

1 [Commending Vermont Supreme Court]

2 COMMENDING THE VERMONT SUPREME COURT'S RULING THAT THE STATE OF
3 VERMONT IS CONSTITUTIONALLY REQUIRED TO EXTEND TO SAME-SEX COUPLES
4 THE COMMON BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS THAT FLOW FROM MARRIAGE UNDER
5 VERMONT LAW.

6
7 WHEREAS, Lesbian and gay individuals and their family members do not enjoy the
8 same legal recognition, rights, and protections as their heterosexual counterparts; and,

9 WHEREAS, One such example of this includes the inability to legally marry, which
10 denies lesbian and gay individuals access to some 161 state and federal benefits; and,

11 WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco has long-established policies and
12 procedures supporting and affirming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and
13 their right to register for and receive domestic partnership benefits; and,

14 WHEREAS, The issue of legalizing gay marriage has been and will continue to be
15 litigated in courts across the country, and,

16 WHEREAS, In response to a legal challenge by three same-sex couples, the Vermont
17 Supreme Court's ruled on December 20, 1999 that the state of Vermont is constitutionally
18 required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from
19 marriage under Vermont law; and,

20 WHEREAS, The court's decision further asserted that that denying same-sex couples
21 access to the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual married couples is
22 discriminatory; and,

23 WHEREAS, This court also directed the state legislature to either legalize gay
24 marriages or to decide how to bestow all of the previously denied rights and privileges of
25 marriages to same sex couples,

SUPERVISORS

LENO, AMMIANO, KATZ, NEWSOM, BIERMAN, TENG, YAKI, YEE, KAUFMAN, BECERRIL
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, This decision makes Vermont the first state in the country to extend
2 constitutional protections and sets an important precedent for other states and municipalities
3 to follow in recognizing, protecting and valuing lesbian and gay people and their families;
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby
6 commends the Vermont Supreme Court's ruling that the state of Vermont is constitutionally
7 required to extend to same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from
8 marriage under Vermont law.

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City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
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Tails

Resolution

File Number: 992329

Date Passed:

Resolution commending the Vermont Supreme Court's ruling that the state of Vermont is constitutionally required to extend the same-sex couples the common benefits and protections that flow from marriage under Vermont law.

January 4, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Kaufman, Newsom, Teng, Yaki,
Yee

Absent: 2 - Katz, Leno

File No. 992329

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on January 4, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.



Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

JAN 13 2000

JAN 4 3 2000

Date Approved



Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.