

Resolve 5-17/18

Passage: 8-0 (Strimling absent) on 10/16/2017

Effective 10/26/2017

ETHAN K. STRIMLING (MAYOR)
BELINDA S. RAY (1)
SPENCER R. THIBODEAU (2)
BRIAN E. BATSON (3)
JUSTIN COSTA (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
PIOUS ALI (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE AMICUS BRIEF
RE: MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP V. COLORADO CIVIL RIGHT COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the City Council of Portland, Maine, recognizes that no one in the city should suffer discrimination on the basis of sexual preference; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Portland, Maine, approved the Human Rights provisions in its Code of Ordinances, Chapter 13.5, on May 11, 1992, which states that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing, and the provision of credit or public accommodations is prohibited; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado, refused to sell a cake to a gay couple who ordered one for their wedding reception, claiming to have the right to deny them its services on the basis of its religious freedom and free speech rights; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission found that that refusal violated the state's anti-discrimination law; and

WHEREAS, Masterpiece Cakeshop appealed that ruling and lost in the Colorado Court of Appeals, and is now appealing the finding before the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Freedom for All Americans, a bipartisan organization working to preserve and secure nondiscrimination protection for Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons in the United States, has asked the City of Portland to sign an amicus brief supporting the finding of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission; and

WHEREAS, a successful appeal of this decision would threaten the City of Portland's ability to protect its citizens from discrimination under its local ordinance by allowing businesses to refuse to serve whomever they please without regard for their customers' rights:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council hereby authorizes Corporation Counsel to join and/or sign the amicus brief in the case of Masterpiece Cakeshop v. the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, in support of its longstanding opposition to discrimination.
