

RESOLUTION NO. 12-6420

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF MANHATTAN BEACH,
CALIFORNIA IN SUPPORT OF THE FREEDOM TO MARRY.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has held more than a dozen times that marriage is a key right of the American people and in the 1967 landmark case Loving vs. Virginia wrote, "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival; and

WHEREAS, federal courts in California have ruled that California's Proposition 8, which stripped marriage rights from same-sex couples, violates the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, federal courts in Massachusetts, California, New York, and Connecticut have ruled that the federal government's refusal to recognize lawful marriages of same-sex couples under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, the Obama administration announced on February 23, 2011, that the U.S. Justice Department would no longer defend DOMA's denial of federal recognition to married same-sex couples in federal court; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, the District of Columbia, New Hampshire, New York, Washington, and Maryland have now legalized marriage for same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, more than 289 mayors from 33 states, including the mayors of several California cities including Redondo Beach, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Los Angeles, Monrovia, Malibu, Signal Hill, and Long Beach in Los Angeles County, have signed a petition in support of marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a series of non-discrimination policies established upon recognition of the inalienable rights of each individual to work to earn wages and obtain a share of the wealth of this City through gainful employment, without regards to race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the denial of such rights through considerations based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, disability, student status, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age, is detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City and constitutes an unjust denial or deprivation of such inalienable rights which is within the power and the proper responsibility of the government to prevent; and

WHEREAS, marriage provides legal and economic protections including access to health care, parenting rights, property rights, and other protections which are vital to the safety and security of every family; and

WHEREAS, marriage is a powerful and important affirmation of love and commitment and a source of social support and recognition; 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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Manhattan Beach, formally recognizes fundamental basic rights of our citizens and supports marriage equality and the Freedom to Marry.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 20th day of November, 2012.

Ayes:
Noes:
Abstain:
Absent:

Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach, California

ATTEST:

City Clerk