



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

For Immediate Release
June 26, 2015

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Bay Area Jewish Community Applauds Today's Marriage Equality Victory

San Francisco, CA – The San Francisco-based Jewish Community Relations Council and Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund today joined the many voices in the Bay Area and across the nation to enthusiastically applaud the decision of the United States Supreme Court to declare unconstitutional state marriage bans that limited marriage to one man and one woman. In a 5-4 decision, the Court held that the 14th Amendment requires the states to license a marriage between two people of the same sex and to recognize marriages performed in other jurisdictions.

The Bay Area's organized Jewish community celebrates the Supreme Court decision and stands firmly in support of civil rights for all, including the right to marriage equality, as it has for many years. The decision affirms the importance and requirement of full civil rights for same-sex couples. In addition, we believe that our families and communities benefit when adults choose to share their lives with partners based on a loving, committed, long-term union that has equal dignity under the law.

"This is an historic day that JCRC has worked actively to promote for the last decade," JCRC President Rosalind Franklin said. "Human dignity and freedom are core Jewish values, and we are gratified that same-sex couples will now be free to enjoy the liberty and equality that should have been their right all this time. We hope that the example the US is setting today will lead other countries to follow."

JCRC has been strongly supporting same-sex civil marriage for years in the religious and civic community, and in its 2006 consensus statement on the subject stated: *JCRC's historic commitment to civil rights, social justice and compassion leads us to support the right of same-sex couples and their families to enjoy liberty and equal protection under the law, to oppose discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender (LGBT) persons and same-sex couples and their families in the civil arena, and to support same-sex civil marriage.*

"Today will long be remembered as an historic milestone in the march toward equality in the United States," said Danny Grossman, CEO of the Federation. "Finally, LGBT couples will be afforded the same legal protections and rights, as well as responsibilities, as other committed couples – in all 50 states. This is indeed a great victory for civil rights, and a wonderful lead-in to Pride 2015."

Importantly, in overturning the marriage ban, this decision safeguards the right of religious groups to continue to assert their views on marriage. Incorporating religious doctrine into the United States Constitution would have eroded the separation of church and state, a cherished value that ensures religious liberty for the Jewish community and for people of all faiths and beliefs.

This will rank with some of the major landmark decisions of the US Supreme Court in affirming civil rights. It is a day for celebration and, in San Francisco, a weekend for celebration as hundreds of thousands of people of all backgrounds come together in an outpouring of joy at SF Pride.

