

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE “DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE” BILLS:
SENATE BILL 106 AND HOUSE BILL 777
Resolution No. 9/2011-12

WHEREAS, The Carrboro Board of Aldermen adopted a resolution in support of civil marriage for same-sex couples in December 2008, Resolution No. 47/2008-09; and

WHEREAS, that resolution was adopted because of the Board’s recognition that the institution of civil marriage confers a social status and important legal benefits, rights, and privileges, recognizing that existing marriage laws in the United State discriminate against same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, that position was consistent with the Board’s positions on legal issues affecting lesbians and gay men, such as being the first municipality in the state to offer domestic partner benefits, advocating for anti-discrimination laws and urging the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, don’t Tell” United States military policy; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly is considering Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 777; passage of these would place on the 2012 ballot a referendum to amend the North Carolina Constitution to prohibit marriage between people of the same gender, and further prohibit the recognition of any other form of domestic legal union; and

WHEREAS, adoption of Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 777 would be a backward step in this state, particularly when two 2011 polls (conducted by Elon University and Public Policy Polling) show that over half of North Carolina citizens now support legal recognition of same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS, having such a proposed amendment on the ballot in 2012 would give unfavorable publicity to the state of North Carolina at a time when this issue of equality is clearly shifting in many of the states as well as North Carolina, and would adversely affect the recruitment of employees in the state’s business and academic communities; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of such an amendment is inconsistent with the Town of Carrboro’s commitment to equal rights and opportunities for its residents and employees, could invalidate the Town of Carrboro’s domestic partner benefits, and could lead to litigation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen:

- 1) Opposes Senate Bill 106 and House Bill 777; and
- 2) Reaffirms its commitment to equal rights and opportunities for Town employees and for all residents of Carrboro, including the rights of same-sex couples to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.

Upon passage, this resolution shall be shared with the members of Carrboro’s General Assembly delegation.