

V. M. B.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 78781

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY WAN

2004 SEP 16 PM 12: 01

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE MARRIAGE EQUALITY EXPRESS
ON ITS CROSS-COUNTRY EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITION AND DECLARING
OCTOBER 4, 2004, MARRIAGE EQUALITY EXPRESS DAY

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland has by local policy and ordinance shown its commitment to fair and equitable treatment of all persons regardless of gender or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Oakland is home to thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, including families headed by same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and California Constitution clearly state no laws will be made or enforced that abridge the privileges and immunities of citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, both the United States Constitution and California Constitution clearly state that no person within its jurisdiction will be denied equal protection of the laws; and

WHEREAS, denying civil marriage to gay and lesbian families deprives them of thousands of state and federal rights, privileges, immunities, protections, and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, civil marriage ensures state and federal rights, protections, and responsibilities that are otherwise unavailable to gay and lesbian families; and

WHEREAS, marriage is a unique civil contract, separate and distinct from any religious, ethnic, or other traditions; and

WHEREAS, the opportunity to publicly and legally commit to share one's life with a person of one's choice is for many people one of the most central aspects of human experience, and denial of marriage to same-sex couples is a denial of fundamental civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The City Council of the City of Oakland is committed to ending marriage discrimination;

WHEREAS, Marriage Equality California (MECA)'s mission is to secure the freedom and the right of same-sex couples to enter into legally-recognized civil marriage, having all the federal and state benefits and responsibilities which that entails; and

WHEREAS, MECA is sponsoring the Marriage Equality Express, an educational outreach bus caravan leaving Oakland on October 4, 2004, and arriving in Washington, D.C. on October 11, 2004; and

WHEREAS, 47 riders on the caravan include 7 Oakland residents; and

WHEREAS, this caravan will stop in 14 cities along the route where riders will show the human faces of same-sex marriage, share resources with cities' local leaders, participate in local rallies, fundraisers, and community events, and create optimism and a united movement that will help defeat the Federal Marriage Amendment, overturn Don't Ask Don't Tell, repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, and pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act;

WHEREAS, the Marriage Equality Express will be the focus of a documentary film called An American Quest; and

WHEREAS, the caravan hopes to create networks and coalitions of people working to achieve marriage equality and immigration equality for same-sex couples; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council congratulates the Marriage Equality Express on its cross-country educational expedition and declares that October 4, 2004, is Marriage Equality Express Day in Oakland, California.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, SEP 21 2004, 19

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, DE LA FUENTE, NADEL, ~~WAN~~, REID, WAN - 7

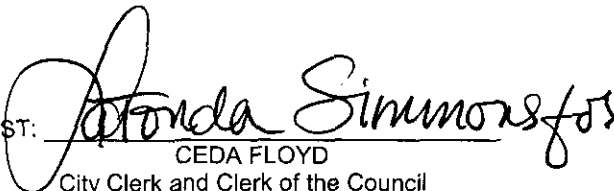
NOES- 0

ABSENT- 0

ABSTENTION- 0

Excused - Quan - 1

ATTEST:


CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
Of the City of Oakland, California