

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BY: James F. Evans

PHONE: 938-6121

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION: (POLICY ITEM: YES___ NO_X_)

Resolution authorizing Darden Gilbert, Minister of the Universal Life Church, to conduct a wedding in the County Courthouse on Sunday, February 19, 1995 at 12:30 PM-2:00 PM. (Board must approve all requests to use the Courthouse and surrounding grounds).

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has routinely approved requests to use the Courthouse grounds. The Board has approved the only request to conduct a wedding IN the Courthouse.

LIST ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION.

Deny request. Approve request with conditions (insurance, decorations, etc)

COSTS: (X) Not Applicable

A. Budgeted CURRENT FY \$ _____

B. Total anticipated costs \$ _____

C. Required Add'l funding \$ _____

D. Internal Transfers \$ _____

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

List the attachments and number pages consecutively:

2 page letter _____

SOURCE: () 4/5ths vote required

A. Unanticipated revenues \$ _____

B. Reserve for contingencies \$ _____

C. Source description: _____

Balance in Reserve for Contingencies, if approved: \$ _____

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Resolution No.: 95-53

Ordinance No.: _____

Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____

Absent: _____ Abstain: _____

Approved () Denied

Minute Order Attached

() No Action Necessary

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:

This item on agenda as:

___ Recommended

___ Not Recommended

Policy Determination

___ Submitted w/ Comment

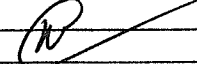
___ Returned for further action

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____

Comment: _____

ATTEST: MARGIE WILLIAMS
Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa,
State of California

A.O. Initials: 

By: _____
Deputy

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

TO: JIM EVANS, Housing and Community Development
Agency Director

FROM: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board *MW*

SUBJECT: Request by Darden Gilbert to Conduct a
Wedding at the County Courthouse on
February 19, 1995, at 12:30-2:00 p.m.; and
Resolution Number 95-53

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MARIPOSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
ADOPTED THIS Order on February 7, 1995

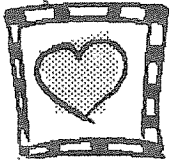
ACTION AND VOTE:

3:50 p.m. Jim Evans, Housing and Community Development
Agency Director;

A) Resolution Authorizing Darden Gilbert, Minister of
the Universal Life Church, to Conduct a Wedding in the
Courthouse on Sunday, 02/19/95, at 12:30-2:00 p.m.

BOARD ACTION: Following discussion with Jim Evans and
Darden Gilbert, (M)Taber, (S)Balmain, Res. 95-53
adopted/Ayes: Unanimous. Jim Evans advised that he will
bring back some general guidelines for use of the Courthouse
facilities for the Board's consideration in the future to
deal with the issues raised.

cc: Judge McMechan, Superior Court
File



DARDEN GILBERT

MINISTER
UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH
P. O. Box 1948
Mariposa, CA 95338

Telephone (209) 742-7350

January 24th, 1995

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
P. O. Box 789
Mariposa, CA 95338

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am here today to ask your permission to perform a wedding ceremony in the Courtroom on Sunday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m. I told the couple that I would check with parks and recreation regarding whether there would be a fee involved. I went on vacation and just before returning found out there was a fee, but that the figure given me was an approximate amount. I have since found out that I must appear before this honorable board to obtain permission to perform the wedding, even though the couple to be married have been sent forms and quoted an amount of \$65.00 to cover liability insurance.

I estimate that guests would start arriving around 12:30 p.m. and with the ceremony and time for them to take pictures we would be done by 2:00 p.m. I have given them specific instruction that no decorations were to be done, but that a bouquet of flowers sitting on a table would be permissible.

I did not think I was setting a precedent in this matter as Lynne performed a wedding here on a holiday (day after Thanksgiving) for Jim Owings grand daughter. There were quite a number of guests at that wedding.

I guess the real problem is one of Clergy vs. county employee. I have lived here since 1969, worked for the county since 1978 and feel that my character is beyond reproach. I have asked to be a minister of the Universal Life Church for the convenience of being able to perform weddings when couples want to be married in their home, chapel or want the Bible to be considered rather than simply a civil ceremony. Being a minister of the Universal Life Church does not mean that you give up your fundamental beliefs, only that you have this wonderful privilege of joining two people in marriage.


This couple came to the Courthouse as a possible site. They fell in love with the courtroom and its historic imagery. They came to the Clerk's office to inquire about a license and the possibility of using the Courtroom. They expressed their desire for scripture to be used. They have family coming from long distances, approximately 50 guests are expected. They have the Miner's Inn Banquet reserved for their reception and will be staying at the Schlageter Bed & Breakfast. They have informed me that invitations have already been mailed out. If I had any question in my mind as to the possibility of performing the wedding here I would have certainly made it clear to the couple. They both live and work in Yosemite. Their names are Patti Santos and Vince Ouellette. They can be reached by calling 372-1407 (Patti's work number)

Attached you will find copies of my Ordination Certificate and I. D. Card. I do hope I have explained sufficiently by desire to carry out this wedding and continue to be considered a responsible employee, as well a responsible tax paying citizen of this community. This is not an unusual undertaking (see attached list) to become a minister of the Universal Life Church.

I was told by Parks and Recreation that we had to notify them whenever a wedding was to take place. I never was under the impression we were limited to weekdays unless there was a liability insurance problem. Sandy Adams just told me yesterday that this policy of coming before the board had been in effect for about a year.

Under the several circumstances explained above I hereby request that I be allowed to conduct the wedding ceremony on Sunday, February 19th at 1:00 p.m. As a trusted employee I ask that I be allowed to open and lock the Courthouse. Also, if this issue comes up in the future will this same process be required?

Yours very truly,


Darden Gilbert, Minister
Universal Life Church