



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith

c. 801-913-9748

Equality for All Salt Lake City Residents Celebrated at City Hall
City's Nondiscrimination Ordinances Become Effective Friday, April 2

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, the Salt Lake City Council and community leaders will gather to mark the implementation date of the City's nondiscrimination ordinances, which go into effect April 2, 2010. The event will celebrate the passage of the historic legislation and will provide information about nondiscrimination ordinances to Salt Lake City's employers, rental property owners, and residents. The press conference will be held Friday, April 2 at the City & County Building's east steps at 10 a.m.

The nondiscrimination ordinances, designed to protect City residents from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and employment, were the first of their kind adopted in the state. Upon entering office in January 2008, Mayor Becker began to establish a meaningful dialogue with religious, business, and community leaders, which culminated in the Salt Lake City Council's unanimous vote adopting the ordinances in November 2009. Since that time, the nondiscrimination ordinances have served as templates for leaders in other municipalities throughout the region and nation to consider as they develop nondiscrimination policies for their own communities.

"These ordinances demonstrate our determination to foster an environment of good will and acceptance welcoming every member of the community as an integral part of our Great American City," said Mayor Ralph Becker. "Everyone in Salt Lake City will benefit from the protections these ordinances provide."

"The complete support of the Council on this legislation depicts the dedication our City government has to furthering our goals for a cohesive community," said Salt Lake City Council Chair JT Martin. "The simplicity and clear language of the ordinances enabled community leaders and organizations to join the City in making these significant changes to improve the quality of life for all residents and visitors."

The nondiscrimination ordinances provide a clear process to resolve matters of discrimination in the workplace and in housing. The processes for resolution include mediation and a fine assessment

applicable in cases where discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity has taken place.

“For employers and as a member of the community, companies like ours benefit from simple and clear guidelines like those found in Salt Lake City’s nondiscrimination ordinances,” said Tod Cohen, vice president, deputy general counsel, government relations, eBay, Inc. “We congratulate Mayor Becker and Salt Lake City for leading the region in this sensible legislation.”

About the Nondiscrimination Ordinances

In November 2009, the Salt Lake City Council unanimously passed the City’s first nondiscrimination ordinances. The ordinances are the result 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 ordinances are tailored to confront clear cases of discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity. For more information or to review the complete ordinances visit the City’s website at www.slcgov.com/ndo. Questions from employers, employees, renters, tenants, and general inquiries can be sent to the City’s Administrator, Equal Employment Opportunity Consultant Melissa Green, via email at melissa.green@slcgov.com.