

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis requests that all gay, lesbian, and allied citizens throughout Missouri join together in a unified voice of opposition for the planned civil disobedience on August 3, 2005, by the radical activist group, Show Me Equality. To overpower the city and county courthouses with gay and lesbian couples seeking marriage licenses is a blatant drain on precious public services as well as an obvious example of the unproductive and negative tactics these types of organizations employ to achieve their goal of driving hate into Missourians' homes.

We firmly believe that the passage of a Missouri Constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage was a devastating defeat for the gay and lesbian community. However, the gay and lesbian political activist groups must recognize the need to focus on opportunities to further our common objectives, such as civil union recognition and non-discrimination laws. "It would be a disgrace to dedicate so much time and energy toward an event which really has no obtainable objective, rather than focusing all of these resources toward a fundraiser to support a civil union bill-a bill which would grant exactly what Show Me Equality claims they want, equal rights," said Mark Costaldi, Research and Development Officer for Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis. "Overwhelming and harassing the good people who dedicate their lives to serving the public, such as courthouse workers, when resources could be focused toward policy initiatives which actually make a difference, makes no sense."

As gay and lesbian activists, we have a responsibility to ensure that our community is represented in a manner which is professional and sincere in our desire for equal rights. "To participate in protests which have indirect consequences of turning the gay and lesbian community into a launching ground for religious radicals to justify discrimination or a punch line to a dinner table joke, clearly causes more harm to the gay and lesbian movement, than good," said Charles Stadtlander, President of the Log Cabin Republicans of Greater St. Louis. "I strongly encourage Show Me Equality, the Missouri media, and activist groups throughout the state to consider the negative effects of this harmful show of protest and the waste of valuable resources."