirk> - On September 11, 2025, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis directed that flags be flown at half-staff at all state and local buildings, installations, and grounds throughout Florida, in accordance with President Trump's proclamation, to honour the memory of Charlie Kirk. The flags were to remain lowered until sunset on Sunday, September 14, 2025. The directive acknowledges Kirk's influence as a conservative public figure and media personality.