

## **Mayor Ralph Becker Proposes New Domestic Partnership Registry**

*New Registry Will Allow Salt Lake's Domestic Partners Health Care Visitation Rights*

**Salt Lake City** – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker submitted a new ordinance to the City Council today seeking the creation of a new city-wide Domestic Partnership Registry for the citizens of Salt Lake City.

“This registry creates a way for Salt Lake City to recognize relationships of mutual support, caring, and commitment,” explained Becker. “This is an opportunity for us to provide all of Salt Lake City’s residents the same level of equality, dignity and respect.”

The new registry will allow individuals who qualify to apply for and receive a certificate attesting to their domestic partner status. This certificate will aid employers who wish to provide health care or other benefits as they determine the domestic status of individuals applying for benefits.

“With implementation of the Registry,” Becker explains, “Salt Lake City will help local businesses save time and money in the process of determining domestic status of their employees for a variety of purposes. Under this new ordinance, the City will provide the service of registering partners and administering proper documentation.”

Another significant advantage of the new registry is that it affords registered individuals visitation rights when a domestic partner is being treated at a health care facility located in Salt Lake City. **The certificate also aids registered individuals in obtaining fair access to all rights and privileges at all facilities owned and operated by the City, such as recreational facilities.**

Before being considered for domestic partner status, there are a number of requirements that must be met. The requirements include a statement that the individuals are in a relationship of mutual support, caring, and commitment, and are responsible for each other’s welfare. Additionally, registrants must be each other’s sole domestic partner; be over 18 years old; be competent to contract; and share a primary residence in Salt Lake City.

The domestic partnership registry will be administered by the City Recorder’s Office. Registering a relationship will be voluntary. Individuals

wanting to register would first obtain a Declaration of Domestic Partnership from the city. After the Declaration is signed by both partners and notarized, it will be filed in a registry kept by the Recorder's Office. Individuals will receive two certified copies of the official statement documenting their registration.

The City has the authority to create a Domestic Partnership Registry under the general welfare clause, which grants Salt Lake the power to "preserve the health, and promote the prosperity, improve the morals, peace and good order, comfort, and convenience of the city and its inhabitants." Utah Code Ann. § 10-8-84(1). The ordinance does not implicate or conflict with either Article I, Section 29 of the Utah Constitution, commonly known as "Amendment 3," or Utah's "Marriage Recognition Policy," the state statute defining marriage.