



Correspondence

Meeting of November 6, 2007

1. **Item # 28 Appeal of Marconi Juliesse Estates (P06-154)**
 - a. Correspondence
 1. Catherine Munsee, Ben Ali Community Association

2. **Closed Session: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples**
 - a. Correspondence
 1. Alice Kessler, Government affairs Director, Equality California
 2. Tina A Thomas, James G Moose, Whitman F Manely, Andrea K Leisy, Tiffany K Wright, Sabrina V Teller, Ashle T Crocker-Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley, LLP
 3. Michele A Tong
 4. Matthew C Tabarangao
 5. Miriam Childs
 6. Kinna P Crocker
 7. Ashle T Crocker
 8. Patricia Palmer
 9. Paige Santana
 10. Kinna Croker and Lysa Twardosz, Sacramento Co-Chapter Leaders Marriage Equality USA
 11. Kathryn Cotter
 12. Chris Butcher
 13. Laura M Harris
 14. Patricia L Nelson, Northern California Family Law Group
 15. Courney Friehe
 16. Dave Jones, Assembly Member, 9th District
 17. Stephanie Baker, Realtor
 18. Mike Whiteside
 19. Rebecca Dose and Kathryn Bassett
 20. Connie Bunch and Terry Carter
 21. Shireen Miles
 22. Jerry Houseman
 23. Mark Peters and Frank IvanPal, Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
 24. Fred Palmer, Outword Magazine-Publisher/CEO; President Rainbow Chamber of Commerce and Board Member WEAVE

Item 28
(1-a1)

From: "Catherine Munsee" <CMunsee@thegregorygroup.com>
To: "Sue Brown" <SBrown@cityofsacramento.org>, <scohn@cityofsacramento.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 1, 2007 10:04 AM
Subject: RE: Ben Ali - Juliesse Estates

Good Morning Sue and Councilmember Cohn:

Thank you for your emails. Councilmember Cohn, I wanted to be sure that you understand that the Association has worked diligently with city agencies at finding ways to improve our neighborhood, that we met with the developer on multiple occasions, that during those meetings we provided three or four alternatives to his current project proposal, that we presented information to the Planning Commission on two separate occasions and that the Planning Commission denied this project because it is not a good fit for our neighborhood. It simply doesn't comply with city standards, the direction the city has indicated it is heading with the General Plan Update or the current Infill Strategy adopted by the city in 2004. In terms of compromise, with all due respect, you are coming to the conversation late in the game when the rest of the participants have already been engaged in a good-faith effort to come to a meeting of the minds. That has not been successful and so the process whereby development applications are reviewed and either approved or denied has occurred. This project has been denied by the Commission holding the responsibility for vetting applications made to City Planning.

We had two members of our Association present during the meeting with the developer and you and both came away with the impression that you were going to recommend approval of the application because you feel that this particular development is better than the lot remaining in its current condition. We, who live in the neighborhood, vehemently disagree that development for development's sake is a preferable alternative to leaving the site as is thereby creating a new opportunity for a future developer to come in and create a project that adds, rather than detracts, from our existing neighborhood. Currently, the lot has been cleaned up and fenced so there is no illegal dumping and leaving the lot vacant assists with the horrendous flooding issues experienced by the residents on Juliesse Avenue. In fact, that is a major objection to the project as it has been submitted - the footprints of the homes leave little open space increasing the potential for flooding adjacent to the project site as well as across the street where the homeowner has stated he already faces issues of water incursion into his garage during the heavy rainy season. We presented information to the Planning Commission which demonstrated existing ditches are inadequate in dealing with the winter rain run-off at this particular location. And, again, I would refer you to Desmond Parrington's assertion that infill development is not intended to add to the challenges facing an existing neighborhood. This particular development would add to those challenges while leaving the lot vacant would continue to help ameliorate the result of inadequate drainage on Juliesse by providing a larger permeable surface area.

In an ideal world Ben Ali, forty years after being annexed, would not be facing the choice of bad (leaving the lot vacant) or worse (approving the current development application). We agree that continued blight in our neighborhood is a shame. It is a shame that the Association has been working diligently for the past two years to eradicate and we do feel very positively that we are headed in the right direction as a result of our most recent meeting with Planners, both short-term and long-range. We are excited about the prospect of the SNAP program and the implications for our neighborhood. We remain committed to surveying our community as an initial step toward assessing ourselves for infrastructure improvements and my recent meeting with Mark Griffin was extremely helpful in terms of how that process works. We have not yet accepted that alternative funding sources, whether private or public, are unavailable to us and continue to conduct research for potential funding sources. We are very appreciative of your assistance in finding funds for increased street lighting and hope that our continued partnership will create additional opportunities for positive change in our community.

As I stated in my earlier email, I am surveying the Ben Ali Neighborhood and will provide statistics that support our objection to the current application. I remain very available to answer any questions you may have about this specific application so that you have the tools you need to better advocate for this particular neighborhood in this particular instance during next Tuesday's Council Meeting.

Again, thank you for your emails.

Sincerely,

Catherine Munsee

Ben Ali Community Association

(916) 719-7035

From: Sue Brown [mailto:SBrown@cityofsacramento.org]
Sent: Thursday, November 01, 2007 8:47 AM
To: Catherine Munsee
Cc: reitz@2xtreme.net; lebreuxl@aol.com;
jmartindale@cityofsacramento.com; fkerridge@cityofsacramento.org;
Heather Fargo; Liz Brenner; Mark Griffin; sal_reyes@dca.ca.gov; Mara;
funyun501@juno.com; Marilyn.B.Aldridge@kp.org; kaleniks@netzero.com;
packratgrandma@sbcglobal.net

Subject: Re: Ben Ali - Juliesse Estates

Good morning Catherine,

I shared your email with Councilman Cohn. Given I was not present at the meeting on the above subject and had not heard all of the issues and comments, I thought Steve should respond. You asked if you should contact other council members on this issue. It never hurts to contact the Mayor and other members to let them know in advance your perspective on the upcoming issues. Below is a note from Councilman Cohn.

Dear Catherine:

I have read your email to Sue Brown. You can email me directly. I actually read the emails sent to my office. Contrary to your assumption, I have not decided what to do with the Juliesse Estates project. I still have an open mind. I was trying to find a compromise, but so far have been unsuccessful. It would be a shame to leave the current blighted condition there for much longer, but that may happen if the applicant, who is a school teacher, cannot finance the project. I am continuing to explore options. I look forward to working with you and the neighborhood on the SNAP and other projects, even if we occasionally disagree on a particular issue. Hopefully, more times than not, we'll agree.

Steve

Sue Brown
District Director to Councilman Cohn
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 808-7235
Fax: (916) 808-8546
sbrown@cityofsacramento.org

>>> "Catherine Munsee" <CMunsee@thegregorygroup.com> Friday, October 26, 2007 9:39 AM >>>

Good Morning, Sue:

Councilmember Cohn met with representatives of the Ben Ali Community Association, additional members of the neighborhood and the developer of the Julesse Estates project earlier this week.

The Association is opposed to the project and yet Councilmember Cohn plans to advise approval of the project at the November 6th appeal at the City Council meeting. The association is preparing a presentation that we think will argue against the advisability of allowing this type of development to continue in our neighborhood and we will rely on statistics such as: average home size in Ben Ali, average lot size and density. In addition, we plan to present the General Plan land use designation as an argument against this type of high density development in a neighborhood that is ultimately (within a year) going to be designated what it actually is: a medium density suburban 4-8 units per acre. We have information from design review personnel within the city that suggests that this project is inappropriate for this area.

On Wednesday evening Desmond Parrington, the infill coordinator for the City of Sacramento, gave a presentation to the City Planning Academy. At that time Mr. Parrington stated that infill development is not supposed to add to the challenges already facing a neighborhood but is meant to contribute in a positive way to the livability of the existing community. There are many public iterations of this sentiment published by the City and we believe strongly that this project violates those published policy intentions.

This is the second development project that Councilmember Cohn has supported in spite of the opposition from the Neighborhood Association. We would like to know what we can do to provide Councilmember Cohn additional information so that he can more adequately represent our needs at City Council.

We plan to forward all documents that will be presented to the City Council on November 6th once we have finalized those preparations to your office. Because support from our Councilmember on this issue is uncertain to oppositional, we are now wondering whether it might not be in our best interests to also begin educating and lobbying the rest of the Council and Mayor so that when we do appear on November 6th, we may increase our chances of a fair hearing regarding this particular project.

From a larger perspective and the long-term goal of working closely with the Councilmember to improve our neighborhood, the lack of support from the Councilmember regarding these development issues seems to obstruct our neighborhood's long-term goals and we are very open to discussing how we can work collaboratively to remove those obstructions.

Additionally, there is a lot of excitement about the General Plan and the cutting edge nature of land use to try to address the slogan of creating the most livable, walkable city. How does approving cookie-cutter type infill that adds to existing challenges and that does not integrate well with the surrounding neighborhood fit in with that forward momentum? We have already been told by City officials that another ill-conceived, but approved project (Frienza Estates) was an oops. We are now living with that mistake and trying to prevent additional errors in development decision-making from being implemented prior to the adoption and implementation of the General Plan (which we feel will provide more protection than the current zoning does). We will, ultimately, need a Councilmember who is on our side and is able to represent the interests of the neighbors he has been elected to represent.

As always, we remain committed to the positive collaboration between city and neighborhood and I hope to hear from you regarding these issues at your convenience.

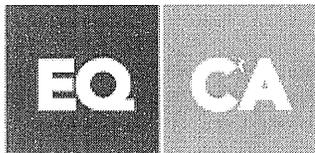
Sincerely,

Catherine Munsee

Ben Ali Community Association

(916) 719-7035

CC: <reitz@2xtreme.net>, <lebreuxl@aol.com>, <jmartindale@cityofsacramento.org>, <rkerridge@cityofsacramento.org>, <hfargo@cityofsacramento.org>, <lbrenner@cityofsacramento.org>, <mgriffin@cityofsacramento.org>, <sal_reyes@dca.ca.gov>, <maracenters@jps.net>, <funyun501@juno.com>, <Marilyn.B.Aldridge@kp.org>, <kaleniks@netzero.com>, <packratgrandma@sbcglobal.net>



Equality California | eqca.org

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 CITY OF SACRAMENTO
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 1127 11th St., Suite 208
 Sacramento, CA 95814
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October 29, 2007

Mayor and City Councilmembers
 915 I Street, 5th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Equality California (EQCA) wholeheartedly supports the freedom to marry for same sex couples. We write to urge your support by signing the amicus brief in defense of same sex marriage, filed by nineteen cities and counties in California this month. Your support will help to protect religious freedom while ensuring equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples by allowing them to marry. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, in order for them to see that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California as believers in equality under the law. EQCA is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots-based, statewide advocacy organization whose mission is to achieve the civil rights and equality of all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Californians.

In 1948, the California Supreme Court became the first state court in the country to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriage before the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated all such laws in 1967. The California Supreme Court held that "marriage is . . . something more than a civil contract subject to regulation by the state; it is a fundamental right...legislation infringing such rights must be based upon more than prejudice and must be free from oppressive discrimination to comply with the constitutional requirements of due process and equal protection of the laws." We are hopeful that the California Supreme Court will, once again, be a leader by striking down the current discriminatory marriage laws. We need your support in order for this to happen.

As the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found, "The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is seldom, if ever, equal." A bill that falls short of marriage equality makes for "unconstitutional, inferior, and discriminatory status for same-sex couples." As you are well aware, though domestic partnerships provide tangible benefits for couples in California, they, by their nature, set up a separate and unequal system for gay and lesbian people.

All Californians deserve access to this civil institution that provides a myriad of rights and responsibilities not currently afforded to domestic partners, including social security benefits, family and medical leave, joint income tax filing, and thousands of Federal benefits, without regard to their gender or sexual orientation.

Equality California supports both religious freedom and fair, equal treatment of lesbian and gay couples under the law. Please join us as we make history together by agreeing to sign the amicus brief and showing your constituents and the people of California that Sacramento stands on the side of equality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alice Kessler', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alice Kessler
Government Affairs Director
Equality California

REMY, THOMAS, MOOSE and MANLEY, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

2a-2

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ANDREA K. LEISY
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LAURA M. HARRIS
KATHRYN C. COTTER
COURTNEY K. FRIEH

October 26, 2007

HAND DELIVERED

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Our firm wholeheartedly supports the freedom to marry for same sex couples. We write to you to urge your support by signing the amicus brief in support of same sex marriage, filed by nineteen cities and counties in California this month. We are aware that the City Attorney recently removed this issue from your agenda, due to the lack of sufficient analysis and noncompliance with particular notice requirements. We are encouraged, however, that the issue will be on your agenda soon for consideration. Your support will help to protect religious freedom while ensuring equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples by allowing them to marry. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, in order for them to see that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California as believers in equality under the law.

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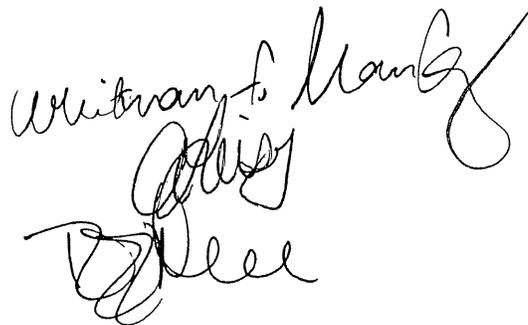
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Sincerely,



Remy, Thomas, Moose and Manley, LLP

Tina A. Thomas
James G. Moose
Whitman F. Manley
Andrea K. Leisy
Tiffany K. Wright
Sabrina V. Teller
Ashle T. Crocker



FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

29-3

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Sincerely,



Michele A. Tong
2733 Macon Way
Sacramento, CA 95835

FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

2a-11

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915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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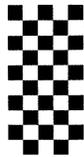
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Sincerely,


Kathryn Cottler
2211 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

[Your Name and Address or City/District]



29-5

RECEIVED
MAYOR/COUNCIL OFFICE
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

2007 OCT 26 A 11:52

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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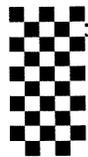
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Sincerely,

Miriam Childs
6018 3rd Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95817



FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

2a-6

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Strcct, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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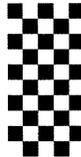
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My wife and I hope to have your support (we know that our own district member, Kevin McCarty, is supportive and we thank him). We are both attorneys in Sacramento and spend many hours working toward equality for our community and hope that Sacramento will stand with us.

Sincerely,

Kinna P. Crocker
6120 4th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817

 FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

29-7

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RECEIVED
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CITY OF SACRAMENTO
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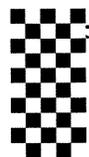
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Sincerely,



Ashle T. Crocker
6120 4th Avenue
Sacramento, CA
95817



2a-8

FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I wholeheartedly support the freedom to marry for same sex couples. I write to you today to urge your support by signing the amicus brief in support of same sex marriage, filed by nineteen cities and counties in California this month. I am aware that the City Attorney recently removed this issue from your agenda, due to the lack of sufficient analysis and noncompliance with particular notice requirements. I am encouraged, however, that the issue will be on your agenda soon for consideration. Your support will help to protect religious freedom while ensuring equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples by allowing them to marry. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, in order for them to see that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California as believers in equality under the law.

In 1948, the California Supreme Court became the first state court in the country to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriage before the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated all such laws in 1967. The California Supreme Court held that "marriage is . . . something more than a civil contract subject to regulation by the state; it is a fundamental right...legislation infringing such rights must be based upon more than prejudice and must be free from oppressive discrimination to comply with the constitutional requirements of due process and equal protection of the laws." I am hopeful that the California Supreme Court will, once again, be a leader by striking down the current discriminatory marriage laws. Your support is important in order for this to happen.

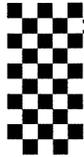
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All Californians deserve access to this civil institution that provides a myriad of rights and responsibilities not currently afforded to domestic partners, including social security benefits, family and medical leave, joint income tax filing, and thousands of Federal benefits, without regard to their gender or sexual orientation.

I, as well as many of my friends and family, support both religious freedom and fair, equal treatment of lesbian and gay couples under the law. Please join me as we make history together by agreeing to sign the amicus brief and showing your constituents and the people of California that Sacramento stands on the side of equality.

Sincerely,

Patricia Palmer
2548 Walnut Avenue, #15
Carmichael, CA 95608



FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

2a-9

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

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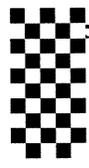
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Sincerely,

Paige Santana
7855 Cottonwood Lane #147
Sacramento, CA 95828
916.688.7942



2a-10

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Strcet, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

Our organization wholeheartedly supports the freedom to marry for same sex couples. We represent over 1,000 Sacramento residents. We write to you to urge your support by signing the amicus brief in support of same sex marriage, filed by nineteen cities and counties in California this month. We are aware that the City Attorney recently removed this issue from your agenda, due to the lack of sufficient analysis and noncompliance with particular notice requirements. We are encouraged, however, that the issue will be on your agenda soon for consideration. Your support will help to protect religious freedom while ensuring equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples by allowing them to marry. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, in order for them to see that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California as believers in equality under the law.

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Sincerely,

Kinna Crocker and Lysa Twardosz
Sacramento Co-Chapter Leaders
Marriage Equality USA
www.marriageequality.org
916.284.3680

FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

2a-11

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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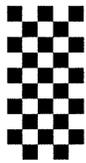
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Sincerely,

Kathryn Cottler
2211 V Street
Sacramento, CA 95818

[Your Name and Address or City/District]



FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

2a-12

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Butcher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chris Butcher
2518 P Street
Apt. 3
Sacramento, CA 95816

FAX TO: (916) 264-7680

29-13

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief In Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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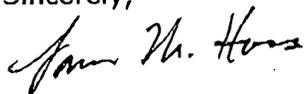
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Sincerely,



Laura M. Harris
1058 Dolores Way
Sacramento, CA 95816
District 3

29-14

RECEIVED
CITY/COUNCIL OFFICE
CITY OF SACRAMENTO

2007 OCT 29 A 8:41

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY LAW GROUP
LITIGATION & MEDIATION

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

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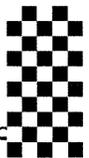
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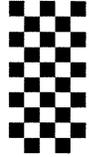
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Sincerely,
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY LAW GROUP
Patricia L. Nelson, owner

5703 Folkston Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95819
T: 916.498.1210
F: 916.498.0127
pnelson@sacramentoattorneys.net
www.sacramentoattorneys.net





Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

29-15

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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Sincerely,

Courtney Frie
9455 Mira del Rio Drive
Sacramento, CA 95827
916.529.0338

2a-16

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0009
(916) 319-2009
FAX (916) 319-2109

DISTRICT OFFICE
915 L STREET, SUITE 110
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 324-4678
FAX (916) 327-3338

E-MAIL:
assemblymember.jones@assembly.ca.gov

WEB:
www.assembly.ca.gov/jones

Assembly California Legislature



DAVE JONES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, NINTH DISTRICT
CHAIR, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

- CHAIR
- JUDICIARY
- COMMITTEES
- AGRICULTURE
- BUDGET
- HEALTH
- UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
- SUBCOMMITTEE
- BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
- SELECT COMMITTEES
- FOSTER CARE
- GROWTH MANAGEMENT
- RAIL TRANSPORTATION
- YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

November 1, 2007

cms ; clerk copied

Mayor and City Councilmembers
Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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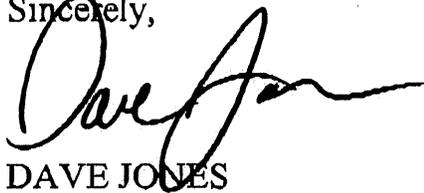
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Sincerely,



DAVE JONES

Assembly Member, 9th District

cc: Senator Christine Kehoe
Senator Sheila Kuehl
Senator Carole Migden
Assembly Member John Laird
Assembly Member Mark Leno
Jackie Goldberg
CAPPAC
Stonewall Club of Sacramento
Lambda Letters Project
Equality California

29-17

Mayor Heather Fargo
Councilmember Rob Fong
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor Fargo & Councilmember Fong,

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Sincerely,

STEPHANIE BAKER
Realtor & Community Member since 1990
4721 S Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822

29-18

Mayor Heather Fargo
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Honorable Mayor Fargo,,

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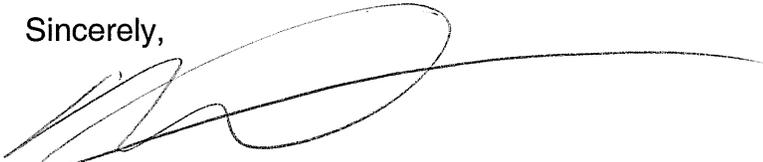
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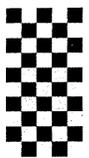
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Whiteside', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Whiteside
4631 South Land Park Dr.
Sacramento, CA 95822



October 29, 2007

2a-19

Cms copied
Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

We wholeheartedly support the freedom to marry for same sex couples. We write to you today to urge your support by signing the amicus brief in support of same sex marriage, filed by nineteen cities and counties in California this month. We are aware that the City Attorney recently removed this issue from your agenda, due to the lack of sufficient analysis and noncompliance with particular notice requirements. We are encouraged, however, that the issue will be on your agenda soon for consideration. Your support will help to protect religious freedom while ensuring equal treatment under the law for same-sex couples by allowing them to marry. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, in order for them to see that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California as believers in equality under the law.

In 1948, the California Supreme Court became the first state court in the country to strike down a law prohibiting interracial marriage before the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated all such laws in 1967. The California Supreme Court held that "marriage is . . . something more than a civil contract subject to regulation by the state; it is a fundamental right...legislation infringing such rights must be based upon more than prejudice and must be free from oppressive discrimination to comply with the constitutional requirements of due process and equal protection of the laws." We are hopeful that the California Supreme Court will, once again, be a leader by striking down the current discriminatory marriage laws. Your support is important in order for this to happen.

As the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court found, "The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is seldom, if ever, equal." A bill that falls short of marriage equality makes for "unconstitutional, inferior, and discriminatory status for same-sex couples." As you are well aware, though domestic partnerships provide tangible benefits for couples in California, they, by their nature, set up a separate and unequal system for gay and lesbian people.

All Californians deserve access to this civil institution that provides a myriad of rights and responsibilities not currently afforded to domestic partners, including social security benefits, family and medical leave, joint income tax filing, and thousands of Federal benefits, without regard to their gender or sexual orientation.

We, as well as many of our friends and family, support both religious freedom and fair, equal treatment of lesbian and gay couples under the law. Please join us as we make history together by agreeing to sign the amicus brief and showing your constituents and the people of California that Sacramento stands on the side of equality.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dose and Kathryn Bassett
4941 7th Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 739-1158

CMS copied

2a-20

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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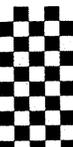
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Sincerely,



Connie Bunch and Terry Carter
4805 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95822



2a-21

**Shireen Miles
4935 Thor Way
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 972-0322**

Mayor Heather Fargo and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief in Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

When the issue comes before you, I urge you to vote in favor of the Sacramento City Council signing the amicus brief on same sex marriage filed by nineteen cities and counties in California. The California Supreme Court needs to hear from you, so they know that Sacramento joins many other cities and counties in California supporting equality under the law for all their residents.

The right to marry has always been a cornerstone of civil rights law. When slaves were denied the right to marry, famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass wrote: *“What is to be thought of a nation boasting of its liberty, boasting of its humanity, boasting of its Christianity, boasting of its love of justice and purity, and yet having within its own borders three millions of persons denied by law the right of marriage?”*

I am one of the many U.S. citizens denied the right to marry my partner of almost fifteen years. Besides loving and supporting each other, we have adopted a child, we work, we are active members of a local church, we volunteer in our community, pay taxes, own a nice home and vote. We have registered our domestic partnership, created a family trust, done everything legally available to us to protect each other and our daughter, but under current law, our lifetime commitment to each other cannot be recognized or protected.

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Please agree to sign the amicus brief and show your constituents and the people of California that Sacramento stands on the side of equality. I ask you to think of our family and the many others like it in Sacramento when you cast your vote.

Sincerely,

Shireen Miles



Mayor and City Council members
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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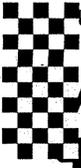
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As a Unitarian/Universalist both religious freedom and fair, equal treatment of lesbian and gay couples under the law. Please agree to sign the amicus brief and show your constituents and the people of California that Sacramento stands on the side of equality.

Sincerely,

142 Lido Court
Sacramento CA 95826

 **Mark Peters and Frank IvanPal**
4701 Crestwood Way
Sacramento, CA 95822

2a-23

Mayor and City Council Members
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Amicus Brief In Support of Marriage Equality for Same Sex Couples

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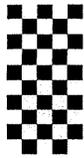
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Sincerely,



Mark Peters and Frank IvanPal
Rainbow Chamber of Commerce



2a-24

Mayor and City Councilmembers
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Fred Palmer
Outword Magazine - Publisher / CEO
President Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
Board Member WEAVE