

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Matthew Shepard for their loss; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation to support the inclusion of crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation in the federal hate crime law by passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (H.R. 3081; S 1529); and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record acknowledging the connection between the de-humanizing demonization of homosexuals and crimes of violence against them and urge all Cantabrigians to re-affirm their commitment to the civil and human rights of the gay and lesbian members of the Cambridge Community; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the family of Matthew Shepard and the members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation on behalf of the entire City Council.

NO ACTION TAKEN.



City of Cambridge

36.

IN CITY COUNCIL

October 19, 1998

COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU
MAYOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR DAVIS
COUNCILLOR BORN
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

WHEREAS: The Cambridge City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the tragic death of Matthew Shepard on October 12, 1998; and

WHEREAS: Matthew, a 21 year-old student at the University of Wyoming, was brutally beaten and left tied to a fence in near-freezing temperatures on October 7, 1998; and

WHEREAS: Matthew was apparently murdered because he was gay, in a vicious hate crime perpetuated by ignorant homophobic young men savagely terrified by the different sexual orientation of a gentle, friendly 5-foot-2, 105-pound college student who aspired to a career in diplomacy and human rights; and

WHEREAS: Matthew's murder is an extreme example of the violence perpetrated against gay and lesbian individuals throughout this country; and

WHEREAS: As surely as these acts of violence are engendered by fear, the fear is fueled by the repeated branding of people with an innate difference in sexual orientation as sinful, diseased, un-American and a subhuman threat to "normal values;" and

WHEREAS: Hate crime laws, which do not exist in Wyoming, can play an important part in protecting the safety of gay and lesbian individuals, so long as the laws cover hate crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation, which the federal hate crime law does not cover; and

WHEREAS: Most important to the well being and safety of the gay and lesbian members of our community, and the community as a whole, is respect for the civil and human rights of gay and lesbians persons and a steadfast refusal to tolerate the demonizing of homosexuals that feeds the fear in which hate flourishes; now therefore be it

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Consent Order #36

1140R

Councillor Triantafillou, Mayor Duehay and
Councillor Davis re: resolution on the
tragic death of Matthew Shepard.

In City Council October 19, 1998

no action Taken