



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

ANTHONY W. CROWELL
SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE MAYOR

April 6, 2005

Alan Van Capelle
Executive Director
Empire State Pride Agenda
16 West 22nd Street
New York, NY 10010

Dear Alan:

In response to Mayor Bloomberg's announcement that he supports same-sex marriages for gay and lesbian couples in New York State, you asked me whether the City of New York recognizes same-sex marriages and civil unions lawfully entered into in other jurisdictions, including Massachusetts, Vermont, Canada and other foreign nations, in the same manner that it recognizes such marriages lawfully entered into by opposite-sex couples.

On behalf of the Mayor, I am pleased to confirm for you that it is the policy of the City of New York to recognize equally all marriages, whether between same- or opposite-sex couples, and civil unions lawfully entered into in jurisdictions other than New York State, for the purposes of extending and administering all rights and benefits belonging to these couples, to the maximum extent allowed by law. Also, please note that New York City recognizes equally domestic partnerships entered into in other jurisdictions in a similar manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Crowell".

Anthony W. Crowell

cc: Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg