



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF ST. LOUIS  
MISSOURI**

**FRANCIS G. SLAY  
MAYOR**

**CITY HALL - ROOM 200  
1200 MARKET STREET  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2877  
(314) 622-3201  
FAX: (314) 622-4061**

June 25, 2014

Sharon Quigley Carpenter  
Recorder of Deeds  
1200 Market Street, Room 126  
St. Louis, MO 63103

Dear Sharon:

As the chief executive officer of the City of St. Louis, it is my duty to ensure that all laws are enforced within the City. I take seriously my oath to support the Constitution of the United States. When laws of the State of Missouri conflict with rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, it is my obligation to ensure that the Constitution remains the supreme law of the land within this City.

I asked the City Counselor to determine whether the Missouri constitutional provision and statutes concerning same-sex marriage are consistent with rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. He has opined that those laws violate constitutional rights to due process and equal protection, and therefore are unconstitutional.

With all the executive power of the City of St. Louis, I ask that you abide by the Constitution of the United States in your role as Recorder of Deeds. Accordingly, you should not deny a same-sex couple a marriage license based upon unconstitutional Missouri laws prohibiting same-sex marriage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis".

Francis G. Slay  
Mayor, City of St. Louis