

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS  
December 12, 2006**

**Commission Endorses Same Sex Marriage**

**Resolution 2006 12 12 (2)**

(12/12/06)

**WHEREAS**, by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights was created; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Civil Rights is charged under the law with consulting and advising the Attorney General with respect to the work of the Division on Civil Rights, surveying, studying the operations of the Division, and reporting to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to such matters relating to the work of the Division and at such times as it may deem in the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature has historically shown extraordinary leadership and vision in protecting the civil rights of the citizenry of New Jersey by enacting the first state wide civil rights law charging the Division on Civil Rights with preventing and ending discrimination in New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, New Jersey is seen as one of the “safe havens” for protecting people from discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature acted to protect people from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations based on affectional or sexual orientation by amending the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination in 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognized in 2004 that same sex couples deserved additional protection by passing the Domestic Partnership Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Supreme Court has ruled that state lawmakers must provide the full rights and benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature and the Supreme Court recognize the equal rights and obligations of gays and lesbians of New Jersey; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this date, December 12, 2006 by the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights that the Members of the Commission hereby urge passage and fully endorse “civil marriage” as the formal language to be used in conferring full marital rights to same sex couples; and enact passage of such legislation as soon as possible so that the civil rights of more New Jerseyans are protected; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Division shall ensure that a copy of this Resolution is transmitted to the Legislative leadership, Attorney General, and the Governor.

*Passed by the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights on December 12, 2006.*