

RESOLUTION NO. 608

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has held more than a dozen times that marriage is a key right of the American people and in the 1967 landmark case *Loving v. Virginia* (388 U.S. 1, 1967), Chief Justice Warren, writing for the majority, stated that “[t]he freedom to marry has long been recognized as one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men”; and

WHEREAS, federal courts in California have ruled that California’s Proposition 8, which stripped marriage rights from same-sex couples, violates the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, federal courts in Massachusetts, California, New York, and Connecticut have ruled that the federal government’s refusal to recognize lawful marriages of same-sex couples under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional; and

WHEREAS, the Obama administration announced on February 23, 2011 that the U.S. Justice Department would no longer defend DOMA’s denial of federal recognition to married same-sex couples in federal court; and

WHEREAS, more than 175 mayors from 32 states have signed a petition in support of marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eureka Springs already has proudly and publicly embraced the diversity of all its residents and its visitors by adopting in 2007 (1) Ordinance 2052 that created the State’s first Domestic Partnership Registry; and (2) Ordinance 2061 that amended the City’s Personnel Policy Handbook to include sexual orientation in its equal employment opportunity policy and in its unlawful harassment policy; and

WHEREAS, marriage provides legal and economic protections including access to health care, parenting rights, property rights, and other protections which are vital to the safety and security of every family; and

WHEREAS, marriage is a powerful and important affirmation of love and commitment and a source of social support and recognition; and

WHEREAS, all couples in loving and committed relationships should be given the opportunity to create stronger and more successful families through civil marriage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, THAT:

We support marriage equality in the State of Arkansas and throughout the United States.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS THE 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2012.

ATTEST:



Ann Armstrong
City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED:



Morris Pate
Mayor

Aldermen voting "Aye" – Butch Berry, Karen Lindblad, James DeVito, and Parker Raphael
Alderman voting "Present" – Ken Pownall