



Department Source: Law

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: May 20, 2019

Re: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 16 of the City Code to Prohibit the Practice of Conversion Therapy on Juveniles

## Executive Summary

A draft ordinance has been prepared for City Council consideration that would prohibit licensed professionals from practicing conversion therapy on juveniles.

## Discussion

Following a request by The Center Project, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) began researching conversion therapy. After a brief consultation with the Board of Health, HRC unanimously voted to recommend that the City Council pass an ordinance that would make it unlawful for licensed professionals to administer conversion therapy upon juveniles. The City Council discussed the HRC report at the Council's meeting on February 18, 2019, and unanimously approved a motion, made by Mayor Treece and seconded by Council member Trapp, directing staff to prepare an ordinance for the City Council's consideration.

While conversion therapy is currently not prohibited by state statute, the major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers, such as the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, the American School Counselor Association, the American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, the American Psychoanalytic Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, have opposed the use of conversion therapy. Some cities have adopted ordinances prohibiting the practice.

Staff has prepared a draft bill to amend Chapter 16 of the City Code to prohibit licensed medical or mental health professionals from providing conversion or reparative therapy on a minor. A violation of this prohibition would be a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000.00 and/or by confinement for a term not to exceed one (1) year.

Should the City Council wish to amend Chapter 16 of the City Code to prohibit licensed professionals from practicing conversion therapy on juveniles, staff recommends that the Council direct staff to place the attached bill on Council's June 3, 2019 meeting agenda for introduction and first reading.



## Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Unknown, as with any City Code violation, should violations of the ordinance be reported, there would be costs associated with the investigation and prosecution of the violations.

Long-Term Impact: Unknown.

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

## Legislative History

Date	Action
02/18/2019	REP10-19: The Human Rights Commission recommended the City Council pass an ordinance prohibiting licensed professionals from practicing conversion therapy on juveniles; the City Council subsequently directed staff to prepare an ordinance.
02/08/2019	R28-19 was adopted by the City Council to express support for HB 516 to prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with a person under the age of 18.

## Suggested Council Action

If the City Council desires to move forward with the proposed amendments to Chapter 16 of the City Code, staff should be directed to place the bill for introduction and first reading on a future Council meeting agenda.