

# City of Westminster



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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City modifies annual Black April commemoration event due to COVID-19**

WESTMINSTER, Calif. - The annual Black April commemoration ceremony originally scheduled for April 30, 2020 at 10 a.m. and hosted by the City of Westminster will not be held this year in response to the State of California's current stay-at-home order related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

The City will instead fly the South Vietnamese flag at half-staff at the Vietnamese-American War Memorial at Sid Goldstein Freedom Park from April 23 through April 30. A commemoration wreath will also be placed at the memorial site on April 30 at 10 a.m.

April 30 is annually known as Black April, or "Tháng Tư Đen," and is a day to lament and reflect upon the fall of Saigon and of South Vietnam, which took place April 30, 1975. As many as 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers and nearly 60,000 American soldiers died during the Vietnam War.

Approved through a resolution of the City Council in 2019, Westminster became the first city globally to recognize Black April Memorial Week.

At its April 22 meeting, the City Council proclaimed April 30, 2020 as Black April Day in commemoration of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Saigon, and residents are encouraged to observe a moment of silence in memory of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives.

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