



Nampa says "family" passes are for families

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Monday, January 26, 2009

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NAMPA DOES RIGHT THING TO RESERVE "FAMILY" PASSES FOR FAMILIES

The Nampa Recreation Center has rightly rejected a "family pass" application from a same-sex couple, for the simple reason that the couple is not a "family" according to the Idaho constitution.

There is no anti-gay discrimination here, because the policy applies to all couples living together outside of marriage, whether they happen to be heterosexual or homosexual.

Plus, the lesbian couple is welcome to purchase individual passes if they choose. They are just not going to have the city of Nampa call their arrangement a "marriage" or a "family."



The Idaho legislature went to considerable trouble in 2006 to amend our state constitution to define marriage exclusively as the union of a man and a woman, and to prohibit recognition of marriage counterfeits such as domestic partnerships and civil unions. The amendment was approved by an overwhelming 63% of voters at the polls.

In fact, as an entity of the city of Nampa, the Rec Center is constitutionally prohibited from granting this kind of recognition, and would be in violation of Idaho's constitution to do so.

Private recreation centers, such as the YMCA, Anytime Fitness and the Idaho Athletic Club can do anything they want, and seem quite happy to grant "family" passes to homosexual and lesbian couples.

But political subdivisions of the state, of which Nampa is one, are honor-bound to respect the will of the people in reserving marriage recognition exclusively for the relationship of one man and one woman.

In fact, the Nampa Rec Center has actually shown the way forward for private companies by providing an example for them to follow. It would be a simple thing for private employers, in awarding privileges and benefits and so forth, to use the definition of marriage provided by the state of Idaho.

It will be intriguing to see if homosexual activists attempt to make this a cause célèbre. Since this couple can in fact get family passes any number of places, if gay groups try to pressure Nampa to capitulate it will clearly be because they are driven by an insistent demand that homosexual behavior receive society's highest endorsement and approval and be treated as the moral equivalent of natural marriage.

To this we must say a polite, courteous, respectful and firm "No."

Idaho Statesman: Idaho rec center rejects same-sex application

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