

**Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer**



The Office of the General Counsel

December 15, 2009

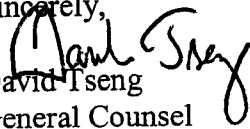
The Honorable David A. Catania
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Catania:

Enclosed please find an analysis of the potential revenue implications of same-sex marriages in the District of Columbia. The enclosed table was prepared by the OCFO's Office of Revenue Analysis.

If you have questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,


David Tseng
General Counsel

Enclosures

cc: All Councilmembers
Peter Nickles, Attorney General
Eric Goulet, Council Budget Director

Distribution	Low end	High end
# Same Sex Couples to get married	1,948	20,998
DC ^a	1,948	1,948
VA & MD Suburbs ^b	0	2,989
States where Marriage is Legal ^c	0	0
All Other States ^d	0	16,061
Wedding Expenses (DC Metro Residents)	\$4,473,036	\$22,127,634
Total Number of weddings ^e	998	4,937
Average Wedding Expenses ^f	\$8,964	\$8,964
Spent in DC ^g	50%	50%
Spent outside of DC	50%	50%
Wedding Expenses (Destination Couples)	\$0	\$17,514,521
Total Number of weddings	0	16,061
Average Wedding Expenses ^h	\$2,181	\$2,181
Spent in DC ⁱ	-	50%
Spent outside of DC	-	50%
Tourism Expenses^j	\$0	\$4,842,392
Average visitor expenditure	\$335	\$335
Average party size	2	2
Spent in DC	0	45%
Spent outside of DC	0	55%
Marriage License Fees	\$44,910	\$902,160
DC Marriage License Fee	\$45.00	\$45.00
Total Number of DC Resident Weddings ^k	998	998
Total Number of Out-of-State Weddings	0	19,050
TOURISM EXPENSES IN DC	\$0	\$4,842,392
WEDDING EXPENSES IN DC	\$4,473,036	\$39,642,155
OTHER EXPENDITURES CROWDED OUT BY WEDDING EXPENDITURES	\$4,473,036	\$11,063,817
TOTAL TAX BASE	\$0	\$33,420,729
Effective Tax Rate	7%	7%
TAX REVENUE	\$0	\$2,339,451
MARRIAGE LICENSE FEES	\$44,910	\$902,160
TOTAL TAX REVENUE OVER THREE YEARS	\$44,910	\$3,241,611
ANNUAL AVERAGE TAX REVENUE	\$14,970	\$1,080,537

Assumptions

^a According to the three year estimate of the Census American Community Survey (2006-2008), the total number of same-sex households in the District of Columbia is 3,896. Based on the experience of Massachusetts, we estimate that 50% of all same sex households in DC will marry in the three years following the legalization of same sex marriage.

^b We assume that 25% of all same sex couples in the Virginia and Maryland Suburbs in the DC Metropolitan Area will marry in DC in three years following the legalization of same-sex marriage.

^c This includes Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Iowa.

^d We assume that 2.5% of all same sex couples in the remaining states will marry in DC in three years following the legalization of same-sex marriage.

^e There are currently 950 same sex domestic partners registered in DC and we assume their celebrations will not be as extensive.

^f Average cost estimated at 25% of DC Metro Average of \$35,855.

^g We assume that not all wedding spending will occur in the District. 50% is our best guess.

^h Average cost estimated at 10% of National Average of \$21,814

ⁱ We assume that not all wedding spending will occur in the District. 50% is our best guess.

^j From Washington DC's 2008 Visitor Statistics, Destination DC

^k The \$45 marriage license fee will be waived for all couples who have registered as domestic partners. Currently 950 domestic partners have registered and we assume all of them will apply for a marriage license.