

The Town Council of Carrboro, North Carolina (then known as the Board of Aldermen) voted unanimously in 2014 to recognize October 10th each year as “Marriage Equality Day.” Please take the time to read the founding resolution in its full text below.

## A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING MARRIAGE EQUALITY DAY IN CARRBORO

WHEREAS, discriminatory marriage laws in the United States deprive same-sex couples of over 1000 federal rights and benefits automatically bestowed by civil marriage including, among others, health care coverage, tax benefits, divorce, domestic violence protections, privileges under immigration and naturalization law, inheritance rights, survivor benefits and child custody; and

WHEREAS, the denial of such benefits has been demonstrated to have significant psychological and social impact on the physical, social, and economic well-being of gay and lesbian couples and their families; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court recognizes marriage as one of the ‘basic civil rights of man’ fundamental to our very existence and survival” and “one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men”; and

WHEREAS, the love that brings and binds two people of the same, or opposite sex, together transcends gender; and

WHEREAS, as it is important for all to remember a foundational principle of our form of government: all are created equal. Consistent with the pursuit of liberty and justice for all, same-sex couples should have full and equal access to the rights and responsibilities bestowed by civil marriage; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Carrboro Board of Aldermen has long been a proponent of equal treatment for all; and,

WHEREAS, on October 11th 1994 the Town adopted a Domestic Partnership registry, extending benefits to same-sex partners of Town employees; and,

WHEREAS, on December 2, 2009, the Town adopted a “Resolution in Support of Civil Marriage for Same-Sex Couples” and called for the legal recognition of civil marriage for same-sex couples to share fully and equally the rights of marriage across our state and nation; and, WHEREAS, on May 8, 2012 the anti-gay forces in North Carolina pushed through Amendment One, a constitutional amendment that excludes same-sex couples from marriage and prohibits same-sex couples from attaining any form of legal family status; and,

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2014, one day shy of the 20th anniversary of the implementation of Carrboro’s Domestic Partnership Registry, equal rights advocates were able to declare victory over the repeal of North Carolina’s Amendment One when Federal Judge Max Cogborn agreed that the ruling in favor of the freedom to marry in the 4th Circuit applies to North Carolina’s Amendment One; and,

WHEREAS, upon announcement of Judge Cogborn's order, same-sex couples, and advocates for marriage equality in North Carolina, rejoiced and the Town of Carrboro celebrated alongside by victoriously hoisting the rainbow flags at Town Hall.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen do hereby joyfully declare that October 10th, the day that love won in North Carolina, shall be celebrated annually as "Marriage Equality Day" in the Town of Carrboro, North Carolina.