



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, on August 21, 2014, Judge Robert L. Hinkle of the Southern District of Florida held that Florida's ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional and the United States Supreme Court declined to extend the stay as requested by Attorney General Pam Bondi and state courts throughout Florida likewise held the ban unconstitutional; and
- WHEREAS, effective January 6, 2015 at 12:01 am, the Monroe County Clerk of Courts began issuing same-sex marriage licenses; this is a day of joyous celebration for countless same-sex couples who have waited far too long for the right to marry the person they love; and
- WHEREAS, Florida will finally recognize same-sex couples and their families and give them the protections and security they deserve; and Floridians should be proud that the ban on same-sex marriage is over, and we are so pleased to close this chapter of discrimination in our State; and
- WHEREAS, as of this day, same-sex couples have the rights, responsibilities and privileges that are shared by all married couples in the State of Florida; and
- WHEREAS, Key West has always been a leader throughout the State in all manner of inclusion and equal treatment; and we respect the work of Equality Florida securing justice and equality for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and bringing to the State of Florida what Key West has in abundance; and
- WHEREAS, we applaud Key West residents Aaron Huntsman and William "Lee" Jones for their heroic and courageous leadership in representing the mission of marriage equality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, Commissioner Teri Johnston and Commissioner Jimmy Weekley, do hereby proclaim **Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

Marriage Equality Day

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States, We would like to urge all citizens, residents and visitors of our Southernmost City to join together in celebration of this momentous occasion.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 6th day of January 2015.

Jimmy Weekley, CITY COMMISSIONER

Teri Johnston, CITY COMMISSIONER

Craig Cates, MAYOR