



Agenda Report

February 7, 2000

TO: City Council
THROUGH: Legislative Committee

FROM: Human Relations Commission

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposition 22: The Protection of Marriage Initiative.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Publicly oppose Proposition 22, The Protection of Marriage Initiative which is scheduled to appear on the statewide ballot on March 7, 2000.
2. Adopt the resolution from the City of Pasadena Human Relations Commission, which opposes the subject Initiative.

BACKGROUND

California law currently defines marriage as between a man and a woman. But marriages performed in other states are generally recognized as valid in California. Because several state courts, including Vermont, are close to ruling in favor of same-gender marriage, Proposition 22 is intended to prohibit recognition of same sex marriage. Proposition 22 is being sponsored by State Senator William "Pete" Knight. The Initiative will appear on the March 7, 2000 ballot as follows: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California".

The Human Relations Commission opposes the Initiative because it will prohibit recognition of same-sex ceremonial marriages. Moreover, the Initiative runs counter to the adopted policies of the City of Pasadena forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Pasadena City Council has a well established reputation of supporting a community that is open and diverse, and supportive of its citizenry in a manner consistent with values expressed in the policies and practices of the City. The City has opposed, and continues to oppose, discrimination of any kind, prejudice, and stereotyping of individuals. The City would be consistent in its established policies and practices to oppose an Initiative which would attempt to deny legal recognition to same-sex ceremonial marriages.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nat Nehdar', written over a horizontal line.

Nat Nehdar, Chair, Human Relations
Commission