

A RESOLUTION TO URGE THE NEW JERSEY STATE LEGISLATURE TO LEGALIZE MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN
THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2013, the United States Supreme Court overturned the 1996 Federal law entitled the "Defense of Marriage Act" ("DOMA"), which act defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court overturned DOMA because it deemed such legislation to be an unconstitutional deprivation of the equal liberty of persons that is protected by the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, according to two recent polls by Quinnipiac University and Fairleigh Davidson University, public support for marriage equality is at or above 60% among New Jersey voters; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2012, our State Legislature passed a bill to allow gay marriage in New Jersey, but Governor Christie vetoed this bill; and

WHEREAS, civil unions between gay couples are not equal to marriage under the law after the recent United States Supreme Court ruling, because that ruling recognizes only legally sanctioned marriages; and

WHEREAS, current New Jersey law leaves civil union couples without federal Social Security survivor payments, without the right to file joint federal income taxes, without exemptions from federal estate taxes, and without other federal benefits that are extended to heterosexual married couples; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of marriage equality in our State puts New Jersey at a competitive disadvantage, depriving our State of talent in the workforce, because our State does not benefit from the skills of persons who may wish to reside here but who choose to live elsewhere so that they may benefit from the advantages of marriage equality allowed in other states; and

WHEREAS, under current New Jersey state law, Princeton has been denied the ability to provide marriage licenses to one segment of its population, a violation of equal protection to which this Mayor and Council strongly objects; and

WHEREAS, a Mercer County Superior Court recently issued an historic decision affirming the freedom to marry for same-sex couples in the Garden State, but that decision is likely to be appealed, potentially delaying fair treatment for many Princeton and New Jersey State residents for a year or more; and

WHEREAS, enacting legislation is the most effective and expeditious way to ensure marriage equality in New Jersey; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Princeton, in the County of Mercer and the State of New Jersey, that this Mayor and Council hereby respectfully request that the New Jersey State Legislature follow the principles set forth by the United States Supreme Court in its decision to reject DOMA, and duly enact a bill legalizing gay marriage in the State of New Jersey, thereby securing the freedom to marry equally in our great State for the benefit of all of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be certified and forwarded to our representatives in the 16th Legislative District, Senator Christopher Bateman, Assemblyman Jack M. Ciattarelli, and Assemblywoman Donna Simon.

TITLE

This Resolution shall be known and may be cited as the Resolution requesting the New Jersey State Legislature to create and enact a bill legalizing gay marriage in the State of New Jersey.

CERTIFICATION

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was considered and adopted by the Princeton Council at its regular meeting held on the 14th day of October, 2013.

Linda S. McDermott, Clerk

Princeton