

Both Hales and Smith agreed to provide a statement for transgender readers of Just Out at Courtney O'Donnell's request. (Edited for length.)

CHARLIE HALES

I am proud to have been involved in the LGBT movement for years. When I was City Commissioner, I joined my colleagues in establishing one of the nation's early domestic partner registries. This was at the time when the first anti-gay ballot measures were sweeping our state around issues of local anti-discrimination laws. I volunteered on both the first Measure 9 and Measure 13 opposition campaigns. I have long supported marriage equality. In addition, I fully support the City Council's action last year to extend health benefits to city workers to include sexual reassignment surgery.

Looking forward, I will be an active part of the public education campaign and advocacy campaign to bring marriage equality to our state, and will be an outspoken advocate as Mayor for the freedom to marry for all caring and committed couples. I will take steps to combat HIV-related stigma — we still live in a city where 1 in 4 people living with HIV don't know they are infected, in large part because of attitudes attached to a positive diagnosis. I will use the public nature of the Mayor's office to bring awareness and help direct the public towards available testing services. I will advocate for continued state funding for state health programs that support HIV/AIDS patients.

I will also work with our public safety bureaus to continue to better reflect our community, including LGBT members of the force. We need to continue to ensure safety of openly gay couples and social interactions by acting definitively when hate crimes have been committed, threats are issued or safety is at all in question. The City, as an employer and a provider of services, will be a welcoming culture for GLBT persons where workplace discrimination will not be tolerated and high quality customer service will be provided to every resident alike.

JEFFERSON SMITH

Look to the issues (where we'll both be pretty good) and to who's been in the trenches with you for the last decade. I stood with the LGBTQ community in my work in the house, supporting anti-bullying legislation. The organization I founded, the Bus Project, has knocked on tens of thousands of doors for marriage equality, supported safe spaces on college campuses & trans-inclusive health care. Leaders I've mentored & developed have gone on to service in local and national LGBTQ advocacy organizations and campaigns. I'll be more than a supporter for your community - I'll be a champion.



First comes Love.
Then comes Marriage.
Then comes Baby
in a baby Carriage.

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