

Roseville Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission

Agenda Item

DATE: May 19, 2021

ITEM: 8.b.

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Consideration of Conversion Therapy Ban Recommendation

Background

Overwhelming research has proven conversion therapy or similar treatments to “cure” youth of thoughts and feelings associated with sexual orientation, gender identity or expression is a dangerous practice causing both short and long-term harm. Conversion therapy is also referred to as reparative therapy, ex-gay therapy, or sexual orientation change methods. LGBTQIA+ people are at a significant risk of depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicide, only to be further heightened by conversion therapy practices.

19 states across the U.S. have prohibited the practice of conversion therapy to protect LGBTQIA+ youth. In the absence of state legislation, cities across Minnesota are passing ordinances to protect vulnerable LGBTQIA+ youth in their jurisdictions. In addition to protecting youth from this human rights violation, an ordinance prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy sends a message of inclusion and equity to the LGBTQIA+ community who live, work, and visit in the city of Roseville.

The following Minnesota cities have already passed ordinances or proclamations denouncing conversion therapy practices within city limits: Bloomington, Duluth, Minneapolis, Red Wing, Robbinsdale, Saint Paul, West Saint Paul, and Winona.

The following medical and mental health professional organizations have all made statements denouncing the practice of conversion therapy in support of research:

National Association of Social Workers Minnesota
American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of Pediatrics
American Association for Marriage/Family Therapy
American College of Physicians American Counseling
Association American Medical Association

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American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselors
Association American School Health Association National
Association of Social Workers Pan
American Health Organization
American Counseling Association

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission discuss whether they would like to bring forward a recommendation to the Roseville City Council as it relates to this topic.

There are a few options to consider for a proposed ordinance:

1. A proclamation denouncing the practice of conversion therapy or related treatment.
2. An ordinance prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children under the age of 18 within the city of Roseville with civil penalties, in the form of an administrative fine.
3. An ordinance prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children under the age of 18 within the city of Roseville with a civil penalty, in the form of an administrative fine, on the first offense and criminal penalties on subsequent offenses.
4. An ordinance prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children under the age of 18 within the city of Roseville with criminal penalties.

Additional points of consideration

- While more of a deterrent, criminal penalties have the potential to re-traumatize youth who are asked or required to participate in court proceedings.
- This ordinance would not apply to religious clergy or adults 18 years and older.
- This ordinance would not prohibit the practice of conversion therapy on minors under the age of 18 who can provide effective consent to medical and mental health services.
- If recommendation is approved by HRIEC, next steps are to work with the City Attorney to draft the ordinance and confirm both authority and process

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Attachments

LGBTQIA+ Month Proclamation

Trevor Project Conversion Therapy Study 2019

Common Municipal Ban FAQ's from OutFront MN