December XX, 2013

**WHEREAS**, the Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution states that "No State shall . . . deny to any person . . . the equal protection of the laws"; and

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Sections 3 of the Texas Constitution Bill of Rights states that "All free men . . . have equal rights"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court of the United States in United States v. Windsor held Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act to be unconstitutional and that the federal government is obligated to recognize same-sex marriages approved under state law, and stated that marriage is a "far-reaching legal acknowledgement of the intimate relationship between two people"; and

**WHEREAS**, same-sex marriages are legal in California, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington; and

**WHEREAS**, Dallas City Code Section 2-17.3 states that the City of Dallas will not discriminate because of a person's race, color, age, religion, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, political opinions, or affiliation; and

**WHEREAS**, marriage provides legal and economic protections that are vital to the stability of every family; and

**WHEREAS**, marriage provides social recognition of the love and commitment of two individuals; Now, Therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:**

**Section 1**.  That the City of Dallas is in favor of extending civil marriage to same-sex couples.

**Section 2**.  That the City of Dallas urges the Texas Legislature to extend the same legal rights and privileges of marriage to same-sex couples that are given to other couples.

**Section 3**.  That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WARREN M. S. ERNST, Interim City Attorney


By _____
          Assistant City Attorney