

HISTORIC
STARKVILLE
MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGE TOWN

THE CITY OF STARKVILLE
Mayor's Office
CITY HALL,
101 EAST LAMPKIN STREET
STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI 39759

Phone: 662-323-4583, ext. 100
Fax 662-324-4015

Parker Wiseman,
Mayor

January 8, 2015

Mrs. Lesa Hardin, City Clerk
101 East Lampkin Street
Starkville, MS 39759

Re: Motion Veto

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mrs. Hardin:

Be advised that pursuant to **MS Code section 21-3-15**, this is formal notice that I veto the Motion presented by Alderman Roy A'. Perkins and seconded by Alderman Lisa Wynn, which was passed at the January 6 Regular Meeting of the Starkville Board of Aldermen the motion being:

A MOTION THAT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EQUALITY, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 21, 2014, SHALL BE AND IS HEREBY REPEALED WITH NO FURTHER FORCE AND EFFECT, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

The Board voted as follows on the motion to repeal the Resolution Supporting Equality:

Alderman Ben Carver	voted: Yea
Alderman Lisa Wynn	voted: Yea
Alderman David Little	voted: Yea
Alderman Jason Walker	voted: Nay
Alderman Scott Maynard	voted: Nay
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	voted: Yea

After receiving a majority of the affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried on January 6, 2014.

On January 21, 2014 the Starkville Board of Aldermen made Starkville the first city in Mississippi to formally recognize that discrimination against LGBT people is wrong. Subsequently, the following eight Mississippi cities made the same formal recognition: Hattiesburg (February 18, 2014), Oxford (March 4, 2014), Magnolia (April 22, 2014), Greenville (April 29, 2014), Bay St. Louis (May 6, 2014), Waveland (May 21, 2014), Jackson (June 3, 2014), and Holly Springs (December 16, 2014).

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On January 6, 2015 the Starkville Board of Aldermen went behind closed doors and without notice or explanation repealed its nondiscrimination resolution. To date, the Board has offered no explanation as to why it repealed a resolution against discrimination.

I believe that discrimination is wrong. I believe mistreating a person because of his or her race, religion, gender, ethnicity, or LGBT status is wrong. I believe in the dignity and worth of all people, and I believe that in a just society all people must be equal in the eyes of the law. Elected officials, as keepers of the law, have a special responsibility to ensure that our government lives up to that ideal. In fact, it is our most basic and fundamental responsibility.

The equality resolution is about one simple thing and that is how we treat one another. And I believe that our community is one that fosters love and respect for all including our LGBT citizens. Accordingly, I veto the Board's action to repeal its resolution supporting equality.

Should you require assistance or further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Parker Y. Wiseman
Mayor
City of Starkville, MS

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Re: Motion Veto

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mrs. Hardin:

Be advised that pursuant to **MS Code section 21-3-15**, this is formal notice that I veto the Motion presented by Alderman Roy A.' Perkins and seconded by Alderman Lisa Wynn, which was passed at the January 6 Regular Meeting of the Starkville Board of Aldermen the motion being:

A MOTION TO AMEND THE EMPLOYEE +1 ADULT COVERAGE PROVISION UNDER THE CITY'S MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFIT PLAN TO INCLUDE COVERAGE ONLY FOR LEGALLY MARRIED SPOUSES AS RECOGNIZED BY THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

The motion made by Alderman Roy A.' Perkins duly seconded by Alderman Lisa Wynn, was put to vote with the results as follows:

Alderman Ben Carver	voted: Yea
Alderman Lisa Wynn	voted: Yea
Alderman David Little	voted: Yea
Alderman Jason Walker	voted: Nay
Alderman Scott Maynard	voted: Nay
Alderman Roy A'. Perkins	voted: Yea
Alderman Henry Vaughn, Sr.	voted: Yea

After receiving a majority of the affirmative vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried on January 6, 2015.

On September 2, 2014 the Board of Aldermen unanimously approved the city's medical insurance benefit plan. The plan offers better options and lower rates for our employees to provide coverage for their families than previous insurance plans. As compared to last year, our employees have an opportunity to

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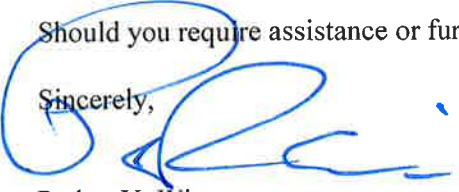
save \$250-\$330 per month on medical insurance premiums for their loved ones. Additionally, the plan unanimously approved on September 2, 2014 extended the opportunity for employees to purchase insurance for domestic partners.

In spite of the fact that the city bears no financial responsibility for the new coverage options, the Board amended its original approval of the insurance plan. The sole purpose of the amendment on January 6, 2015 was to exclude domestic partners from coverage eligibility. Furthermore, the Board took up the issue behind closed doors without any prior notice to the public. I find this action to be in direct conflict with our responsibility to be open and transparent with the public.

I cannot abide a decision to deny any of our employees the opportunity to see to it that their loved ones can receive medical care when they are sick. It is an opportunity that the city is fully capable of providing and it costs the city nothing. Additionally, I am disturbed that the Board hid its action on the matter from the public until it was done. Accordingly, I veto the Board's order to amend the +1 coverage under the city's medical insurance plan.

Should you require assistance or further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Parker Y. Wiseman
Mayor
City of Starkville, MS