

Belmont Human Rights Commission Loving Day Statement

This year marks the 55th anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court decision that struck down U.S. laws against marriage between people based on differences in skin color or ancestry.

The plaintiffs, Richard and Mildred Loving, whose marriage we celebrate every year on June 12, were an interracial couple that changed America and whose love forced the Court to rule that "distinctions between citizens solely because of their ancestry" are "odious to a free people."

The ruling reconfirmed people's intrinsic right to be free and the desire to be united despite differences.

Since the Loving victory, American's attitudes toward interracial marriage have greatly improved, from 20% in support in 1967 to 94% in 2021. Among newlyweds in 2019, roughly one-in-five (19%) were interracial.

While we celebrate Loving Day, we should also remember that America has a long way to go toward racial reconciliation. The Belmont Human Rights Commission reaffirms our commitment to the cause of racial justice.

The Belmont Human Rights Commission is dedicated to fighting discrimination in all forms and increasing visibility and awareness of issues regarding diversity and discrimination in our community. If you have experienced discrimination in Belmont, please contact us at belmont.hrc@gmail.com or call 617-993-2795.