

RESOLUTION
OF THE
MINNEAPOLIS COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the City of Minneapolis has an interest in promoting family units as a means toward achieving social stability, private economic interdependence, and healthier environments in which both children and adults may prosper, and

WHEREAS, the dimensions of “family” have changed throughout history and in recent years, and

WHEREAS, innumerable family units consisting of same-sex couples reside in the City of Minneapolis, and

WHEREAS, among Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (“GLBT”) youth, the risk of attempting suicide is significantly higher in environments that are unsupportive to GLBT youth,^[1] and

WHEREAS, one in five GLBT students were physically assaulted in Minnesota schools due to their sexual orientation,^[2] and

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution has been proposed that would ban same-sex marriage within the state of Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, such an amendment would frustrate the City’s goal of promoting families, by constitutionalizing the denial of important legal rights and obligations from some families, and

WHEREAS, constitutions historically have been designed to protect minorities from the arbitrary imposition of unjust barriers by the majority, and

WHEREAS, this constitutional amendment, if approved, would have a direct, negative impact on Minneapolis’ GLBT communities in particular, by denying equal protection of the laws, abridging the privileges or immunities of Minneapolis residents, and relegating families consisting of same-sex couples to a permanent second-class citizenship status, and

WHEREAS, the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights recognizes that our society benefits in proportion to its efforts to ensure cultural diversity and maintain an environment in which all feel welcome and safe, and

WHEREAS, such discriminatory laws effectively devalue cultural diversity and promote an environment in which discrimination against GLBT citizens is not only encouraged but mandated, resulting in a community that is neither welcome nor safe,

WHEREAS, such discriminatory laws needlessly alienate prospective GLBT employees and GLBT-friendly employers, inhibiting Minnesota’s economic growth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights hereby states publicly its opposition to amending the Minnesota constitution in order to ban same-sex marriages.

Passed, November 21, 2011

FOR THE COMMISSION,



Scott M. Flaherty, Chair



^[1] *The Social Environment and Suicide Attempts in Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Youth*, JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY AND PEDIATRICS (May 2011).

^[2] *Minnesota Schools Remain Hostile for Gay Teens*, STAR-TRIBUNE, June 28, 2011.