



THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

MAYOR CHARLES V. RYAN

May 27, 2004

William J. Metzger
City Clerk
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA. 01103

RE: Rescission of Executive Orders Extending Benefits to Domestic Partners

Dear Mr. Metzger:

Please be advised that effective May 27, 2004, I am officially rescinding any and all Executive Orders issued prior to January 5, 2004 purporting to extend benefits to "domestic partners" of City employees. This includes but is not limited to the 1997 Executive Order regarding participation in the City's group health insurance programs, and the 1996 Executive Order regarding certain personnel benefits, copies of which are attached. I have directed Personnel Director Marilyn Montagna and Labor Relations Director Peter Murphy to take the necessary steps to notify City employees and labor unions regarding this matter. Domestic partners of City employees who currently participate in the City's group health insurance program will be given a grace period to legally marry the employee or to find other coverage for the domestic partner.

Going forward, I am directing the Personnel Department to interpret the word "spouse", for eligibility purposes under the City's health insurance programs and Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 32B, sec. 15, to mean "a person to whom an individual is lawfully married, and no other."

Sincerely,


CHARLES V. RYAN
MAYOR