



Report Number: PFC2020-0116

Meeting: Priorities & Finance Committee

Meeting Date: 2020 January 14

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Banning Conversion Therapy

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Evan Woolley, Druh Farrell, Gian-Carlo Carra, Jyoti Gondek, Peter Demong, Naheed Nenshi

WHEREAS Calgary is a welcoming City for all people regardless of gender or sexual orientation;

AND WHEREAS society has well-established legal and ethical obligations to protect people from foreseeable risks of significant mental, emotional and physical harm;

AND WHEREAS all orders of government have a role in protecting Calgarians from the harms associated with the practice of conversion therapy;

AND WHEREAS the Federal Minister of Justice has been instructed by the Prime Minister's Office to amend the Criminal Code to ban the practice of conversion therapy and take other steps required with the provinces and territories to end conversion therapy in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the Canadian Psychological Association opposes the practice of conversion therapy stating that it can result in negative outcomes such as distress, anxiety, depression, negative self-image, a feeling of personal failure, difficulty sustaining relationships, and sexual dysfunction;

AND WHEREAS the College of Alberta Psychologists amended the Standards of Practice in 2019 October to prohibit psychologists from providing any treatment, counselling or behavior modification techniques with the objective of changing or modifying the sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression of an individual;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has yet to take any action to ban this practice;

AND WHEREAS the City of Edmonton, City of St. Albert and Strathcona County have passed bylaws prohibiting the practice and promotion of conversion therapy;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of Calgary may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The City of Calgary has the authority to pass bylaws concerning businesses, ensuring citizens' expectations for safe and ethical business practices are met;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The City of Calgary advocate to the provincial government, including having the Mayor send a formal request on behalf of Council, urging the use of tools within their jurisdiction to end the practice of conversion therapy;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that Council direct Administration to draft a bylaw to prohibit the business practice of conversion therapy including a fine for those advertising or offering conversion therapy services within Calgary and return to Council through the Standing Policy Committee on Community and Protective Services no later than Q1 2020.