



Kriss Worthington

Councilmember, City of Berkeley, District 7
2180 Milvia Street, 5th Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704
PHONE 510-981-7170 FAX 510-981-7177 kworthington@ci.berkeley.ca.us

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 16, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Councilmember Darryl Moore
Councilmember Max Anderson
Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Subject: Proclamation in Honor of Kris Perry and Sandy Stier

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a proclamation honoring Kris Perry and Sandy Stier and recognize July 16th as Kris Perry and Sandy Stier Day.

BACKGROUND:

Berkeley residents Kris Perry and Sandy Stier have played an essential role in the fight against Proposition 8, and recently emerged victorious from a landmark Supreme Court case. Perry and Stier have long served the public of Berkeley and the greater Bay Area, Perry as an advocate for early childhood education and Stier through her work at the county’s Public Health Department. It is only appropriate that two Berkeley residents with such a passion for public service would ultimately contribute to the equality of all California citizens through their victorious struggle for the right to marry. This proclamation aims to honor the two women for their public service in general, and more specifically for their great contribution to the battle for equitable marriage rights in the State of California.

Perry and Stiers’ activism grew out of their own personal desire to attain a legal marriage in the State of California. The two were engaged in 2003 and had planned a symbolic marriage, but was not legally-recognized, wedding for the following year. Their hopes for a legal marriage spiked in 2004 when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom enforced that same-sex couples be issued marriage licenses, and the two were married under this provision. However, after less than six months of officially recognized matrimony, the Supreme Court of California invalidated all previously granted same-sex unions, stripping the couple of their marriage rights once again.

Perry and Stier attempted to marry once again in 2009, but were denied a license by Alameda County officials due to the prohibition of same-sex unions by Proposition 8. This led the couple to file suit against several government officials, including Governor Schwarzanegger, in a case that was eventually tried by the United States District Court

as *Schwarzenegger vs. Perry*. Although Proposition 8 was held unconstitutional by the District Court in 2010, Perry and Stier still faced years of legal trials as the case made its way through the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and was ultimately tried by the United States Supreme Court as *Hollingsworth vs. Perry*. On June 26th 2013, the Supreme Court finally held the initial decision of the District Court and ruled that there were no grounds for the defendants, proponents of Proposition 8, to have appealed the decision of the District Court. Perry and Stier are said to have been on the steps of the Supreme Court in Washington D.C. when the final ruling was made that effectively ended their decade-long battle for equal marriage rights and ultimately overturning DOMA and Proposition 8, which is one major step forward in achieving equality for all.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

CONTACT PERSON:

Councilmember Kriss Worthington 981-7170.

Ryan Higgins (Intern) 925-202-9757

Attachment:

1. Proclamation Honoring Kris Perry and Sandy Stier

In Honor of Kris Perry and Sandy Stier

- WHEREAS,** The efforts of the couple have greatly contributed to the recognition of the constitutional rights of same-sex couples across the United States, as well as clearing the way for the repeal of Proposition 8 and the resumption of the issuance marriage licenses for same-sex couples in the state of California.
- WHEREAS,** Perry and Stier will finally be allowed to obtain a legal marriage license from the state of California, nearly a decade after their engagement in 2003, due largely to their own tenacity in a hard-fought legal struggle.
- WHEREAS,** Both women have long served the City of Berkeley and its residents, Perry as an advocate for educational reform and Stier as a member of the county's Public Health Department.
- WHEREAS,** Perry and Stiers' contribution to equitable and just marriage rights for the State of California represents only a fraction of the lives of two women dedicated to serving the public through advocacy for meaningful causes.
- WHEREAS,** Perry and Stier waged their campaign against Proposition 8 while simultaneously and successfully raising four children, serving not only to defeat the amendment but also to debunk the claims of its proponents that same-sex couples are disadvantaged in the raising of children.
- WHEREAS,** on June 26th, 2013, in the landmark case *Hollingsworth vs. Perry*, the United States Supreme Court held the decision of the District Court that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional, effectively negating the amendment and clearing the way for the legal marriage of Perry and Stier as well as same-sex couples across the state of California.
- WHEREAS,** Perry and Stier are long term residents of Berkeley, which is fitting considering the Berkeley City Council was the first City Council in the nation to endorse marriage equality. Their efforts in overturning DOMA and Proposition 8 greatly reflect Berkeley's commitment in ensuring and protecting basic human rights for everyone regardless of race, gender, or sexuality

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Berkeley City Council recognize and proclaim

July 16th, 2013 AS PERRY AND STIER DAY

Mayor Tom Bates

Councilmember Max Anderson

Councilmember Jesse Arreguin

Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

Councilmember Linda Maio

Councilmember Darryl Moore

Councilmember Susan Wengraf

Councilmember Kriss Worthington

Councilmember Gordon Wozniak

