

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: **CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM: (1) Consideration of a Request by the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry to Support an *Amicus* (Friend of the Court) Brief Regarding Several Marriage Cases Currently before the United States Supreme Court for Review; and (2) Direction to the City Manager/City Attorney as Deemed Appropriate.**

ATTACHMENTS

Pages

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. February 9, 2015 email from Freedom to Marry | 1-2 |
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Dear Mayor,

As the Co-Chairs of **Mayors for the Freedom to Marry**, we are writing to urge your support for an important *amicus* brief concerning the freedom to marry. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to consider the freedom to marry this term. We are hopeful that the Court will affirm the freedom to marry nationwide and bring our country to the national resolution we mayors have advocated.

A friend-of-the-court brief to be submitted to the Supreme Court is being drafted by the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and should be available to you by February 20. Joining this brief will be **Mayors for the Freedom to Marry**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and individual mayors and cities. Our brief will explain to the Court the harm to families and communities resulting from marriage discrimination including:

- Harm to our citizens' health and welfare;
- Impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of our local governments as employers; and
- Costs to businesses, including a loss of tourism revenue.

Given the Supreme Court's short deadline, we wanted to let you know immediately about the brief to give you time to consider signing on. You can sign on as the mayor and/or as your town/city. If you are interested in being part of the friend of the court brief (subject to your final review of the draft once prepared), please fill out the form at www.freedomtomarry.org/MayorsBrief.

We hope you will agree to participate in this important brief to amplify the voices of mayors across the country. There is no financial impact or staff commitment associated with signing on. Please let us know now if we can provisionally count you in; you will of course have a chance to review the final brief before officially joining it.

The drop-dead deadline for signing onto this *amicus* brief is **Monday, March 2, 2015**. The brief must be filed at the Supreme Court on March 6.

If you have any questions, please contact Jo Deutsch at Freedom to Marry at 202-223-8223. Thank you for this consideration and for your

continued support for the freedom to marry.

Sincerely,

Kevin Faulconer
Mayor of San Diego

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles

Michael Nutter
Mayor of Philadelphia

Annise Parker
Mayor of Houston

Kasim Reed
Mayor of Atlanta

Greg Stanton
Mayor of Phoenix

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Kirsten Lance
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Freedom to Marry

Freedom to Marry is a proud member of the Respect for
Marriage Coalition. Learn how your group can join the
historic partnership to end federal marriage discrimination at
www.respectformarriage.org

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