

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
KEY WEST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY;
URGING THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO STOP OPPOSING
MARRIAGE EQUALITY THROUGH THE COURTS; PROVIDING
FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, the City of Key West strives to protect the equal rights of all its residents without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West derives great strength from the diversity of its residents, employees and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the lack of access to marriage under the laws of the State of Florida deprives members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community of benefits and responsibilities afforded to heterosexual couples, including spousal social security and pension benefits, tax equity, and medical decision-making authority; and

WHEREAS, domestic partnership and civil union laws bring welcome recognition to same-sex couples and their families, but marriage remains the most widely accepted and best legal mechanism for protecting these families; and

WHEREAS, The state of Florida is using taxpayer money to defend the discrimination of same sex couples; and

WHEREAS, Key West residents William Lee Jones and Aaron Huntsman are plaintiffs in Marriage Equality Law suit; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that an end to Florida's discriminatory prohibition on same sex marriage would enhance the welfare of the residents of Key West, and across the United States; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City Commission of the City of Key West believes in equal access to legal marriage for same-sex couples, and opposes laws and constitutional amendments that deny equal access to legal marriage for same-sex couples.

Section 2. That the City Commission of the City of Key West urges Florida Governor Rick Scott and Attorney General Pam Bondi to stand with the residents of Key West and support marriage equality by halting the use of taxpayer dollars to defend Florida's discriminatory constitutional amendment Article 1, Section 27, through Florida courts.

Section 3. That the City Commission of the City of Key West hereby resolves to join the City of Miami Beach, City of Orlando, City of St. Petersburg, City of Wilton Manors, and Village of Biscayne Park in their amicus brief in support of marriage equality in Florida.

Section 4. That the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Monroe County Legislative Delegation and to Governor Rick Scott.

Section 5: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2014.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2014.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Mark Rossi	_____
Commissioner Teri Johnston	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____
Commissioner Tony Yaniz	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK