

Center Advocates, Inc.

Mayor Tom Barrett  
Milwaukee City Hall  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Mayor Barrett:

Thank you so much for signing new nondiscrimination protections for Milwaukeeans who are veterans or transgender. Milwaukee now joins the majority of our nation's top 25 cities in providing equal opportunity protections to those with a different gender identity or expression.

With the City of Milwaukee's new comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance it is imperative that the Equal Rights Commission be restored, have new members appointed to it, and receive the resources that an institution serving a city as diverse as Milwaukee deserves.

We have complete confidence that your administration supports equal opportunity and will restore an Equal Rights Commission left dismantled by the previous administration. There are several reasons to support this course of action:

- Since transgender people are not covered in State or Federal law, recent past practice of referring discrimination complaints to other jurisdictions will not provide complainants any remedy.
- Chapter 109-15 of the City Code of Ordinances requires the Mayor to appoint 7 members to the Equal Rights Commission, subject to confirmation by the Common Council; and to receive and attempt to remedy complaints made under the ordinance.
- The Equal Rights Commission can serve as more than a mere enforcement mechanism; it can play a convening role in our often fractious city, bringing parties together to discuss difficult tensions between various groups in the City. Indeed, it has served this purpose in the past. In 1999, the Equal Rights Commission passed a resolution that I submitted recommending that the City provide some recognition for gay and lesbian couples in Milwaukee. Later that year, the City in fact created a domestic partner registry for same-sex couples which is used by area corporations to determine eligibility for family benefits

Center Advocates recommends that Ray Vahey, a Milwaukee resident who is active locally and nationally on the rights of LGBT people, be one of your seven appointments to the Equal Rights Commission. His resume is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Patrick Flaherty  
Director

PS. I have also enclosed postcards that we collected at Juneteenth Day supporting the re-establishment of the Equal Rights Commission.

FO: Equal Rights Commission

C: OT  
KML  
AP  
KK

10/10

RECEIVED

2007 OCT -3 PM 12:08  
October 2, 2007

MAYOR'S OFFICE

RICHARD E STEELE  
ROBERT D PARRISH  
3357 NORTH LAKE DRIVE  
MILWAUKEE 53211

July 7, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett

We would strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission.. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity and over 50 years of experience in administration, project management and finance.

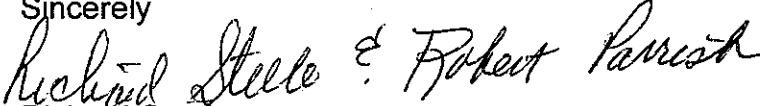
Ray has served on the Board of Early Music Now and is presently President of Center Advocates.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high-profile, ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment addressing audiences at Pridefest, churches and other organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship of 50 years. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006 and Ray is continuing the struggle.

Ray will be an asset to the Commission and to the community because of his advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills.

We appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely

  
Richard Steele  
Robert Parrish

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey; Ms Maria Monteagudo



Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.

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Katherine W. Lambert  
414-978-5431  
klambert@whdlaw.com

July 8, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Candidacy of Ray Vahey for the Equal Rights Commission

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to recommend Ray Vahey for the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. As a fellow member with Ray on the board of Early Music Now, I have seen him firsthand in action as an excellent advocate, a determined and pragmatic problem solver, an experienced businessman, and a highly skilled consensus builder who leads by example.

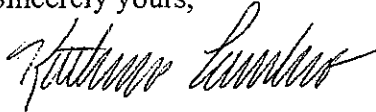
Ray has been committed to equal opportunity for all of his adult life, and he and his spouse of 50 years, Richard Taylor, were deeply involved in speaking out against the 2006 marriage amendment. They spoke to audiences at Pridefest, churches and other organizations throughout the campaign, and they testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing to keep that vow by, among other activities, serving as President of the Board of Center Advocates, Inc., an organization dedicated to working for full equality for LGBT people in Wisconsin.

Ray's depth of experience and commitment, his profound understanding that equality for all segments of society is essential for a healthy community, and his marvelous people skills all add up to make him an outstanding candidate for the Equal Rights Commission who will serve the entire Milwaukee community with distinction.

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
July 8, 2008  
Page 2

With many thanks for your consideration—

Sincerely yours,



Katherine W. Lambert

cc: Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall

July 8, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of broad gauge experience in administration, project management and finance. We need a strong Equal Rights Commission to bridge Milwaukee's diverse communities and enforce our strong local protections, some of which are not enforced by other civil rights jurisdictions.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is President of Center Advocates.

I first met Ray in April 2005 during the long prelude to the Fair Wisconsin campaign. I had the pleasure of working with Ray and his spouse, Richard Taylor as they became high-profile, ardent speakers against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, churches and other organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship of 50 years and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing the struggle.

I recruited Ray to the Center Advocates board of directors and have been impressed with the dedication and diplomacy he brings to the cause of equality.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Patrick Flaherty  
1012 E Clarke Street  
Milwaukee WI 53212

*Thanks for seriously considering this!*

✓ cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Ms Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

July 8, 2008

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. I worked with Ray on the Fair Wisconsin Campaign and have witnessed his deep commitment to not only LGBT human rights but to racial justice and gender equality as well. He has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of experience in administration, project management and finance.

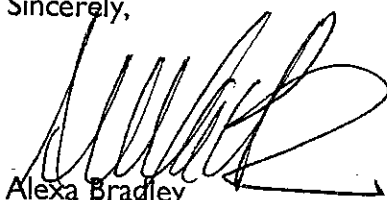
In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is now President of Center Advocates.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high-profile, ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, Churches and other Organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship of 50 years. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing the struggle.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Alexa Bradley  
3140 N. Fratney St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Ms Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall

Michael Doylen and Doug McDonald  
3210 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 E. Wells St.  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202


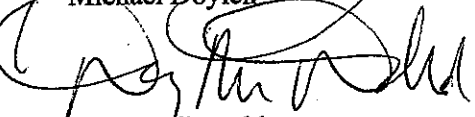
Dear Mayor Barrett:

We are writing to support Ray Vahey's application to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. We met Ray and his partner Richard Taylor, who is now deceased, through our shared efforts opposing the 2006 marriage amendment. We were extremely impressed by both men's passionate commitment to social justice and the prominent role they assumed in this campaign at the local and state levels.

Ray possesses excellent advocacy and problem-solving skills that will be an asset to the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. In addition to his previous management experience, he served on the boards of Early Music Now and Center Advocates. He is currently president of the latter organization.

Thank you for your full consideration of his candidacy.

Sincerely,

  
Michael Doylen  
  
Doug McDonald

- c. Ms. Rhonda Kesley, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Ms. Maria Montegudo, Director of Employee Relations, City Hall



# Underwood Memorial Baptist Church

1916 Wauwatosa Avenue • Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53213 • 414-258-4246

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

July 10, 2008

I am writing to recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray daily lives out his lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and possesses over 50 years of broad and varied experience in administration, project management and finance.

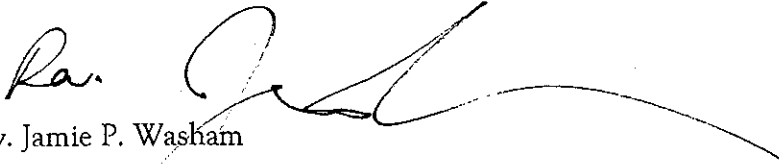
In addition to his management experience, Ray served on the Boards of Early Music Now, and is now President of Center Advocates.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high-profile, ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, churches and other organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship that lasted 50 years. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing the struggle.

Ray brings a mix of advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Rev. Jamie P. Washam

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Ms Maria Montegudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall



# ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER  
OF WISCONSIN

LEADING WISCONSIN'S RESPONSE TO AIDS

7/18 mp

RECEIVED

2008 JUL 17 PM 1:18

MAYOR'S OFFICE

To: Equal Rights  
Commission

C. RK  
mm  
BV - to report

July 16, 2008

Mayor Tom Barrett  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to offer my strong recommendation for your appointment of Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission.

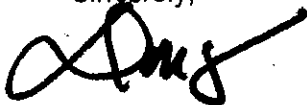
I know Ray to be a thoughtful and very effective advocate for human rights. Ray has a lifelong commitment to social justice and equal opportunity for racial and ethnic minority cultures, women, seniors and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high profile and a highly effective spokesperson against the 2006 Wisconsin constitutional amendment to prohibit marriage for same sex couples. Throughout their 50-year relationship, Ray and Richard endured discrimination and unequal treatment as a couple and they vowed to work for equity and fairness for all people who are victims of discrimination. Unfortunately, Richard passed away in 2006, but Ray remains highly dedicated to the cause of equal rights that they embraced together.

Ray has had a successful business career for over 50 years in the fields of finance, business management and administration. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Early Music Now and is President of the Board of Directors of Center Advocates.

I know Ray would be an outstanding member of the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. He will bring a lifetime of personal experience in addressing discrimination and a deep commitment to the pursuit of equal opportunity and fairness. It is with great enthusiasm that I encourage your appointment of Ray Vahey to the Commission.

Sincerely,



Doug Nelson  
President & CEO  
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

B20 NORTH PLANKINTON AVENUE 53203 PO Box 510498 53203-0092 MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN  
414-273-1991 800-359-9272 FAX 414-273-2357 arcw.org

APPLETON EAU CLAIRE GREEN BAY KENOSHA LA CROSSE MADISON MILWAUKEE SUPERIOR WAUSAU

2770 North Summit Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
July 20, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of broad gauge experience in administration, project management and finance.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is now President of Center Advocates.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high-profile, ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, Churches and other Organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship of 50 years. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing the struggle.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Joseph Pabst

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall ✓  
Ms Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall

DAN J. MUELLER  
815 W. DAPHNE RD.  
GLENDALE, WI 53217

RECEIVED  
2008 JUL 28 AM 10:49  
MAYOR'S OFFICE

July 24, 2008

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

FD: Equal Rights Commission  
C: RL ✓  
MM ✓  
BV - to respond

Dear Mayor Barrett,

I am writing with my strong recommendation of Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity and more than 50 years of far reaching experience in administration, project management and finance.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the boards of Early Music Now and is president of Center Advocates.

I first met Ray through my work as Chief Development Officer for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. He is a strong supporter of the fight against AIDS here and an ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, churches and other organizations throughout the campaign. He and his partner, Richard Taylor, testified before the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship lasting 50 years and together vowed to speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006 and Ray continues this mission today.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and make the Commission all the more effective.

Thank you for your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Mueller

cc: Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall  
Maria Monteagudo, Director of Employee Relations, City Hall

Ms Rhonda Kelsey  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ms. Kelsey:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of broad gauge experience in administration, project management and finance.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is now President of Center Advocates.

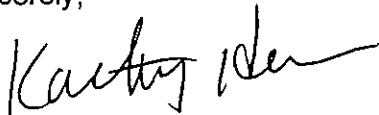
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Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

In addition, Ray is a wonderful and honorable human being who believes to his inner core in justice for each and every one of us. He would be an excellent addition to this commission.

Thank you for your time and interest..

Sincerely,



Kathryn J. Herson MD  
2738 N. Summit Ave  
Milwaukee WI 53211



## Jeff Percy Photography

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338 N. Milwaukee Street  
Studio 408  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone: 262-424-0950  
E-mail: [jeff@aaaasf.org](mailto:jeff@aaaasf.org)

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of broad gauge experience in administration, project management and finance.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is now President of Center Advocates.

I first became aware of Ray's commitment to equal rights when he, along with his spouse, Richard Taylor became high-profile, ardent speakers against the 2006 marriage amendment. I personally observed Ray and Richard speaking with passion regarding human rights at Pridefest, churches and other Organizations throughout Milwaukee. Ray was a participant and supporter in my photography project "Shall Not Be Recognized: Portraits of Same Sex Couples". At every opportunity Ray has stepped forward as a rational, but passionate supporter of equality.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,

Jeff Percy

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall ✓  
Ms Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall

3106 North Newhall Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53211-3040

The Honorable Tom Barrett  
Office of the Mayor  
200 East Wells Street  
City Hall Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to strongly recommend Ray Vahey to serve on the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission. Ray has a lifelong commitment to equal opportunity, and over 50 years of broad gauge experience in administration, project management and finance.

In addition to his management experience, Ray has served on the Boards of Early Music Now and is now President of Center Advocates.

Along with his spouse, Richard Taylor, Ray became a high-profile, ardent speaker against the 2006 marriage amendment, addressing audiences at Pridefest, Churches and other Organizations throughout the campaign. They testified at the Joint Senate/Assembly hearing in 2005. Richard and Ray built a loving relationship of 50 years. Richard and Ray vowed that they would speak out against injustice. Richard kept that promise until he died in 2006, and Ray is continuing the struggle.

Ray brings a mix of excellent advocacy and pragmatic problem solving skills that will make him an asset to the Commission and to the Community.

I appreciate your consideration of Ray's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Jill D. Robertson

cc: Ms Rhonda Kelsey, Policy Advisor, City Hall ✓  
Ms Maria Monteagudo, Director Employee Relations, City Hall