RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso is a city with a rich history for the promotion of tolerance, acceptance, and diversity as our great city set historic precedent in 1962 as the first city in the South to pass an anti-discrimination ordinance that prohibits racial discrimination in hotels, motels, restaurants, and theaters;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso, in 2003, adopted a forward-thinking ordinance that expressly prohibits the refusal of accommodation, advantages, facilities, or services on the basis of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, religion, ethnic background, or national origin;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso fully supports and endorses the 2003 United States Supreme Court decision in Lawrence v. Texas that holds that sexual conduct between two consenting adults is part of the liberty that is protected under the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso fully understands that the history of discrimination, intolerance, and bigotry is a regrettable history that in its extreme has led to the suppression of human rights, the unjust delivery of violence, and – in its worst incarnations – murder, torture, and war; and

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso prides itself as a community that is a hospitable, welcoming, and friendly place to live, do business, or visit and prides itself as a community that fully accepts and promotes the prosperity of people of different colors, genders, religious beliefs, national origins, and sexual orientations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of El Paso, Texas that El Paso is a leading 21st Century community that respects the legal and social rights and practices of its citizens and visitors. The City of El Paso reaffirms its unyielding commitment to acceptance, tolerance, and diversity. The City of El Paso firmly rejects acts of discrimination, intolerance, and bigotry.

APPROVED this 21st day of July 2009.

THE CITY OF EL PASO

________________________________
John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:  APPROVED AS TO FORM:

________________________________
Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

________________________________
Charles F. McNabb
City Attorney