

From: [Pat Trudgeon](#)
To: [Thomas Brooks](#)
Cc: [Rebecca Olson](#)
Subject: FW: Conversion Therapy
Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 8:10:16 AM

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From: John M. Kysylyczyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:23 PM
To: *RVCouncil <city.council@cityofroseville.com>
Subject: Conversion Therapy

Caution: This email originated outside our organization; please use caution.

Mayor and Council,

Can someone give me a list of those providing this service in the city?

Is there anyone? Has the city attempted to contact them to let them know this is on the council agenda?

I looked through the city council packet and perhaps I missed it, but I cannot find a list of providers.

I am also at a loss as to why there is no funding for enforcement, or funding for training whoever will enforce this. Who is going to enforce this? What training will they receive to identify it?

Just wondering if this is more about virtue signaling than actually addressing and enforcing a problem that exists in the city.

John M. Kysylyczyn
Consultant, Lobbyist, Executive Director;
K Solutions LLC, owner;
RPM State Central Committee Delegate
Home office: [REDACTED]

[Redacted]

Mayor of Roseville, MN 2000-2004



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Summary of Staff Communications on Conversion Therapy Ban

With consistency in mind on the approach the city has taken with other proposed ordinances, the below timeline lists the opportunities available for public input or engagement as well as some additional efforts to communicate this particular ordinance on conversion therapy through email and social media.

1. Consideration of Conversion Therapy Ban was published with the May 19, 2021 HRIEC Meeting Agenda & Packet; email notifications also sent to subscribed list
2. HRIEC Presented a Work Plan update and a recommendation to Prohibit Conversion Therapy at the July 12, 2021 City Council meeting. This was included in the council agenda and packet; also emailed to subscribers.
3. Discussion of Conversion Therapy Ban was published with the July 21, 2021 HRIEC Meeting Agenda & Packet, email notifications also sent to subscribed list
4. Discussion of Conversion Therapy Ban was published with the August 18, 2021 HRIEC Meeting Agenda & Packet; email notifications also sent to subscribed list
5. Discussion of Conversion Therapy Ban was published with the September 22, 2021 HRIEC Meeting Agenda & Packet; email notifications also sent to subscribed list
6. HRIEC Chair Djevi shared in an article titled, "Building Healthy and Sustainable Communities: Physicians' Roles Outside of our Clinical Settings" for the Twin Cities Medical Society, the HRIEC's recommendation to council to ban conversion therapy within the city.
 - a. The City of Roseville reposted on the city's Facebook page on September 3, 2021
 - b. Also reposted by Chair Djevi on his person Facebook page on September 3, 2021
7. Invitation to Provide Input at HRIEC Meeting included in eNews on October 8, 2021
8. Discussion of Conversion Therapy Ban was published with the October 20, 2021 HRIEC Meeting Agenda & Packet; email notifications also sent to subscribed list
9. Proposed Ordinance sent to Dani Tollefson, GSA Staff Liaison at RAHS on October 11, 2021
10. Proposed Ordinance communicated to RAHS Progressives on October 11, 2021
11. City of Roseville Page Facebook Posting on October 19, 2021 to encourage attendance and participation at the HRIEC meeting on October 20 with a link to register.
12. Proposed Ordinance posted to the City of Roseville website on Friday October 29, 2021
13. Conversion Therapy Ordinance announcement included in eNews scheduled for November 5, 2021 release.

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **May 19, 2021 - Excerpt**
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6 **a. Consideration of Recommendation of Conversion Therapy Ban**

7 Mr. Brooks reviewed the recommendation of Conversion Therapy Ban item for the
8 Commission to consider. He asked for the Commission to discuss whether they
9 would like to bring this forward to the City Council as a recommendation.
10

11 Vice-Chair Lee asked Mr. Brooks what proposal he would recommend the
12 Commission choose.
13

14 Mr. Brooks indicated his recommendation would be to stay with the parameters of
15 what many of the other cities throughout the State have gone with which would be to
16 adopt an ordinance prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children
17 under the age of 18 within the City of Roseville with civil penalties, in the form of an
18 administrative fine. Most of them have some sort of administrative fine established
19 for the first offense and then it increases with subsequent offenses. In this case, he
20 believed the increase is already built into the City Code that it would increase with
21 subsequent offenses.
22

23 Chair Djevi opened the floor for Commission discussion.
24

25 Commissioner Macomber asked if Mr. Brooks could provide some clarification on
26 the part that says, “this did not apply to clergy”, so in other words, she wondered if
27 she were correctly understanding that a form of conversion therapy taking place led
28 by clergy would not be subject to this rule. She also asked what are the kinds of
29 organizations or professionals that would conduct conversion therapy.
30

31 Mr. Brooks explained it is within the scope or religious clergy to advise families on
32 issues related to their beliefs. A recent study showed that eighty percent of all
33 conversion therapies are done by clergy while the rest would be done by mental
34 health practitioners. He reviewed some of the kinds of professionals that perform
35 conversion therapy.
36

37 Commissioner Becker stated sort of in line with CultureBrokers, the Strategic Plan
38 and the commitments the Commission have all been a part of reviewing, she would
39 recommend moving forward with something like this. She was not quite sure what a
40 proclamation feels important and relevant in light of the other work the City is doing.
41 She was not sure if there is enough of an impact around that. She did like “adopt an
42 ordinance prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children under the
43 age of 18 within the City of Roseville with civil penalties, in the form of an
44 administrative fine.” for that reason. She thought in terms of the narrative that is one
45 their racial equity and inclusion statement it does feel like the Commission should do

46 something about this because to not do something does not align with what the City is
47 doing in terms of inclusion and respect.

48
49 Commissioner James indicated he liked “adopt a proclamation denouncing the
50 practice of conversion therapy or related treatment” and “adopt an ordinance
51 prohibiting the use of conversion therapy practices on children under the age of 18
52 within the City of Roseville with civil penalties, in the form of an administrative
53 fine.”, because it does not seem like each one is mutually exclusive of the other. A
54 proclamation could be made as well as adopting an Ordinance.

55
56 Mr. Brooks indicated both could be made but if the Commission were to proceed with
57 an Ordinance, that would be a proclamation and then some. He did not think the
58 Commission needed to recommend both. There could also be a recommendation to
59 the State to proceed with some State Legislation as well because this would only be
60 specific to the City of Roseville.

61
62 Commissioner James thought a proclamation could be done fairly quickly and would
63 fit with the LGBTQIA+ proclamation whereas an Ordinance will take time to do with
64 drafting it and the reading of it as well Council approval. If they cannot do both than
65 he would recommend the second one.

66
67 Youth Commissioner Xie indicated she liked combining the first two.

68
69 Chair Djevi indicated he did some reading on this and he did not read in the literature
70 anything about exempting the religious clergy from this kind of ordinance or
71 proclamations. He asked Mr. Brooks to comment on how he came up with exempting
72 the clergy.

73
74 Mr. Brooks explained the idea and best practice with this is that it is morally
75 defensible to, when the ordinances are similar. Once it starts to get into controlling
76 what religious clergy can do as it relates to their beliefs and their constituents, it starts
77 to get into these very difficult legal areas where the City may end up going to court
78 over this. Anytime there is infringement on religious liberties it gets very difficult
79 and would be very difficult of the City to maintain. That is why most cities went the
80 route of not including religious clergy within this.

81
82 Chair Djevi thought the Commission cannot do anything to put the City in legal
83 jeopardy of lawsuit and he could understand that but when Youth Commission Xie
84 and other Commissioners are pointing out that if they are exempting eighty percent of
85 the people who practice than, are they ok with taking twenty percent.

86
87 Commissioner Macomber thought the community thought of this as a problem and
88 understanding it and also those affected, the LGBTQIA+ community seeing the City
89 take this stand and is positive to more than twenty percent of those.

90

91 Mr. Brooks reviewed conversion therapy statistics in the US with the Commission.

92

93 Commissioner Peju thought this was a conversation that should be continued to
94 discuss further. She agreed with Youth Commissioner Xie because it feels like
95 window dressing because a large part of the people causing the harm are not included
96 in this. She questioned what she would be advising and recommending if a large part
97 of the people causing the harm are not going to be held accountable. In a personal
98 capacity, she is a person of faith, so she thought there is a way that if they choose and
99 recommend something to the City Council, there is a way to work at it and not just
100 say the Commission did it just to tick it off and say they are one of the cities to ban it.
101 She thought some work could be done to get something good accomplished.

102

103 Chair Djevi wondered if there could be something more specific to Roseville and find
104 a way to propose something like Golden Valley has done.

105

106 Mr. Brooks thought it was something possible to pursue an ordinance. To
107 Commissioner Peju's point, this is sort of a band aid with more work to be done and
108 he thought the Commission needed to send a message to the State that there needs to
109 be some legislation made and then continue this work.

110

111 Vice-Chair Lee asked if the motion could include religious clergy because it is a
112 recommendation and if the Council did not want to include that group it could be
113 removed.

114

115 Mr. Brooks explained the Commission can make any recommendation, but he
116 thought if including religious clergy is going to jeopardize this than he did not think it
117 should be included. He indicated he would need to talk to the City Attorney to find
118 out his recommendation as well.

119

120 Commissioner Peju noted she could sit down with the City Attorney and Mr. Brooks
121 about language because it does not have to be language that penalizes or restricts
122 religious clergy rights but there is a way to get around that.

123

124 Commissioner Allen moved and Commissioner Macomber seconded a motion to
125 recommend to City Council to propose moving this forward to the next step, based on
126 the language in ordinance proposal two with an administrative fine for the first
127 offense at one thousand dollars and to ask the City Council to send a message to the
128 State legislature banning conversion therapy. Motion passed unanimously.

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **June 16, 2021 - Excerpt**

- 4
- 5 • HRIEC recommendations update – Just Deeds and Conversion Therapy Ban
6 Ordinance
 - 7 ○ Introduction of the Just Deeds recommendation
 - 8 ○ Introduction of the Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **July 21, 2021 - Excerpt**
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6

7 **Approve Agenda**
8

9 Vice Chair Lee indicated the Item on Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance Discussion should be
10 moved directly after approval of the agenda.

11
12 Commissioner Palmquist moved and Commissioner Macomber seconded a motion to approve
13 the Agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
14

15 **Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance Discussion**
16

17 Vice-Chair Lee introduced City Attorney Gaughan.
18

19 Mr. Brooks reviewed previous discussion that from the Commission regarding this subject. He
20 also discussed the Governors Executive Order and his discussion with Chair Djevi and Vice-
21 Chair Lee. He indicated both Chair Djevi and Vice-Chair Lee wanted to move forward with this
22 because the Executive Order is not reliable and also the Executive Order did not actually ban or
23 prohibit Conversion Therapy. The Governor does not have the authority to do that.
24

25 Commissioner James asked if the Executive Order covered religious organizations as far as
26 Medicaid or Medicare, the payments to them. If a religious organization used conversion
27 therapy and then tried to get reimbursement from the Government, he wondered if the
28 Government would reimburse the religious organization under the Executive Order.
29

30 City Attorney Gaughan indicated he did not have an exact answer for that. He believed everyone
31 was still trying to sort through how the Executive Order is going to work. His expectation would
32 be that scenario would be extremely rare where a religious organization doing the religious
33 practices would be seeking Medicaid or Medicare reimbursement.
34

35 Vice Chair Lee thought in order to be reimbursed from insurance there would need to be a
36 licensed counselor. She knew some churches do have a counseling center with licensed
37 therapists.
38

39 City Attorney Gaughan indicated he drafted the Ordinance with open space for the Commission
40 to craft the purpose and findings for the Ordinance and he would then wordsmith and place them
41 in the Ordinance.
42

43 Vice-Chair Lee indicated in discussion with City Attorney Gaughan that the Commission will
44 post the draft Ordinance and welcome community feedback at the next Commission meeting, as
45 well as at the City Council meeting where the Commission will be presenting the Ordinance and
46 then for some of the findings, reach out to some of the people who already emailed the

47 Commission and given feedback to make sure it is fine with them if some of the information is
48 included in the Ordinance.

49

50 Youth Commissioner Xie asked if the people who provided the feedback be invited to the next
51 meeting.

52

53 Vice-Chair Lee indicated everyone is invited but when the Commission asks them if it is ok to
54 include their ideas then the people could be invited at that point.

55

56 City Attorney Gaughan noted if there are statements from licensing bodies or agencies that the
57 Commission would feel is appropriate that would be a proper spot to include those.

58

59 Commissioner James wondered if it would be worthwhile for the Commission to consult the
60 bans that have been issued in other cities throughout Minnesota in order to get some direction or
61 idea on how to proceed. He wondered where that responsibility would lie.

62

63 Mr. Brooks indicated that was a directive from Council. The Council really wanted to hear from
64 other cities that passed ordinances to know what challenges they have run into. That technically
65 would be a HRIEC responsibility to do that before it is presented to Council. He noted he could
66 help out where he can. He indicated he has reached out to Duluth and have heard back from
67 them today. He understood this was one of the original models in the State, so every city has
68 sort of derived their version from that.

69

70 Vice-Chair Lee indicated Chair Djevi, and Commissioner Peju are the only two people on the
71 subcommittee for this and she wondered if there was another other Commissioner that would
72 want to serve on this committee as well.

73

74 Commissioner Palmquist indicated she would be willing to help out.

75

76 Mr. Brooks noted this subcommittee would complete the Ordinance, conducting the research that
77 the Council has asked for, making sure the community provides input and helping prepare a
78 presentation for the City Council.

79

80 Vice-Chair Lee indicated they are hoping a lot of the work can be done before the next
81 Commission meeting.

82

83 Commissioner Macomber indicated she would serve on the subcommittee as well.

84

85 Commissioner Becker indicated she would be willing to help put together the presentation to the
86 City Council.

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **August 18, 2021 - Excerpt**
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7 **a. Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance Discussion**

8 Commissioner Palmquist summarized the Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance
9 discussion in the subgroup that was formed. She noted two items popped up during
10 discussion which the subgroup wanted to bring before the entire Commission. First
11 of all when the subgroup started looking over the draft of the Ordinance they did not
12 feel comfortable filling in the purposes part that the attorney had left blank. The
13 group felt the Commission was more advisory than creators of an ordinance. The
14 subgroup hoped to have a meeting with the City Attorney soon to fill it in. The
15 second thing with the 80/20 clergy versus non-clergy, how can they bring a wider
16 scope to the whole ordinance. That was something the subgroup is trying to figure
17 out with the attorney. The other piece is this is going to be a long project and the
18 subgroup will have updates, but it will not be done in a month. There is a lot of
19 research, planning and discussion that needs to go into it to actually make a
20 difference.
21

22 Chair Djevi added the subgroup is going to actually try to reach out to the people who
23 brought this to the City's attention and use that information as data to back the
24 proposed ordinance. At this point the subgroup is trying to gather as much
25 information as possible and meet with the City Attorney to see what kind of legal
26 language can be put into an ordinance like this.
27

28 Commissioner Becker asked if there are any parameters around interviewing people
29 or should there be someone like a licensed therapist to conduct those interviews.
30

31 Mr. Brooks explained he would not suggest there be interviews. One thing that was
32 mentioned at the City Council meeting was to have some victims of conversion
33 therapy speak at the meeting. That is a huge ask to have someone come and speak
34 publicly about that. He indicated he was personally uncomfortable with that, but they
35 can certainly reach out and ask.
36

37 Chair Djevi wondered if someone, such as an outside researcher, could do additional
38 research on this and maybe get paid out of the budget to do the work rather than have
39 staff spend a lot of time on researching this.
40

41 Mr. Brooks indicated there are a lot of questions with that. Originally he wanted to
42 offer to help the HRIEC with all of this work so that the HRIEC could do all of the
43 work and research and have this be a community led and community driven initiative,
44 especially when it gets into the public comment period and why Roseville should take
45 this on for it to be community led. This was really important to staff leadership and
46 the City Council. That is why he decided to take a step back on pushing through a lot

47 of these things. Within the scope of what was asked by Council, they certainly have
48 the capacity to do that, filling in the purpose of findingspro of the ordinance in
49 consultation with the attorney. Reaching out to the cities that already have ordinances
50 to find out what their experience has been since passing the ordinances, staff can
51 prepare emails to send. Putting together a presentation and the extra work of
52 hopefully finding someone to share a testimonial, there are a number of cities in the
53 State that have already passed similar ordinances and have already laid the framework
54 and the groundwork for the research. That was why he pushed back because he felt
55 like the Commission is trying to reinvent the wheel when this has already been done
56 in other cities. He would urge the Commission to leverage that and rely on the
57 blueprint that has already been laid out by many of the other cities. He knew the one
58 thing that Roseville is trying to do different, which he did not see it as being
59 successful is tackling the religious exemptions. Beyond that, this is what other cities
60 have done and Bloomington just passed their ordinance.

61
62 Commissioner Peju indicated what Mr. Brooks brought up is what the subgroup
63 discussed. But to make sure the ordinance was not cookie cutter and just for
64 Roseville, the subgroup saw the need to make sure that it was community led from
65 people who are in Roseville and for the Commission to come up with that information
66 which is why the subgroup thought it might be helpful to have some research
67 assistance to have all of that providing well informed information. The subgroup did
68 want to avoid reinventing the wheel.

69
70 Commissioner Allen indicated there are two organizations that come to mind that he
71 could introduce the Commission to. Depending on who would be willing to speak, he
72 would be concerned about having a victim come and speak but he would strongly
73 suggest looking at advocacy to support the victim. He noted he could work on
74 reaching out to some organizations if the subgroup would like him to do that.

75
76 Chair Djevi indicated the statistics on conversion therapy and suicides can be
77 received from other communities but what is happening in Roseville cannot be found
78 anywhere else and the City does not have that data. He asked if the Commission
79 could get as specific as that.

80
81 Mr. Brooks was not sure how the City can get that data, but they could probably reach
82 out to some of the organizations that are local to find out what localized information
83 that they have. He knew that information was hard to get even on State and National
84 levels. He thought it was worth asking but he was hesitant about it.

85
86 Commissioner James suggested to go back in the community response forms and try
87 to contact those people to see if they had any local information.

88
89 Commissioner Becker indicated the subgroup already did that. She indicated the
90 hurdle the subgroup is trying to get over is that the people connected to this do not
91 know the City.

92

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Commissioner Peju thought that is why the Commission has done some of the grunt work and this work would benefit from some research assistance, especially with Roseville being so strategically located to the University of Minnesota area, it would not be difficult to have a student research assistant to help look through some of the work that has already been done on their behalf and then some of the work the Commission has done. That would be also data mining information that they could provide information on the drafting of the ordinance itself for the City. They want to build on the information that either Duluth or Bloomington and other cities have done.

Chair Djevi thought in the interest of time and to have a good product in the end, he suggested the subcommittee meet again to see what the next steps should be. He agreed this should not be rushed through.

1 **Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission**
2 **Meeting Minutes**
3 **SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 - Excerpt**

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7 **a. Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance Continued Discussion**

8 Commissioner Palmquist updated the Commission on the Conversion Therapy Ban
9 Ordinance work being done.

10
11 Mr. Brooks indicated the one request he had was if Commissioner Palmquist could let
12 him know a date for presentation to the City Council.

13
14 Chair Djevi noted he sent a few articles to the subgroup. He indicated the subgroup is
15 still working on the Ordinance and hoped to have something to present in October.

Human Rights, Inclusion and Engagement Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2021 - Excerpt

a. Discussion and Public Comment on Conversion Therapy Ban Ordinance

Chair Djevi summarized the proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Conversion Therapy.

Commissioner Palmquist indicated she received a list of people that have reached out to them from other Commissioners and she sent out an invitation to them to this meeting and also emphasized the City Council meeting where the Commission will actually be presenting. She also told the individuals to write to the City Council on this subject as well.

Commissioner Palmquist explained she also reached out to a couple of people at ROZ, she has not heard back from them yet but did connect to two therapists there at the vigil the other night for Principal Brian Koland. They are very excited and willing to share this information. She indicated she is putting together an email with the Ordinance and all the information and those therapists will spread the word.

Commissioner Palmquist reviewed key dates with the Commission.

Mr. Brooks explained he has also been reaching out as well to supplement what the Commission is doing. He noted he had an organization reach out, Dignity Twin Cities, about donating a tree. He did reach out to an individual who is willing to speak at the November 8th meeting. He also reached out to the schools but has not heard back yet. He indicated he has not yet connected with the progressives' group yet. Ms. Olson did meet with them about youth commissioner recruitment so they did have an opportunity to mention that. He did want to formally send an invitation to them as well. He indicated the Ordinance is ready and will include any communications received in the packet for Council. He believed it will be included in the packet as discussion so they want to be clear on what the request is for the Council, in terms of approving the Ordinance.

Commissioner Peju explained as it comes to this topic of the Conversion Therapy Ban, she wanted to say that she thought there might have been emails earlier that she has not added to their spreadsheet that may not be in favor of the ban. As a HRIEC Commission, regardless of what the Commissioners opinions are, she wanted to make sure that all citizens, especially those that reach out to them feel heard, even if their thoughts, comments and perspectives may not reflect whatever the decision is. She indicated she will go through her emails again and get those ones to the Commission.

45 Commissioner James thought his recollection was that those people were out of State
46 and not local residents. He asked if the Commission should include those comments if
47 they are not residents of Roseville.

48
49 Commissioner Peju indicated she had a different recollection. One or two individuals
50 seem to have Roseville addresses.

51
52 Commissioner James thought he had all of those in a file. He indicated he would look
53 and send the information to her.

54
55 Commissioner Xie indicated she had questions about reaching out because she did
56 know students in the LGBTQ community that are also a part of the gay/straight
57 alliance at her school. She thought the teacher would talk to the students about it in
58 that club but apparently she has not replied yet so she wondered if she should reach
59 out to the students personally and talk about it with them. Also, if she talked to the
60 students about it, how should she bring it up.

61
62 Mr. Brooks indicated there would be only two opportunities to do that between this
63 meeting and November 8th. He thought Youth Commissioner Xie could certainly
64 work with her fellow classmates and even reach out to that sponsor. The sponsor did
65 reply and indicated she would bring this up to the group last week. He has not heard
66 back from the sponsor on the feedback that was received or if that actually happened.

67
68 Chair Djevi thanked the subgroup for all the work done. He thought the community
69 was proud of the work being done.