



CITY COUNCIL

Darryl Moore
Councilmember District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 1, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2
 Subject: Closing the City of Berkeley's Domestic Partnership Registry and to
 Declare Marriage Equality Day

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution directing the City Manager to officially close the City of Berkeley's Domestic Partnership Registry on October 11, 2013 in celebration of its twenty-second anniversary, and marriage equality in the State of California that has made the registry unnecessary. October 11, 2013 shall also be declared Marriage Equality Day in the City of Berkeley.

BACKGROUND

The Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley were the world's first government entities to pass Domestic Partnerships benefits for their employees in August and December of 1984, respectively. This was the first time in world history same sex couples were granted any of the Rights of Marriage. On October 11th, 1991 the City of Berkeley initiated its own Domestic Partnership Registry affording all couples a place to have their relationships recognized by a government entity.

Those rights were incomplete but started a movement towards marriage equality which is now a reality for all Californians and a reality in many countries around the world.

In the year 2000 the State of California created its own Domestic Partnership Registry. In 2005 the State of California granted Registered Domestic Partnership all of the Rights of Marriage which a state was empowered to grant. In June of 2013 the United States Supreme Court allowed same sex marriages to be reinstated in the State of California and declared that all legal same sex marriages in the United States will be recognized by the Federal Government of the United States. This means that the City of Berkeley's Domestic Partnership Registry is no longer needed, because there are a number of ways in which to accomplish its task.

Since the City's Domestic Partnership Registry now only functions as a matter of ceremony, closing the registry could serve as a celebration of the recent victory in marriage equality. Therefore, on October 11, 2013, on the twenty-second anniversary of the City of Berkeley's Domestic Partnership Registry, it is recommended that the City of Berkeley close its Domestic Partnership Registry and declare Marriage Equality Day

in the City of Berkeley to be marked by marriages conducted at Berkeley City Hall, the site where the first legal steps toward Marriage Equality were successfully taken.

This registry is different from domestic partnership benefits afforded to City Employees. This resolution does not impact or change, in any way, benefits of city employees under collective bargaining agreements.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Unknown

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Darryl Moore, District 2 981-7120

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

CLOSING THE CITY OF BERKELEY'S DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY AND
TO DECLARE MARRIAGE EQUALITY DAY

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District and the City of Berkeley were the world's first government entities to pass Domestic Partnerships benefits for their employees in August and December of 1984, respectively, which was the first time in world history same sex couples were granted any of the Rights of Marriage; and

WHEREAS, on October 11th, 1991 the City of Berkeley initiated its own Domestic Partnership Registry affording all couples a place to have their relationships recognized by a government entity; and

WHEREAS, while those rights were incomplete, they started a movement towards marriage equality which is now a reality for all Californians and a reality in many countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, in the year 2000 the State of California created its own Domestic Partnership Registry and in 2005 the State granted Registered Domestic Partnership all of the Rights of Marriage which a state was empowered to grant; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2013 the United States Supreme Court allowed same sex-marriages to be reinstated in the State of California and declared that all legal same sex marriages in the United States will be recognized by the Federal Government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the reinstatement of same-sex marriages means that the City of Berkeley's Domestic Partnership Registry is no longer needed, since there are a number of ways in which to accomplish its task; and

WHEREAS, the City's Domestic Partnership Registry now only functions as a matter of ceremony;

WHEREAS, the registry in question is different from domestic partnership benefits afforded to City Employees and does not impact or change, in any way, benefits of city employees under collective bargaining agreements.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council officially closes the City's Domestic Partnership Registry on October 11, 2013 in celebration of its twenty-second anniversary and that October 11, 2013 shall also be declared Marriage Equality Day in the City of Berkeley.

