

## **For Immediate Release**

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November 12, 2009 - Washington, D.C. - The District of Columbia's longest serving ANC Commissioner, Robert "Bob" King, Sr. sends D.C. City Council Chairman Vincent Gray an open letter vowing to pursue Congressional intervention if the City Council refuses to hear the will of the people through a vote on the definition of marriage.

The City Council has rejected the requests of ANC Commissioners, civic leaders, clergy, business leaders, senior groups and individual citizens calling for the Council to "Let the People Vote" on the definition of marriage in the Nation's Capital.

"I cannot stand idly by," said King in the open letter accusing the City Council of usurping its authority by denying the people the right to vote. "It is simply wrong - wrong for us officials to deny our citizens the right (to vote) that every jurisdiction in this nation enjoys."

According to the D.C. Home Rule Charter, legislation passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor must be submitted to Congress for a 30-day review period. Councilman Jack Evans, the District's most senior Council Member, said that there will be consequences for those who seek Congressional support to have a citizens' vote on the definition of marriage in D.C. "It is not uncommon for Council Members to lobby Congress to advocate the approval of legislation" said Commissioner King, "Why then should Council Member Evans threaten citizens of the District of Columbia for exercising the same right?"

Commissioner King has nearly 25 years of experience and received the highest number of votes in the 2008 General Election of all ANC Commissioners city-wide. ANC Commissioners are the body of District government with the closest ties to the people, representing at least 2,000 people in each Single Member District (SMD). Former ANC Commissioners include D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty, Council Members Muriel Bowser, Phil Mendelson, Harry Thomas, Jr., and David Catania (who introduced the Bill to redefine marriage in DC). Over 50 ANC Commissioners (representing over 100,000 residents) have signed a resolution in support of a citizens' initiative on the definition of marriage in the District of Columbia.

Read the open letter to Council Chairman Gray at [www.letthepeoplevote.yolasite.com](http://www.letthepeoplevote.yolasite.com).

For more information contact:

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