

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO  
VIRGINIA'S BILL OF RIGHTS, BALLOT QUESTION #1

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria is a richly diverse community, and it is in the public interest of the City to assure that each citizen is treated fairly and provided equal protection of the laws and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights and privileges of community life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria is committed to protecting the rights of all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, or marital status; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly has voted to approve an Amendment to the Bill of Rights to the Virginia Constitution reading, "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage;" and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed amendment has become mislabeled in shorthand as the "Marriage Amendment" when it is only the first sentence of the ballot language which directly addresses the definition of marriage, while the remaining ballot language encompasses civil unions and domestic partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, the language of the proposed amendment goes far beyond the constitutional proposals enacted in any other state, makes significant and substantial changes in current Virginia law by extending the prohibition on relationship recognition to all "unmarried individuals" and may have other unintended and unpredictable legal consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, over 130 Virginia attorneys and legal scholars – including two former Attorneys General – Governor Tim Kaine and the League of Women Voters, among many others, have expressed serious concern about the unintended consequences of the broad language of the proposed amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, this proposed amendment would, in effect, create a Constitutional bar to any legal recognition of unmarried relationships for both same- and different-sex couples, including a permanent prohibition on the ability of City government and the School system to offer benefits – such as health insurance - to unmarried employees that would be equal to those offered to married employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic health of Alexandria and Virginia depends upon attracting and retaining educated workers and new businesses, and this proposed amendment could have the effect of discouraging high-value workers and businesses from locating in our state and community, thus putting us at a competitive disadvantage relative to DC, Maryland and many other states where no such impediments now exist;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia opposes the proposed amendment to Virginia's Bill of Rights and encourages Alexandria citizens to vote "NO" on Ballot Question #1 on November 7<sup>th</sup>; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of Council shall distribute copies of this resolution to media outlets and elected officials as directed by the City Council.

ADOPTED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
William D. Euille                      Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC      City Clerk

16  
10-10-06

CityMail/Alex  
10/04/2006 03:46 PM

To alexvamayor@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com,  
Councilmangaines@aol.com, Council@Krupicka.com,  
Timothylovain@aol.com, Macdonaldcouncil@msn.com,  
cc Jackie Henderson/Alex@Alex

bcc

Subject Fw: Arlington Resolution Re: Proposed Bill of Rights Amendment

History: This message has been forwarded.

----- Forwarded by CityMail/Alex on 10/04/2006 03:46 PM -----



"CountyBoard"  
<CountyBoard@arlingtonva.us  
>  
10/04/2006 11:07 AM

To <citymail@alexandriava.gov>  
cc

Subject Arlington Resolution Re: Proposed Bill of Rights Amendment



## Arlington County Board

October 4, 2006

The Honorable William Euille  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA  
citymail@alexandriava.gov

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

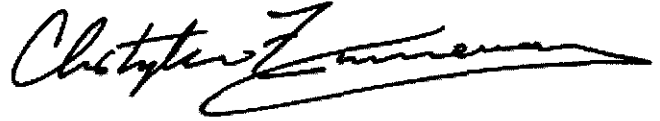
As the November election nears, attention is being focused on Ballot Question #1 – the proposed amendment to the Virginia Bill of Rights. The proposed amendment is of particular concern to me and my colleagues on the Arlington County Board.

If enacted, Virginia's cities, counties, towns and public schools will be restricted from providing benefits – such as health insurance, family medical leave, and funeral leave – to unmarried employees that would be equal to those offered to married employees. There may also be other unintended and unpredictable legal consequences.

We are making efforts to increase the level of awareness among Arlington residents regarding this ballot measure and encourage you to study the amendment closely in

your jurisdiction and consider adopting an appropriate resolution, as well.

For your information, I am attaching a copy of the resolution that the County Board adopted at our September 19<sup>th</sup> Recessed Board Meeting. Please feel free to contact me or my office with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Zimmerman", with a long, sweeping underline.

Sincerely,

Christopher Zimmerman  
Chairman

**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO  
VIRGINIA'S BILL OF RIGHTS,  
BALLOT QUESTION #1**

WHEREAS, Arlington County is a richly diverse community, and it is in the public interest of the County to assure that each citizen is treated fairly and provided equal protection of the laws and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights and privileges of community life; and,

WHEREAS, Arlington County is committed to protecting the rights of all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, or marital status; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia General Assembly has voted to approve an Amendment to the Bill of Rights to the Virginia Constitution reading, "That only a union between one man and one woman may be a marriage valid in or recognized by this Commonwealth and its political subdivisions. This Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall not create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the design, qualities, significance, or effects of marriage. Nor shall this Commonwealth or its political subdivisions create or recognize another union, partnership, or other legal status to which is assigned the rights, benefits, obligations, qualities, or effects of marriage;" and,

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment has become mislabeled in shorthand as the "Marriage Amendment" when it is only the first sentence of the ballot language which directly addresses the definition of marriage, while the remaining ballot language

encompasses civil unions and domestic partnerships; and,

WHEREAS, the language of the proposed amendment goes far beyond the constitutional proposals enacted in any other state, makes significant and substantial changes in current Virginia law by extending the prohibition on relationship recognition to all “unmarried individuals” and may have other unintended and unpredictable legal consequences; and,

WHEREAS, over 130 Virginia attorneys and legal scholars – including two former Attorneys General – Governor Tim Kaine and the League of Women Voters, among many others, have expressed serious concern about the unintended consequences of the broad language of the proposed amendment; and,

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment would, in effect, create a Constitutional bar to any legal recognition of unmarried relationships for both same- and different-sex couples, including a permanent prohibition on the ability of County government and the School system to offer benefits – such as health insurance - to unmarried employees that would be equal to those offered to married employees; and,

WHEREAS, the economic health of Arlington and Virginia depends upon attracting and retaining educated workers and new businesses, and this proposed amendment could have the effect of discouraging high-value workers and businesses from locating in our state and community thus putting us at a competitive disadvantage relative to DC, Maryland and many other states where no such impediments now exist; and,

NOW THEREFORE Be it resolved, that the County Board of Arlington, Virginia opposes the proposed amendment to Virginia’s Bill of Rights and encourages Arlington citizens to vote “NO” on Ballot Question #1 on November 7<sup>th</sup>; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Clerk shall distribute copies of this resolution to media outlets and elected officials as directed by the County Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2207**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria is a richly diverse community, and it is in the public interest of the City to assure that each citizen is treated fairly and provided equal protection of the laws and equal opportunity to participate in the benefits, rights and privileges of community life; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria is committed to protecting the rights of all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, or marital status; and

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of Alexandria, Virginia opposes the proposed amendment to Virginia's Bill of Rights and encourages Alexandria citizens to vote "NO" on Ballot Question #1 on November 7<sup>th</sup>; and

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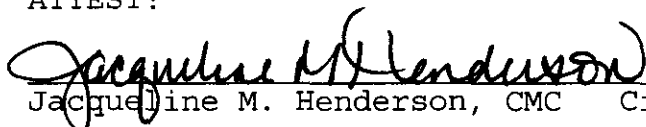
ADOPTED: October 10, 2006



WILLIAM D. EULLE

MAYOR

ATTEST:



Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

## RESOLUTION 2207

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WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
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Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk

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