

CITY OF SHOREWOOD

ORDINANCE NO. 486

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 100 OF THE SHOREWOOD CITY CODE
CONCERNING DOMESTIC PARTNERS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHOREWOOD ORDAINS:

Section 1. Title 100 of the Shorewood City Code is amended by adding Chapter 110 to provide as follows:

“CHAPTER 110

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY

Section

110.01	Purpose
110.02	Definitions
110.03	Registration of Domestic Partnerships
110.04	Amendments to Domestic Partnership Registration
110.05	Termination of Domestic Partnership
110.06	Fees

110.01 PURPOSE

The City of Shorewood authorizes and establishes a voluntary program for the registration of domestic partners. The domestic partnership registry is a means by which unmarried, committed couples who reside in Shorewood and who share a life and home together may document their relationship, thus enabling the registered couple access to employment benefits, hospital or health care visitation, and other such voluntary benefits.

The adoption of this ordinance does not amend, create, or establish rights, privileges, or responsibilities that are available to married couples under state or federal law.

110.02 DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases used in this ordinance have the meanings given in this Section.

Subd. 1. *Domestic Partner*. Means any two adults meeting all of the following:

1. Are not related by blood closer than permitted under marriage laws of the state of Minnesota.
2. Are not married.
3. Are competent to enter a contract.
4. Are jointly responsible to each other for the necessities of life.
5. Are committed to one another to the same extent as married persons are to each other.
6. Do not have any other domestic partner(s)
7. Are both at least 18 years of age.
8. Reside in the City of Shorewood.

Subd. 2. *Domestic Partnership.* The term “Domestic Partnership” shall include, upon production of a valid government-issued documentation, the following:

1. Any persons currently registered as domestic partners with a governmental body pursuant to state, local, or other law authorizing such registrations, or
2. Marriages that would be legally recognized as a contract of lawful marriage in another local, state, or foreign jurisdiction, but for the operation of Minnesota law such as a same sex marriage in states that recognize and/or authorize them by law.

110.03 REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS

- Subd. 1. The City Clerk shall make available upon request, a city application for the registration of a domestic partnership.
- Subd. 2. The City Clerk shall accept an application to register as domestic partners from persons who state in the application they meet the definition of domestic partner as set out in Section 110.02, subd. 1.
- Subd. 3. The City Clerk shall provide each domestic partner, following submission of the application and upon payment of all required fees, a registration certificate that may be used as evidence of the existence of a domestic partner relationship.
- Subd. 4. The City Clerk shall keep a record of each domestic partner certification as well as amendments thereto and termination thereof. Records pertaining to the registration shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practice Act. Such certificates may be used as evidence of the existence or termination of a domestic partnership.

110.04 AMENDMENTS

The City Clerk will accept amendments for filing from persons who have domestic partnership registrations on file with the city, except for amendments that change the identity of the partners, unless said amendment is accompanied by documentation from the district court approving a legal name change.

110.05 TERMINATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

The Domestic Partnership registration shall terminate when the earlier of the following occurs:

- a. One of the partners dies; or
- b. Forty-five days after one partner: a) sends the other partner written notice, on a form provided by the city, that he or she is terminating the partnership; and b) files the notice of termination with an affidavit of service of the notice on the other person, with the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall send notice to the other partner that the partnership registry has been terminated.

110.06 FEES

The fee to apply, amend, terminate, or obtain certified copies of the registration are established in accordance with Chapter 1301 of the Shorewood City Code.”

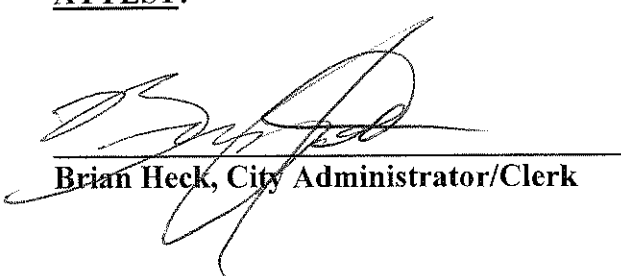
Section 2. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon publishing in the Official Newspaper of the City of Shorewood.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHOREWOOD this 14th day of November, 2011.

ATTEST:



Christine Lizée, Mayor



Brian Heck, City Administrator/Clerk