



OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Long Beach, California

C-6

ROBERT E. SHANNON
City Attorney

HEATHER A. MAHOOD
Chief Assistant City Attorney

MICHAEL J. MAIS
Assistant City Attorney

October 17, 2006

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution of the City Council of the City of Long Beach In Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples with Full Rights and Responsibilities as Any Heterosexual Civil Marriage.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to your request of October 10, 2006, this office has prepared and submits the above-described resolution for your consideration.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT E. SHANNON, City Attorney

By 
J. CHARLES PARKIN, Principal Deputy

Enclosure

JCP:abc 06-05281
L:\APPS\CtyLaw32\WPDOCS\ID011\P005\00095284.WPD

PRINCIPAL DEPUTIES

Barbara D. de Jong
Dominic Holzhaus
Belinda R. Mayes

DEPUTIES

Gary J. Anderson
Richard F. Anthony
Christina L. Checel
Alysha Park Choi
Randall C. Fudge
Charles M. Gale
Everett L. Glenn
Donna F. Gwin
Anne C. Lattime
Monte H. Machit
Lisa Peskay Malmsten
Barry M. Meyers
Cristyl Meyers
J. Charles Parkin
Howard D. Russell
Tiffani L. Shin

Robert E. Shannon
City Attorney of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802-4664
Telephone (562) 570-2200

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE
EQUALITY FOR SAME SEX COUPLES WITH FULL RIGHTS
AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS ANY HETEROSEXUAL CIVIL
MARRIAGE

WHEREAS, City of Long Beach has, by local policy, ordinance and practice,
shown its commitment to fair and equitable treatment of all persons regardless of gender
or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, City of Long Beach is home to more than 80,000 LGBT residents
and families headed by same sex couples, many with children; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and California Constitution
clearly state no laws will be made or enforced that abridge the privileges and immunities
of its citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and California Constitution
clearly state that no person within its jurisdiction will be denied equal protection under their
laws; and

WHEREAS, the right to marry is recognized under the United States
Constitution as a fundamental liberty interest; and

WHEREAS, providing equal access to civil marriage will not require religious
institutions to perform or recognize marriages that conflict with their particular religious
traditions or beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to publicly and legally commit to share one's life
with a person of one's choice is for many people one of the most central aspects of human
experience; and the denial of marriage to same sex couples is a denial of fundamental civil
rights; and

1 WHEREAS, denying civil marriage to individuals who are gay or lesbian
2 deprives them of state and federal rights, privileges, immunities, protections and
3 responsibilities; and

4 WHEREAS, families headed by gay or lesbians deserve the same rights and
5 legal protections as other families under the law, including the protection of their spousal
6 rights and privileges and protection of their children's economic interests by ensuring their
7 access to the resource of both parents; and

8 WHEREAS, the inability to access these legal protections may result in
9 significant harm to these individuals and families, including financial insecurity, deprivation
10 of real property interests, lack of retirement and death benefits and lack of standing in
11 access to family court for dissolution; and

12 WHEREAS, no resident of City of Long Beach should be refused equal
13 protection under the law; and

14 WHEREAS, discriminatory laws undermine the State of California's
15 commitment to equality, privacy, liberty and justice for all of its citizens, as well as
16 undermining civil marriage itself.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as
18 follows:

19 Section 1. The City of Long Beach hereby declares its support for civil
20 marriage licenses and any enactments which codify civil marriage equality for all couples
21 residing in California who are citizens or legal residents of the United States.

22 Sec. 2. The City Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to our
23 elected representatives in State and Federal government.

24 Sec. 3. The City of Long Beach requests the State and Federal government
25 to act with vigor to develop laws to allow marriage equality for same sex couples and to
26 defend same sex civil marriages and protect the fundamental liberties of all families.

27 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the
28 City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

Robert E. Shannon
City Attorney of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90802-4664
Telephone (562) 570-2200

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers: _____

Noes: Councilmembers: _____

Absent: Councilmembers: _____

City Clerk