

STSO Documentary Educational Guide

Chapter 14: Plaintiff: Gay Alliance Versus Defendant: City of Rochester 3:01

The Gay Alliance bought its Atlantic Avenue building in 1991, boldly placing the organization's name on the door. Assumed that any not for profit agency would receive tax exempt status but the city assessor under Mayor Tom Ryan denied it. The Gay Alliance sued and New York State Appeals Court ruled that the organization must receive equality under law and that property tax exempt status must be granted. This landmark decision was the first in New York State and early in the U.S. as a whole, on the topic of government discriminating against gay people.

Tax Challenge EC October, 1991 p. 3

Tax Hearing Postponed EC November, 1991 p. 3

Gay Alliance sues to reverse City Assessor's Denying Property Tax Exemption

EC November, 1992 Front Page

Judge to city assessor: Re-think the GAGV Property Tax ruling EC December, 1992 Front Page

City assessor Denies Tax Exemption; GAGV Goes back to Court EC Feb., 1993 Front Page

Landmark Victory! Judge rules city discriminated Against Gay Alliance EC May, 1993 Front Page

GAGV members, supporters address City council on Tax Appeal EC June, 1993 pg. 3

Hearing Set for City appeal of Property Tax Case; ACLU files brief EC Dec., 1992 Front Page

GAGV Awaits decision on Property Tax Case EC Feb. 1994 Front Page

Appellate Court Rules that GAGV adds to City's "moral, mental improvement" and

Qualifies for Tax exemption; discrimination not upheld EC March, 1994 Front Page

Featured Persons – Audio and Video Recordings of Most

Claire Parker

Hon Ellen Yacknin

Hon Andrew Siracuse