



**TOWN OF FAIRFAX
STAFF REPORT
March 4, 2015**

TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk
SUBJECT: Authorize Mayor to join amicus brief to be submitted to the US Supreme Court in support of Freedom to Marry

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to join the amicus brief to be submitted to the US Supreme Court in support of the freedom to marry

DISCUSSION

Mayor Coler asked that this matter be added to the agenda for consideration by the Council. The letter from the co-chairs of the Mayors for the Freedom to Marry requesting Fairfax participation is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

ATTACHMENT

Letter requesting support

AGENDA ITEM # 1

From: Kirsten Lance [mailto:kirsten@freedomtomarry.org]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 1:32 PM
To: dweinsonoff@townoffairfax.org
Subject: Supreme Court Amicus Brief for Mayors

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	Eric Garcetti	Michael Nutter
Mayor of San Diego	Mayor of Los Angeles	Mayor of Philadelphia

Annise Parker	Kasim Reed	Greg Stanton
Mayor of Houston	Mayor of Atlanta	Mayor of Phoenix

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Kirsten Lance
Federal Program Associate
Freedom to Marry