

Roseville Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission

Agenda Item

DATE: August 18, 2021

ITEM:

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance Discussion

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 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

Following the HRIEC's proclamation recognizing LGBTQIA+ Month in June 2021 and the commission's recommendation to city council to adopt an ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy within the city, council has requested HRIEC conduct additional research, draft the ordinance, and identify a community engagement strategy for the commission and city council to receive public input for consideration of the ordinance.

Staff recommends the HRIEC subgroup for the conversion therapy ban work with staff to complete the draft ordinance language, gather information from surrounding cities, and create a presentation for council.

Attachments