

City of Oconomowoc Police Department

JAMES P. PFISTER
FBINA 259
Chief of Police



An Open Letter from Chief James Pfister

To the Citizens of Oconomowoc:

It was my decision to display the Thin Blue Line Flag during National Peace Officers Memorial Day. This was to honor and remember those law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty, and to show support for the families they left behind. I had the Mayor's support in flying of the flag but neglected to inform him of when it would be raised at the Police Department public entrance.

Shortly after the raising of the flag, the Mayor received phone calls demanding the flag be taken down. Callers were upset by the flag because of their own political beliefs.

The Mayor called me, and we discussed the situation. I apologized for not informing him, and the flag was lowered. Let it be clear that Mayor Magnus supports the City of Oconomowoc Police Department and has never said or even referred to this flag as racist. He is an authentic individual, who is proud to serve and is dedicated to maintaining and fostering an inclusive and safe community – for which we all should be thankful for.

Our practice moving forward will be for the respective Blue or Red Line Flags to be flown at our public safety buildings at the following times listed below. We will do our best to educate the community about these flags and the true symbol they represent. We are working together to provide the right approach for honoring the men and women that the Blue Line Flag and Red Line Flag represent. Both flags will be flown in the future and we will provide education to the community so that the true meaning of what they represent can be supported and cherished.

- National Police Week
- National Firefighters Week
- For one day in the event of any City of Oconomowoc Police or Western Lakes Fire District active duty or retired employee death.
- For three days in the event of any Wisconsin Law Enforcement, Fire, or EMS line of duty death.

We will be releasing further information regarding the meanings of the flags and practice for flying the flags in Oconomowoc.

Sincerely,

Jim Pfister

Chief of Police
City of Oconomowoc

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