

  
**REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Date: August 27 2012  
Item No.: 12.a

Department Approval

City Manager Approval



Item Description: Receive and Consider Human Rights Commission Resolution Pertaining to the Proposed Constitutional Amendment on Marriage

**BACKGROUND**

The Human Rights Commission held several meetings, including two public hearings, to discuss the proposed constitutional amendment recognizing marriage solely between one man and one woman.

About 80 people attended the May 10, 2012, public hearing, and 37 people gave public testimony. Thirty spoke in support of the HRC taking a position opposing the amendment. Six opposed it, and one disputed the process. The HRC received emails and other written comments, of which 21 favored the HRC taking a position opposing the amendment while three opposed it. Minutes and written communication relating to the meetings and public hearings are available at the City's archives at <https://weblink.metro-inet.us/rvpublic/Browse.aspx?startid=55800>.

On May 16, 2012, the Roseville Human Rights Commission unanimously passed the attached resolution, opposing the proposed constitutional amendment entitled "Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman" and encouraged Roseville and Minnesota citizens to vote no at the November 6 election.

The resolution also recommends that the City Council adopt a resolution in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment.

All commissioners who attended the meeting signed the resolution.

**FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

None

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Receive Human Rights Commission resolution.

**REQUESTED COUNCIL ACTION**

Receive Human Rights Commission resolution.

Prepared by: Carolyn Curti, Communications Specialist  
Attachments: A: Human Rights Commission Resolution

RESOLUTION OF THE  
CITY OF ROSEVILLE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Attachment A

May 16, 2012

**Be It Resolved That...**

**Whereas**, the City of Roseville has declared that it is public policy of the city to fulfill its responsibility as a partner of the state department of human rights in securing for all citizens an equal opportunity in housing, employment, public accommodations, public services and education, and to work consistently to improve the human relations climate of the city; and

**Whereas**, the City of Roseville has established within the city a human rights commission whose purpose is to secure for all citizens equal opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodations, public services and education and full participation in the affairs of this community, and to increase the sense of community by reaching out to all members of the community and ensuring that our city government and its activities, programs and services are accessible understandable and responsive to all; and

**Whereas**, in 2011 the Minnesota State Legislature voted to include the following question on the election ballot in November 2012: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?;" and

**Whereas**, the proposed amendment would add a new Section 13 to the Minnesota Constitution stating: "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota;" and

**Whereas**, constitutions historically have been designed and interpreted to protect minorities from the arbitrary imposition of unjust barriers by the majority; and

**Whereas**, this amendment if approved, would have a direct negative impact on Roseville's community, in particular, by denying equal protection of the law to certain families, decrease the sense of community, and will not ensure that our city government and its activities, programs and services are accessible understandable and responsive to all; and

**Whereas**, the Roseville Human Rights Commission recognizes that our city benefits in proportion to its efforts to ensure cultural and familial diversity and maintain an environment in which all individuals feel welcome and safe; and

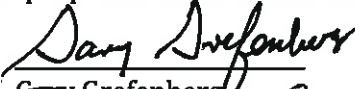
**Whereas**, the Roseville Human Rights Commission recognizes all Roseville residents who have provided personal, thoughtful, and meaningful insight in support and opposition to this resolution,

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Roseville Human Rights Commission hereby states publicly its opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment entitled, "Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman," and urges Roseville and Minnesota citizens to vote "NO" on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

**Be it furthermore resolved** that this document will be presented to the Roseville City Council and recommended that the council adopt a resolution in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment.

  
Jill Brisbois

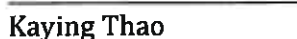
  
Kristin Doneen

  
Gary Grefenberg

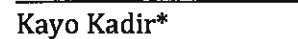
  
Wayne Groff

  
Thelma McKenzie

  
David Singleton

  
Kaying Thao

  
Joan Dao\*

  
Kayo Kadir\*

  
Marie Siliciano\*

\*As nonvoting members, the youth commissioners of the Human Rights Commission stand with the Human Rights Commission in opposition to the proposed marriage amendment and further recognize the negative affect it would have on the youth of Roseville, as testified by Roseville residents.