



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2004

**Defending Same-Sex Marriages:
Town of Provincetown's Special Gift Fund**

The Provincetown Board of Selectmen has established a special gift fund for the payment of legal expenses for proceedings which may arise in implementing the Supreme Judicial Court's *Goodridge* decision legalizing same-sex marriages in Massachusetts and the Provincetown Selectmen's policy to issue marriage licenses to all couples, whether residents of the Commonwealth or not. The Town of Provincetown is the lead plaintiff in the suit, *Douglas Johnstone, et al. v. Thomas Reilly, et al.*, brought by a dozen town and city clerks across the Commonwealth to overturn the 1913 statute under which the Commonwealth is denying issuance of marriage licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples not intending to reside in Massachusetts. The Provincetown Town Clerk is also a defendant in the suit, *Raymond Flynn et al. v. Douglas Johnstone, et al.* challenging the issuance of marriage licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples.

Tax-deductible donations to this special gift fund may be made to the "Town of Provincetown." You should specify that the donation is for the "Same-Sex Marriage Defense Fund" Contact the Town Treasurer's Office at 508.487.7015 for more information.

Since the *Goodridge* decision took effect on May 17, 2004, nearly 800 same-sex couples have filed their marriage intentions with the Provincetown Town Clerk's office-- 152 same-sex couples having filed their marriage intentions with that office on that very first day.

Of the 665 same-sex couples who have been issued marriage licenses by the Provincetown Town Clerk thus far, 375 or 55% of those couples are from out-of-state. Provincetown continues to issue licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples intending to reside in Massachusetts.

Town of Provincetown



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November 3, 2004

Noal Reid Charitable Fund Donates \$10,000 to Provincetown's Special Gift Fund to Defend Same-Sex Marriages

The Provincetown Board of Selectmen is very pleased to announce that a donation of \$10,000 has been made by the Noal Reid Charitable Fund, on behalf of the late Noal Reid, to the Town of Provincetown's special gift fund to defend same-sex marriages. The Town of Provincetown is grateful to Karen Reid for this donation which honors the belief "that every human being be treated with respect and love."

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Since the *Goodridge* decision took effect on May 17, 2004, over 900 same-sex couples have filed their marriage intentions with the Provincetown Town Clerk's office-- 152 same-sex couples having filed their marriage intentions with that office on that very first day.

Of the 905 same-sex couples who have been issued marriage licenses by the Provincetown Town Clerk thus far, 466 or 56% of those couples are from out-of-state. Provincetown continues to issue licenses to out-of-state same-sex couples intending to reside in Massachusetts.