

RESOLUTION NO. 100112, AS AMENDED

Calling upon the United States Government to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in favor of a policy of nondiscrimination; calling for a thoughtful application of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in the interim; and requiring the City Clerk to prepare and distribute copies of this Resolution.

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri has been at the forefront in trying to ensure the fair and equal treatment of all persons, regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or other status; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri recognizes that the Federal government has in the past abrogated policies which prevented women from entering the military and which racially segregated the military. The City of Kansas City, Missouri recognizes the voice of United States citizens and an act of Congress to remedy discriminatory policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kansas City, Missouri supports the Armed Forces and respects the need to foster high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, in an attempt to meet these objectives, enacted “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” to prohibit openly lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals from serving in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” permits lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals to serve in the Armed Forces so long as they keep their sexual orientation a secret under penalty of law; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that at least 65,000 gay and lesbian individuals are currently in active duty or the reserves, including people living in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, more than 13,000 service members have been discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” solely because of their sexual orientation since its implementation in 1993; and

WHEREAS, the United States is estimated to have spent 360 million federal dollars as a result of the implementation of a policy which mandates the unnecessary removal and replacement of these otherwise qualified personnel because of their sexual orientation having been discovered; and

WHEREAS, the presence of both secreted and openly lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals in the military cannot destroy the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability; and

RESOLUTION NO. 100112, AS AMENDED

WHEREAS, the war on terror and the need for people willing to serve has inexplicably witnessed sharp reductions in the number of persons discharged from previous years, and

WHEREAS, lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals deemed fit to retain during times of war are fit enough to retain during times of peace; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of Americans support an individual's right to serve openly despite his or her sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, a misguided policy of government-sanctioned discrimination should not be permitted to continue; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the City Council calls upon the United States Congress and the President of the United States to repeal its "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and replace it with a policy of nondiscrimination so that lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans can serve their country upon the same terms and conditions as heterosexual Americans.

Section 2. That the City Council calls upon the President of the United States of America to exercise the authority vested in him as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and require his Secretary of Defense to immediately undertake to revise the regulations promulgated by him as is necessary to ensure that openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members in active and reserve service are provided the maximum level of protection possible pending the full repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Section 3. That the City Clerk shall cause copies of this Resolution to be prepared and transmitted without delay to the President of the United States of America, the Secretary of the Department of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United State Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Missouri's Congressional Delegation.