

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

A resolution regarding Marriage Equality in Washington State.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1967 case Loving V. Virginia stated, "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival"; and

WHEREAS, marriage provides legal and economic protections including access to health care, parenting rights, and property rights; and

WHEREAS, RCW 26.04.010 (1) of the State of Washington reads "Marriage is a civil contract"; and

WHEREAS, marriage is a powerful and important affirmation of love and commitment, a source of social support and recognition, and the legal protections which are invaluable to the safety and security of every family; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane proudly embraces the diversity of all its residents and adopted Ordinance C-32232 on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1999 stating, "The City of Spokane finds that discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, national origin, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation, or disability poses a substantial threat to the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Spokane"; and

WHEREAS, all couples in loving and committed relationships should be given the opportunity to create stronger and more successful families through civil marriage; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of Washington Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6239 to end discrimination in marriage based on gender and sexual orientation in Washington, to ensure that all persons in this state may enjoy the freedom to marry on equal terms; and

WHEREAS, no clergy, religious entity, association, or religious affiliated educational institution will be penalized or denied benefits under the law for refusing to provide services, accommodations, advantages, goods or privileges to any individual if the request is related to the solemnization or celebration of a marriage that would violate their deeply held religious beliefs as per Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6239 section 1; and

WHEREAS, Governor Christine Gregoire signed the Marriage Equality Bill into state law, February 13, 2012 saying that all of Washington's citizens deserve the right to marry, and that "to deny that equality is just wrong"; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SPOKANE that we support marriage equality in Washington State, commend the passage of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6239, and oppose any future challenge to it.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of April, 2012.

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City Clerk

Approved as to form:

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Assistant City Attorney