

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING**

### **A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO NORTH CAROLINA'S STATE CONSTITUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Community Vision for Mecklenburg County includes for people who live in the county that “We will have respect for and will celebrate the diversity of and promote equality of opportunity for all our citizens;” and

**WHEREAS**, Mecklenburg County includes at least 3,385 same-sex couples and has the highest number of same-sex couples among North Carolina counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Mecklenburg County has adopted a policy of promoting equal rights and opportunities for employees of Mecklenburg County without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, age or sexual orientation.

**WHEREAS**, the Mecklenburg County has adopted a policy of extending equal health care benefits to Mecklenburg County Government employees who are in same-sex domestic partnerships; and

**WHEREAS**, this Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners recognizes that some local and national companies doing business in Mecklenburg County extend equal health care benefits to employees in same-sex relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 8, 2012, the people of North Carolina will vote on Amendment One, a proposed amendment to the North Carolina State Constitution that would prohibit marriage between people of the same sex, and further prohibit the recognition of any other form of domestic legal union; and

**WHEREAS**, Since North Carolina Law already defines marriage as between a man and a woman, the proposed amendment would only serve to express hostility against a minority group; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed language of Amendment One is vague and ambiguous and will thereby invite litigation that will require extensive judicial resources to be devoted to resolving these avoidable legal disputes; and

**WHEREAS**, this uncertainty will have broad legal impacts for all households where the residents are not married, and

**WHEREAS**, the adoption of such a Constitutional amendment is inconsistent with the County's commitment to equal rights and opportunities for its residents and employees and could invalidate Mecklenburg County's domestic partner benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, Mecklenburg County proudly embraces the diversity of its residents; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners that:

- 1) The Board of County Commissioners opposes Amendment One.
- 2) The Board of County Commissioners urges North Carolina voters to vote against the proposed Amendment One on May 8, 2012.
- 3) Whether Amendment One passes or fails on May 8, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners

reaffirms its commitment to equal rights and opportunities for County employees and for all residents and families of Mecklenburg County, including the rights of same-sex couples to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.

4) This resolution shall be effective upon its passage, and shall be shared with the members of Mecklenburg County's General Assembly delegation, the Governor and members of the news media.

Adopted the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

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Clerk to the Board