

**City of Olympia, Washington
RESOLUTION NO. M-1551**

**A RESOLUTION in Opposition to a Marriage Constitutional
Amendment and in Support of Local Decision-Making**

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia passed its first ordinance to protect people from anti-gay discrimination in 1986, known as the “Delivery of City Services or Resources Ordinance,” and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia created a Domestic Partner Registry in December, 1999 to recognize the commitments of both same gender and mixed gender couples who sought public acknowledgement of their unions, and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia has consistently adopted policies that value diversity, include all members of the community in city government, and protect the civil liberties of all citizens, including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals in the absence of similar state and federal protections based on sexual orientation, and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes that public actions at any level of government that denigrate, disenfranchise, or stigmatize any segment of society tears at the fabric that holds us together as a society and can create the conditions for hate crimes, and

WHEREAS, the City of Olympia recognizes the hundreds of rights, benefits, and responsibilities conveyed in federal, state, and local laws through civil marriage, such as pensions, social security benefits, tax provisions, health insurance, hospital visitation, inheritance, and other family law provisions, and

WHEREAS, such rights, benefits, and responsibilities are currently unavailable to lesbian/gay couples; and

WHEREAS, House Joint Resolution 56 / Senate Joint Resolution 26, the constitutional amendment proposed by members of Congress and President George W. Bush, includes language that would intrude upon the prerogative of the states to determine marriage laws and arguably could void existing local and state laws regarding domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other forms of locally determined marital status, or “the legal incidents thereof” for unmarried couples, including the City of Olympia’s Domestic Partner Registry, and

WHEREAS, the long and honorable history of this nation’s 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, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Olympia City Council declares its opposition to the constitutional amendment proposed in House Joint Resolution 56 / Senate Joint Resolution 26, and any other proposed federal constitutional amendment that would nullify or prevent gay/lesbian marriages or other legal recognitions of gay/lesbian partnerships and family rights adopted at the local and state governmental levels, and

2. The Olympia City Council urges the members of Washington State's congressional delegation to vigorously and vocally oppose the constitutional amendment proposed in House Joint Resolution 56 / Senate Joint Resolution 26, any other proposed federal constitutional amendment that would nullify gay/lesbian marriages or other legal recognitions of gay/lesbian partnerships and family rights adopted at the local and state governmental levels, and any measure that intrudes into families and local laws protecting families, and

3. The Olympia City Council urges the members of Washington State's congressional delegation to instead 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 AND APPROVED this 23rd day of March 2004.

**MARK FOUTCH
MAYOR**