

A Resolution on Constitutional Amendments Defining Marriage

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria Human Rights Ordinance was passed by City Council thirty years ago on March 25, 1975, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria passed an ordinance in 1988 amending the Human Rights Code to protect people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has consistently adopted policies that reflect its commitment to diversity, include all members of the community in city government, and protect the civil liberties of all citizens, and

WHEREAS, constitutional amendments at the federal and state level defining marriage as only between a man and a woman intentionally discriminate against lesbians and gay men by denying them access to the protections, benefits and responsibilities extended through civil marriage, such as pensions, social security benefits, tax provisions, health insurance, hospital visitation, inheritance and other family law provisions, and

WHEREAS, such proposed constitutional amendments appeal to Americans' prejudices and fears rather than to their higher values of equality and justice, and

WHEREAS, the long and honorable history of the United States Constitution, and its role in expanding and protecting human rights through the first ten amendments known collectively as the Bill of Rights and through later amendments, would be tarnished by any amendment that restricts the civil rights of any group of Americans,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Alexandria City Council declares its opposition to any proposed federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, and
2. The Alexandria City Council opposes any attempts by Virginia elected officials to pass similar discriminatory legislation, and
3. The Alexandria City Council reaffirms the City's Human Rights Ordinance, and
4. The Alexandria City Council urges members of Virginia's congressional delegation to pursue policies that affirm individual and family rights for all citizens, support local efforts to create inclusive and diverse communities, and create the federal legal atmosphere necessary for equality in civil rights.

PASSED this 8th day of March 2005

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
MAYOR

RESOLUTION NO. 2142

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria Human Rights Ordinance was passed by City Council thirty years ago on March 25, 1975; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria passed an ordinance in 1988 amending the Human Rights Code to protect people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Alexandria has consistently adopted policies that reflect its commitment to diversity, include all members of the community in city government and protect the civil liberties of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, constitutional amendments at the federal and state level defining marriage as only between a man and a woman intentionally discriminate against lesbians and gay men by denying them access to the protections, benefits and responsibilities extended through civil marriage, such as pensions, social security benefits, tax provisions, health insurance, hospital visitation, inheritance and other family law provisions; and

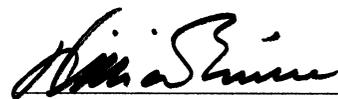
WHEREAS, such proposed constitutional amendments appeal to Americans' prejudices and fears rather than to their higher values of equality and justice; and

WHEREAS, the long and honorable history of the United States Constitution, and its role in expanding and protecting human rights through the first ten amendments known collectively as the Bill of Rights and through later amendments, would be tarnished by any amendment that restricts the civil rights of any group of Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Alexandria:

1. The Alexandria City Council declares its opposition to any proposed federal constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman; and
2. The Alexandria City Council opposes any attempts by Virginia elected officials to pass similar discriminatory legislation; and
3. The Alexandria City Council reaffirms the City's Human Rights Ordinance; and
4. The Alexandria City Council urges members of Virginia's congressional delegation to pursue policies that affirm individual and family rights for all citizens, support local efforts to create inclusive and diverse communities, and create the federal legal atmosphere necessary for equality in civil rights.

ADOPTED: March 8, 2005


WILLIAM D. EUILLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk