

A RESOLUTION DENOUNCING DISCRIMINATION AND DECLARING THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL'S OPPOSITION TO AMENDING THE CITY'S CHARTER BY INITIATIVE PETITION WHEN SUCH ACTION, IF APPROVED, WOULD IMPOSE UPON THE CITY OF ALBANY PROVISIONS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN REJECTED BY THE VOTERS OF THE STATE OF OREGON.

WHEREAS, the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA), a political action committee based in Wilsonville, Oregon, and other special interest groups have filed an initiative petition to amend the Albany City Charter; and

WHEREAS, said petition would put before Albany voters the following question, "Shall City be prohibited from adopting and enforcing laws extending minority status to homosexuals or expending funds to promote homosexuality?"

WHEREAS, the complete text of the proposed charter amendment contains eight subsections and a total of approximately 375 words, which greatly expand upon the question proposed to be put before Albany's voters; and

WHEREAS, an initiative petition process, which is largely sponsored by outside political action committees and special interests, does not provide any opportunity for local citizen review and refinement of the measure, as would usually be the case for local charter amendments; and

WHEREAS, the OCA previously sponsored a statewide Constitutional amendment proposal to accomplish mostly the same objectives that was defeated by the voters of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would place in Albany's Charter extraordinary language regarding the treatment of certain citizens, based on their sexual orientation, which has no relationship to any other provisions of the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the proposed language would prohibit certain activities and official actions of the City that have never been contemplated or promoted by the City of Albany in the first place, therefore, rendering the proposed amendment superfluous and a waste of the public's time and energy; and

WHEREAS, if passed, the Charter amendment would place a distinction upon the Albany community that could be damaging to tourism, business recruitment efforts, and the community's reputation as an "All America City" and one which places a high value on respect for all law-abiding individuals; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the League of Oregon Cities took action at its January 15, 1993, meeting to strongly oppose the efforts by the Oregon Citizens Alliance to amend several Oregon city charters to limit the rights of homosexuals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Albany City Council that the citizens of Albany be encouraged to refrain from signing petitions or approving measures that 1) would promote discriminatory actions against any group of law-abiding citizens; 2) would impose upon our local government certain charter amendments which have not been carefully reviewed by a local appointed or elected body representative of community interests; and 3) would force upon the City of Albany requirements that have previously been rejected as amendments to the State's Constitution.

DATED this 27th day of January 1993.

ATTEST:


Mayor


City Recorder