FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012
MEDIA CONTACT:
Theresa Sparks, HRC Director (415) 252-2500
David Miree, Policy Analyst and Communications (415) 252-2502

***** STATEMENT****

San Francisco Human Rights Commission Applauds President Obama’s Public Endorsement of Marriage Equality

San Francisco, CA- Today, President Barack Obama publically endorsed the right of same-sex couples to marry which is a reversal from views expressed during the 2008 campaign, when he said he opposed same-sex marriage but favored civil unions as an alternative. Proponents for same sex marriage and leading sources in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community are calling this a “landmark” announcement that will certainly breathe new life in the fight for marriage equality on the federal level. Obama told ABC News that, “after reflection, he had concluded that for [him] personally it is important for him to go ahead and affirm that same sex couples should be able to get married.”

Theresa Sparks, Executive Director of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) stated, “I applaud President Obama for his leadership on this issue. This is a momentous advancement in the cause for marriage equality and reflects a crucial commitment from the White House that the LGBT community deserves and believes is much overdue. Not only is this a victory and a milestone in this on-going civil rights struggle, it also fuels the hope that one day everyone will be able to enjoy the right to marry the person they love no matter the gender.”

This pronouncement makes Obama the first U.S. president to back the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry.

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect and promote human rights for all people. The Human Rights Commission was established in 1964 by City Ordinance and became a Charter Commission in 1990.

###