



For Immediate Release

November 16, 2009

Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith
c. 801-913-9748

Mayor Ralph Becker Fulfills Promise of Equality for Salt Lake City Residents *Public Signing Ceremony Slated for Tomorrow*

SALT LAKE CITY – Fulfilling a campaign promise with far reaching community support, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker will sign the recently approved nondiscrimination ordinances tomorrow at the Urban Room of the Salt Lake City Main Library at 2:30 p.m. The ordinances become effective April 2, 2010.

Designed to protect City residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and employment, the ordinances unanimously passed the City Council vote last week after statements of support were made by representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Equality Utah, the Pride Center, as well as other government and community leaders, and Salt Lake City residents.

“These newly approved and widely supported ordinances make clear that discrimination is not acceptable in Salt Lake City,” said Mayor Ralph Becker. “We are striving to build an inclusive community that is welcoming and free of discriminatory practices. Victories like the passing of these ordinances encourage a safe environment for every City resident.

“These newly passed ordinances speak to Salt Lake City’s dedication to providing equal rights for our community,” said Salt Lake City Council Chair Carlton Christensen. “Mayor Becker’s team worked tirelessly to provide an equitable proposal for the community, which the Council fully supported.”

The Mayor's nondiscrimination ordinances are the culmination of a comprehensive public process documenting the harms caused by discriminatory policies and practices in Salt Lake City. Citing a lengthy record of testimony and input from hundreds of residents, businesses, and community and faith groups, the carefully crafted ordinance is tailored to confront clear cases of discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity.