

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

**Proclamation No. 12-0119**

**In support of Senate Bill 12-002, Concerning Authorization of Civil Unions**

**WHEREAS**, civil unions provide committed couples access to important legal protections and equal application of the law; thus, empowering couples to share in the responsibilities and benefits in Colorado law that most families take for granted; this legislation creates the process for forming and dissolving civil unions, and specifies the provisions of existing Colorado law that will apply to those making this commitment; and

**WHEREAS**, a civil union is a form of state-level relationship recognition that provides same-sex couples with critical legal protections typically only extended to married couples including access to medical information and decision making, the ability to arrange proceedings related to a partner's death, the right to be placed in the same room in a nursing home, access to health care and insurance coverage, inheritance without a will, the ability to change names, legal clarity if raising children, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, Denver has long provided the fullest level of equality that can be provided to committed couples at the local level through a non-discrimination ordinance, a Domestic Partnership registry, and provision of benefits to partners of city-employees without regard to the sex of the partner; and

**WHEREAS**, the US Census counted at least 3,705 committed same sex couples in Denver, and there are countless other residents who would be impacted by this law who are not yet adequately counted in the census, all of whom are without the protections afforded to other couples in state law; and

**WHEREAS**, these couples need the legal protections that civil unions provide as they face the worries of everyday life; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for civil unions affects members of all communities and crosses the lines of all ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, while we recognize that the State of Colorado currently does not allow marriage between same-sex couples, we strongly support civil unions in order to provide comprehensive protections to same-sex couples.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That Denver City Council supports the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 12-002, The Colorado Civil Union Act, in support of comprehensive protections to same-sex couples.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that copies be transmitted to Senator Pat Steadman, Governor Hickenlooper, One Colorado, and the Denver GLBT Commission.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL February 13, 2012

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PRESIDENT