

**Council Member Anane introduced the following:**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 1.11.21R**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGING A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CHANGES TO THE FLAG OF THE CITY OF ALBANY**

**WHEREAS**, the current flag of Albany has remained unchanged for the last 111 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the current flag of Albany is based on the Prince's Flag of the Netherlands, which has been co-opted by white supremacist groups and shares similarities to the flag of apartheid-era South Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents have noted the inherent hypocrisy of being a city that celebrates diversity while displaying a flag that seemingly harkens back to a time in our city's history where white supremacy was an acceptable norm; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been noted by critics that the current flag does not fully adhere to the principles of good flag design which, according to the North American Vexillological Association, calls for a flag to use no more than three basic colors, contain no lettering or seals, be distinctive from other flags, and be so simple that a child could draw it from memory; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Albany Common Council hereby encourages a community conversation for a new flag of the City of Albany which incorporates the basic principles of good flag design and reflects the present values of the City of Albany.

**To:** Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk  
**From:** John-Raphael Pichardo, Esq., Research Counsel  
**Re:** Request for Common Council Legislation  
Supporting Memorandum  
**Date:** December 16, 2020

**SPONSOR** Council Member Anane

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**TITLE**

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL TO ENCOURAGING A  
COMMUNITY CONVERSATION ON CHANGES TO THE FLAG OF THE CITY OF  
ALBANY**

**GENERAL PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION**

To encourage a community conversation on changes to the flag of the City of Albany.

**NECESSITY FOR LEGISLATION AND ANY CHANGE TO EXISTING LAW**

Many residents have noted the inherent hypocrisy of being a city that celebrates diversity while displaying a flag that seemingly harkens back to a time in our city's history where white supremacy was an acceptable norm. This legislation would start the process of changing the flag.

**FISCAL IMPACT(S)**

None.