

# PROCLAMATION

## SUPPORTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY FOR SAME SEX COUPLES IN NEW JERSEY

<b>WHEREAS</b>	The Township of Montclair has a long and rich history and tradition of supporting and promoting the civil rights of all its people and its families; and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	In 2004 New Jersey became the fifth state in the nation to recognize Domestic Partnership; and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	In December 2006 the New Jersey Legislature approved civil unions for same sex couples and in February 2007, under the Civil Union Act, Montclair was among one of the first New Jersey municipalities to issue civil union licenses; and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	The New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission issued its Final Report on December 10, 2008 stating unequivocally, “We, the thirteen members of the New Jersey Civil Union Review Commission, unanimously issue this final report, containing a set of recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New Jersey. After eighteen public meetings, 26 hours of oral testimony and hundreds of pages of written submission from more than 150 witnesses, this Commission finds that the separate categorization established by the Civil Union Act invites and encourages unequal treatment of same-sex couples and their children.”; and
<b>WHEREAS</b>	Since the adoption of New Jersey’s Civil Union Act, six states – Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire - have enacted laws allowing for same sex marriage; now therefore
<b>BE IT RESOLVED</b> that the Mayor and Council of the Township of Montclair does hereby publicly state their support for marriage equality and call upon the New Jersey Legislature to enact legislation making same sex marriages legal in the State of New Jersey and upon Governor Jon Corzine to sign such legislation once passed; and	
<b>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that a copy of this proclamation be sent to Montclair’s representatives in the New Jersey State Assembly and Senate, Governor Corzine, the New Jersey League of Municipalities and the New Jersey Conference of Mayors.	

Attest: November 10, 2009

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Jerry Fried, Mayor

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Roger Terry, Deputy Mayor

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Kathryn Weller, Councilor-at-Large

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Rich Murnick, First Ward Councilor

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Cary Africk, Second Ward Councilor

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Nick Lewis, Third Ward Councilor

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Renée E. Baskerville, Fourth Ward Councilor

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Linda S. Wanat, Township Clerk, Montclair, N.J.