



**DOWNTOWN**  
**SANTA BARBARA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 20, 2023

For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

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Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara Inc.

**Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara Stands in Solidarity with All Affected by the  
Recent Conflicts in the Middle East**

SANTA BARBARA, CA - The Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara, known for managing the vibrant State Street flag program, wishes to express its heartfelt condolences everyone affected by the recent conflicts in the Middle East.

The State Street flag program, a cherished initiative that rotates several times monthly, to highlight and support a diverse array of nonprofits within our community throughout the year. These flags are scheduled up to a year in advance to ensure that we can shine a spotlight on organizations that make a positive impact in our community.

It is essential to clarify that the Jewish Federation Flags, which are currently displayed on State Street, were scheduled well before the conflict in Gaza began. These flags are not a response or statement about war but rather a part of our longstanding commitment to showcasing various nonprofits and community organizations.

The Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara remains committed to promoting unity and diversity within our community. We believe that, especially during challenging times, it is crucial to stand together in solidarity, offering support and understanding to all those who are affected.

Our program features flags from various nonprofit organizations throughout the year, including Independent Living Resource Center, Special Olympics, CALM, Scholarship Foundation of

Santa Barbara, amongst 45+ others. We encourage the community to learn more about the State Street nonprofit flag program or apply to participate by visiting our website at [downtownsb.org](http://downtownsb.org).

We extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the conflict and stand together with our community and shared humanity as a symbol of hope, strength, peace and unity.

*Downtown Santa Barbara serves as the champion and advocate for the stakeholders of historic Downtown Santa Barbara, California, with more than 1400 members. It also manages the Downtown Santa Barbara Business Improvement Districts (BID's), working to create a vibrant place for visitors, investors, and residents. For more information about our programs, events, and a directory of downtown businesses visit [www.DowntownSB.org](http://www.DowntownSB.org).*

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**DOWNTOWN**  
**SANTA BARBARA**

**PRESS RELEASE**

October 25, 2023

For Immediate Release

**Contact:**

Robin Elander, Executive Director

robin@downtownsb.org

805-962-2098

Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara Inc.

**Update on Downtown Santa Barbara  
Scheduled State Street Flag Rotation**

SANTA BARBARA, CA - The Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara, known for managing the vibrant State Street flag program, wishes to express its heartfelt condolences everyone affected by the recent conflicts in the Middle East.

The State Street flag program, a cherished initiative that rotates weekly to highlight and support a diverse array of nonprofits within our community throughout the year. These flags are scheduled up to a year in advance to ensure that we can shine a spotlight on organizations that make a positive impact in our community.

*It is essential to clarify that the Jewish Federation Flags, which were displayed on State Street, October 18-24, 2023 were scheduled well before the conflict in Gaza began. These flags are not a response or statement about war but rather a part of our longstanding commitment to showcasing various nonprofits and community organizations that apply to participate in the program.*

*The Jewish Federation flags came down late Tuesday night, October 24th as scheduled, not in response to the protest that happened on State Street October 24th. Each nonprofit flag is scheduled for one week, and is changed out late Tuesday evening or early Wednesday morning each week by a scheduled contractor. This is done in the middle of the night to not disrupt business activities.*

The Downtown Organization of Santa Barbara remains committed to promoting unity and diversity within our community and showcasing our diverse nonprofit and business community. We believe that, especially during challenging times, it is crucial to stand together in solidarity, offering support and understanding to all those who are affected.

*The State Street Flag program features flags from various nonprofit organizations throughout the year, including Independent Living Resource Center, which are now on display for the week of October 25-October 31, 2023 to recognize National Disability Employment Month.*

Other flags in the program include Special Olympics, CALM, Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, amongst 45+ others. We encourage the community to learn more about the State Street nonprofit flag program or apply to participate by visiting our website at <https://www.downtownsb.org/state-street-flag-program>.

We extend our deepest sympathies to those affected by the conflict and stand together with our community and shared humanity as a symbol of hope, strength, peace and unity.

*Downtown Santa Barbara serves as the champion and advocate for the stakeholders of historic Downtown Santa Barbara, California, with more than 1400 members. It also manages the Downtown Santa Barbara Business Improvement Districts (BID's), working to create a vibrant place for visitors, investors, and residents. For more information about our programs, events, and a directory of downtown businesses visit [www.DowntownSB.org](http://www.DowntownSB.org).*

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