



## ACLU Celebrates Bethel Nondiscrimination Ordinance

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**BETHEL, ALASKA** – Less than 48 hours ago, on the evening of Tuesday, November 10, 2015, the City of Bethel passed two laws, Bethel Ordinances #15-33 and #15-34, to protect all city employees and contractors, including those who are gay or transgender, from discrimination.

“It is terrific that the seven members of the Bethel City Council unanimously said that fairness is a Bethel and Alaskan value,” said Joshua A. Decker, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska. “With these two laws, every person who works for Bethel is protected from discrimination. Alaskans agree that at work, we should all be judged on how well we do our jobs: Bethel’s new laws guarantee this and will help make sure that the people of Bethel have the best public servants working for them.”

Bethel passed these laws exactly six weeks after Anchorage passed its nondiscrimination ordinance, AO 2015-96, making Bethel the second Alaskan city—in less than two months—to protect public employees from workplace discrimination. “We are thrilled that Bethel is yet another Alaskan city that lives up to the Alaskan value of treating others how we would all want to be treated,” continued Decker. “We applaud Bethel Council Member Chuck Arrsauyaq Herman for introducing these two laws and congratulate the entire City Council for unanimously passing them. We look forward to other cities adopting these protections and stand ready to work with our elected officials and fellow Alaskans to make sure that no Alaskan is fired from their job simply based on who they are or whom they love.”

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