

Comments about Marriage

Village of Nyack, Nyack, New York 10960

John Shields, Mayor of Nyack

February 27, 2004

We in the Village of Nyack respect marriages from all over the country and the globe in accordance with New York State Recognition Law, that is, marriages that are valid where performed.

So in the Village of Nyack we accord full legal rights and responsibilities to the marriages of committed same sex couples and their families.

I am interested in doing everything I can within the law to give all families what support they need, and I am currently investigating what my authority is.

Marriage strengthens the ties between people. Committed relationships benefit not only each partner but also act as a stabilizing force in the community. As the Mayor of Nyack it's my job to do what's best for the Village, respecting marriages performed elsewhere is one more way to demonstrate my commitment to families and their importance in our community. I don't understand how extending marriage to same gender couples undermines traditional marriage or weakens community. On the contrary, I believe personal commitments strengthen community. A powerful way to affirm traditional marriage is to have strong marriages between committed people. This is what the Mayors of San Francisco and New Paltz are doing.