

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

DATE: August 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Approve Revised Council Protocol Manual Policy No. 9 Related to Public Recognitions to Include Gold Star Family Recognition (At the Request of Mayor Alexander and Mayor Pro Tem Rahn)

PREPARED BY: Randi Johl, Director of Legislative Affairs/City Clerk

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council approve the revised Council Protocol Manual Policy No. 9 related to public recognitions to include recognition of Gold Star Families.

BACKGROUND: The Military Subcommittee, consisting of Mayor Alexander and Mayor Pro Tem Rahn, recently met to discuss including a recognition for Gold Star Families, in the City's Public Recognitions Policy, which is included in the Council Protocol Manual. After much discussion and thought, the subcommittee is recommending including the following description and criteria in the policy:

Gold Star Family Recognition

A Gold Star Family Recognition may be provided to a Gold Star Family upon recommendation of the Public Recognitions Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Such recognition is intended to honor the sacrifice of families who have lost a loved one while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Recognition shall be presented on behalf of the City of Temecula at a City Council meeting. Any related certificate shall be signed by all Council Members.

Criteria

1. Nomination Form – The requisite nomination form, with supporting documentation, is submitted to the City Clerk's Office pursuant to instructions. The form may be submitted and considered at any time throughout the year.
2. Residency – The individual submitting the nomination and/or subject of the nomination must be a resident of the City of Temecula.
3. Gold Star Family Eligibility – The nominee must meet the current United States Department of Defense (DoD) definition of a Gold Star Family. Eligible family members include the surviving spouse, parents, children (including stepchildren and adopted children), and siblings (including half-siblings and stepsiblings) of a fallen service member. Qualifying circumstances include the death of an active-duty service member in combat, during military training, or as a result of a service-connected illness, as recognized by the Department of Defense. Documentation to verify eligibility may be required.

4. Subcommittee Consideration – The nomination receives a recommendation for recognition by the full City Council from the Public Recognitions Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Staff from the City Manager, City Clerk, and Community Services departments may provide additional information for consideration and recognition consistent with existing military-related recognition programs.

5. Public Recognition – During an in-person recognition at a City Council meeting, the Gold Star Family shall receive a framed certificate signed by all Council Members. The individual recognized shall receive other honors as the City Council deems appropriate.

It is therefore recommended that the City Council approve the revised Council Protocol Manual Policy No. 9 related to public recognitions to include Gold Star Family recognition.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

ATTACHMENTS: Revised Council Protocol Manual Policy No. 9