

May 21, 2020

Dear Councillor Chu,

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed "conversion therapy" bylaw that is currently being considered by city council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understandings of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punished accordingly.

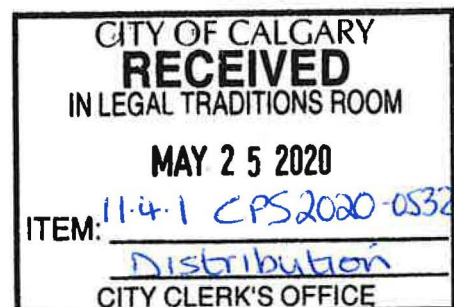
We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of family relationships and religious communities, including religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the city to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the city's vision.

Best Regards,

/s/ Shayla Mellott

Shayla Mellott





Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Eden

* Last name Schmidt

Email edenschmidt@live.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion therapy ban

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am in full support of banning conversion therapy



ISC:

1/1

Unrestricted

May 22, 2020

1:28:59 PM



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Lauren

* Last name Lesiuk

Email ashleytheowl14@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Banning Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Everyone deserves to love whoever they want. Conversion therapy is downright evil and it is forcing someone to be someone else. No one wants to be told who they can or can't love. If heterosexual people can love who they want, why can't homosexuals? We all have a voice. No matter how we use it. Please ban conversion therapy so that everyone can love without boundaries.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Luisa

* Last name Paez

Email

Phone 5874354210

* Subject Conversion therapy law

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

PLEASE BAN THIS RIDICULOUS PRACTICE



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* First name Megan

* Last name Sommer

Email megsom88@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Ban on Conversion Therapy

A few councillors have reached out to me regarding the upcoming ban on conversion therapy and their goal has been to provide clarity on what the ban means and its implications. All seem comfortable with the fact that the ban, as currently understood, does not impede anyone's right to free speech. There does not seem to be the same level of clarity on the part of many in my faith community. E-mails are circulating that describe the implications of the ban in the following way:

At the end of the two day meeting, some clarity about the impact of the bylaw was achieved, when councillor Gian-Carlo Carra said that the bylaw "absolutely applies to churches" and a range of activities that could be punished with a \$10,000 fine and 2-5 years in jail

were made clear:

pastoral counseling, especially anything on an ongoing basis
speaking events (presumably outside of actual preaching) where same-sex behaviour is called into question

the ban on advertising in the bylaw would apply to word-of-mouth, though they admitted that would be hard to prove. This effectively means that if I, as a same-sex attracted person, found pastoral support helpful for staying in my heterosexual marriage and told a friend about it, I could be subject to the fine
donations to churches and institutions that support traditional understandings of sexuality could be punished, as well

* Comments - please refrain from

They made it clear that anything that openly spoke



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

providing personal information in
this field (maximum 2500
characters)

of marriage as being between a man and a woman
and that sex was reserved for that institution
would be subject to sanction.

What this seems to imply to myself and others is that anyone voluntarily seeking counsel with a pastor to learn faith-based teachings on sexuality might be liable, as would the pastor/counsellor who talks with them. Furthermore, anyone who seeks to share their experience that involves a perceived "change" of sexual preference that occurred within the context of a voluntary and faith-based exploration of their relationship with God, would also incur the penalties, which seems to contravene their right to free speech.

All of this to say that abundant clarity is needed as many see this ban as far-reaching and applying to those who experience no coercion, pressure, judgement to explore their faith in this way and then share the experiences they've had.

I appreciate your desire to achieve clarity for all involved. Hopefully the above email can provide some idea of how many are understanding the policy should it go forward.

Many thanks,

Megan

Dear City Council Member,

First of all, I want to thank you for your service to the city during this especially chaotic and difficult time of quarantines and uncertainty.

I wanted to take this opportunity to make a request regarding the upcoming decision on May 25th to ban conversion therapy in the city of Calgary. No doubt you have heard many personal stories of hardship, pain and suffering that have been directly caused by the use, practice and marketing of conversion therapy. These individuals should be heard, their stories validated and conversion therapy should be banned.

However, I do wish to highlight the existence and unique identity of those who have spoken to you of their past desire to freely explore their faith as it relates to sexual identity. I personally am friends with three individuals (and aware of four others) who believe that their relationship with their sexual identity has changed as they have met with spiritual leaders and pursued relationship with God. They made these explorations of their own choice, as free members of our free society.

However, I worry that their unique experiences will be erased, ignored and even outlawed under a ban that may be written with very broad implications. While I do not condone conversion therapy, I do request that any vote taken on May 25th would seek to account for and include those who wish to make a faith-based exploration of their sexual identity as *consenting adults*. A free society that wishes to include, honor and uphold the identity expressions of all should be able to design inclusive and empowering policy for situations such as these.

I am very thankful for your service to this city and look forward to hear your deliberation,

Megan Sommer



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* First name Nicole

* Last name Sincennes

Email nc.sincennes@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Please protect religious freedoms from Proposed Bylaw Banning Conversion Therapy, CPS2020-0532

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To Whom it May Concern,
I believe in freedom of speech, and freedom of religion. People should be allowed to council or receive council/therapy for anything they choose. If Calgary chooses to stand behind this one issue for this one group of people, they cause issue for many other groups of people who they are taking freedoms away from. We ask that you clarify the wording of the bylaw to ensure that public Bible teaching/counselling is not included under the scope of conversion therapy. Please hear our request to keep freedom for ALL Calgarians, not just one group of people. Thank you.

Best regards,
Nicole Sincennes



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* First name **Natasha**

* Last name **Martel**

Email **natasha.martel@gmail.com**

Phone

* Subject **Proposed bylaw against conversion therapy**

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I support this bylaw as is written, with no amendments, restrictions, or exceptions. I am hoping you will do the same.



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* First name Laura

* Last name Pringle

Email laurajpringle@gmail.com

Phone +14036201010

* Subject Conversion therapy ban

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I support banning conversion therapy in Calgary.



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* First name Anna

* Last name Burger-Maritndale

Email aburgermartindale@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Vote Yes to ban conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

This is addressed to all Councils, especially my Councillor, Evan Woolley and Mayor Naheed Nenshi:
For the health and well-being of all Calgarians I hope and trust that you will show leadership and vote unanimously on Monday to pass the Bylaw as it is written to ban Conversion therapy in Calgary.
This is not a question of being anti-bible, anti-religious or against freedom of speech/ expression. This is for all Calgarians. This Bylaw will protect some of our most vulnerable fellow-citizens from the potential and actual harm inflicted by so-called conversion therapy which attempts to change a biological imperative.

I look forward to seeing the results of the Council vote.

Thank-you



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* First name David

* Last name Brydon

Email dabrydon@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy Ban

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am a member of the LGBTQ+ community and have lived in Calgary for more than 40 years. I have been exposed to varying degrees of bigotry through my life and the thought that anyone has to be exposed to this kind of negative behaviour saddens me; i consider conversion therapy to be just another form bigotry, and no matter how well intentioned, i believe it to be extremely damaging.

Please ban conversion therapy in this city. I think that it's not only a very important initiative for the safety of Calgarians, it also sends an important message and hopefully we can ban conversion therapy at all levels once and for all.



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* First name Kalsey

* Last name Root

Email kalsroot@gmail.com

Phone +14034047935

* Subject Ban Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

As a queer citizen living in a metropolitan city in Canada in 2020, I am appalled that conversion therapy can be lawfully conducted. I stand with the community and allies to demand that this ban pass to ensure the safety and health of people and support their individual rights to freedom!



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* First name Stan

* Last name Martin

Email stanmart@telus.net

Phone

* Subject Proposed Conversion Therapy Bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Please see attached letter.

May 22, 2020

Dear Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Councillor Jeff Davison,

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed "conversion therapy" bylaw that is currently being considered by City Council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ2S+ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ2S+ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that the Council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understanding of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punishable accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the compassionate expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the City to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the City's vision.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Martin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stan Martin
41 Patina Terr SW
Calgary, AB T3h 4M8



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* First name Joy

* Last name Shokeir

Email jshokeir@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject In support of the bylaw to protect LGBT+ people from conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

As a resident of Calgary, I fully support the bylaw to protect LGBT+ youth from the pseudoscientific practice of conversion therapy. No scientific evidence exists that supports the practice. The World Health Organization, the World Psychiatric Association, and the Canadian Psychological Association state that sexuality and gender identity are not disorders in and of themselves, nor can they be changed through means of conversion therapy. Rather, these cruel and outdated techniques are a weapon against LGBT+ people, particularly youth who are placed in these programs by their parents against their will. Some of these "therapies" use behavioural modification techniques that inflict shame and suffering on the victims, leaving these victims psychologically traumatized, leading to depression, substance abuse, and suicide. This method of psychological torture has no place in the modern world. These techniques are used as a weapon on a beleaguered LGBT+ community facing international threats from religious organizations, national governments, and widespread bigotry. For the sake of the safety and wellbeing of our LGBT+ friends and loved ones, please protect LGBT+ people from the horrors of conversion therapy.



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* First name **Nancy**

* Last name **Black**

Email **m_nancy_black@hotmail.com**

Phone

* Subject **In favour of banning the practice of conversion 'therapy' in Calgary**

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I fully support the freedom of personal agency in my city and therefore I support the ban on the practice of what is called conversion therapy.



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* First name Jose

* Last name Guillen

Email guillenj@shaw.ca

Phone 403-829-2340

* Subject Ban Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Conversion Therapy is an abusive, middle ages practice that is non sense for this day and age. It is an abuse of the human rights of the individuals. The groups that support this practice are completely out of context and do not understand the matter at all.

City Clerk's Office

8:07:39 PM



May 22, 2020

Mayor Nenshi & Council Members
The City of Calgary
800 MacLeod Trail
Calgary, AB T2P 2M5

Dear Mayor Nenshi & Council Members:

RE: Support for the Proposed Bylaw Banning Conversion Therapy in Calgary

A year ago, we wrote to you on behalf of over 170,000 working Albertans, many of which live and work in Calgary, to support Calgary Pride's call for action to ban conversion therapy locally.

Last week, after much public input and many heartbreaking personal stories, we were pleased to see your council committee unanimously endorse the adoption of the proposed bylaw. Today, I again write to you to strongly encourage your full support for the proposed municipal bylaw to ban conversation therapy at your upcoming council meeting.

As you know, conversion therapy can include any treatment, counselling, or behaviour modification that aims to change someone's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Mainstream medical organizations, such as the Canadian Psychological Association, formally oppose conversation therapy. It is a practice that is known to be harmful. It can exploit guilt and anxiety, damage self-esteem and lead to depression and even suicide.

Last year, the provincial government recognized that this was an issue in Alberta and established the "Conversion Therapy Working Group". This diverse working group was tasked with providing recommendations on ways to ban the practice in Alberta. Unfortunately, the new provincial government disbanded this important working group, halting progress on ending conversion therapy.

Thankfully, municipal leaders across Alberta have stepped up to fill the void. Alberta municipal councils, both big and small, have put forward and passed motions and bylaws to ban gay conversion therapy in their own municipalities.

We call on you as municipal leaders in Calgary to do the same.

The Alberta Federation of Labour supports ending conversion therapy in our province. We believe it is incumbent on all three levels of governments to act to end this harmful practice. Passing the proposed bylaw is one step to doing just that. We urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gil McGowan". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Gil McGowan
President
Alberta Federation of Labour

City Clerk's Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

From: Brenda Rehaluk [<mailto:brendare@telus.net>]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 1:56 PM

To: Office of the Mayor ; City Clerk ; Sutherland, Ward ; joe magliocco ; Gondek, Jyoti ; Chu, Sean ; Chahal, George ; jeff davidson ; Farrell, Druh ; Woolley, Evan V. ; Carra, Gian-Carlo S. ; EAWard10 - Lesley Stasiuk ; Farkas, Jeromy A. ; Keating, Shane ; Colley-Urquhart, Diane ; Demong, Peter

Cc: infor@jccf.ca; brleadershipdiscovery@gmail.com

Subject: [EXT] Notice to Ban Conversion Therapy PFC2020-0116 Bylaw

Importance: High

Dear Mayor Nenshi and City of Calgary Council Members:

I write to you to reconsider the proposed Notice to Ban Conversion Therapy PFC 2020-0116 as requested in the attached formal letter.

I would like to express my opposition to the City of Calgary spending resources to develop a bylaw that restricts our freedom. City Council is overstepping its mandate to develop a bylaw through the Notice of Motion Banning Conversion Therapy through PFC2020-0116 where the Priorities and Finance Committee approved that Council direct Administration to draft a bylaw to prohibit the business practice of conversion therapy.

In the notice of motion, it refers that the Province of Alberta has not taken action and highlights the fact that the Provincial government is the appropriate order of government to debate or undertake this type of work.

There is a high risk that this bylaw will infringe on our basic human rights of "freedom of expression and freedom of religion." (Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms).

Freedom of expression refers to the ability of an individual or group of individuals to express their beliefs, thoughts, ideas, and emotions about different issues free from government censorship. This bylaw will ultimately lead to faith-based organizations not being able to express their beliefs within their respective agencies. It is everyone's right to choose their beliefs.

There are enough issues to be resolved within Council mandate and I encourage you to leave this issue to the appropriate level of governments that do have a mandate to execute changes it deems necessary.

Further, the engagement with faith-based communities was not considered and Council is making a unilateral change without consulting organizations that are impacted by the proposed change.

Please halt this bylaw being developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brenda Rehaluk, MA, CHE

BRENDA REHALUK, MA(L)

403.617.4018

ca.linkedin.com/in/brendarehaluk

brendare@telus.net

May 22, 2020

City of Calgary Council
Calgary, AB

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

Re: PFC2020-0116

I would like to express my opposition to the City of Calgary spending resources to develop a bylaw that restricts our freedom. City Council is overstepping its mandate to develop a bylaw through the Notice of Motion Banning Conversion Therapy through PFC2020-0116 where the Priorities and Finance Committee approved that Council direct Administration to draft a bylaw to prohibit the business practice of conversion therapy.

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Freedom of expression refers to the ability of an individual or group of individuals to express their beliefs, thoughts, ideas, and emotions about different issues free from government censorship. This bylaw will ultimately lead to faith-based organizations not being able to express their beliefs within their respective agencies. It is everyone’s right to choose their beliefs.

There are enough issues to be resolved within Council mandate and I encourage you to leave this issue to the appropriate level of governments that do have a mandate to execute changes it deems necessary.

Further, the engagement with faith-based communities was not considered and Council is making a unilateral change without consulting organizations that are impacted by the proposed change.

Please vote against this bylaw being developed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rehaluk, MA(L), CHE



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Valentine

* Last name Wilde

Email valentinebwilde@gmail.com

Phone 5198712448

* Subject Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I would be very proud to know that Calgary, the city where I was born, has taken a stand to protect its people from this practice, which has been proven harmful to those subjected to it. I have experienced how much damage it causes to be pushed into pretending away one's queerness on the grounds that it is unpalatable to family members in particular, as well as others with whom one shares space within society. The practice promotes bigotry and reinforces stereotypical beliefs about gender and sexuality. It has no place in a society that claims to accept its LGBTQ2IA+ members.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Christine

* Last name Robertson

Email

Phone

* Subject Bylaw to end conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

We have come a long way from the days of conversion therapy with the level of awareness in our world today. There is no longer any excuse for allowing such harsh, punitive and unjust behavior and actions. People are people are people. Race, color, sexual identity and gender should not be issues of contention.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Luisa

* Last name Cisterna

Email jlcisterna@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy ban

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I'd like to ask the Councillors to be responsible and really think about the consequences of a loose law like the one proposed. It is clear, from the City can't even answer questions about what constitutes a violation of these proposed law in relation to faith-based organizations. This is a clear example of a bad law. You'll end up trapping and penalizing honest people. Please rethink this law and offer CLEAR scope and guidelines.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Darlene

* Last name Campbell

Email darlynnd1@yahoo.ca

Phone 4069758841

* Subject Gay conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

My opinion on this is number one there should be a disclaimer if somebody comes to a church for help and wants to be converted then they should have to fill out a disclaimer saying that they will not retaliate with any legal action etc. it's their right to either come and get the conversion therapy or not there's other options out there for them and they can choose alternative options. secondly nobody should be able to go in somebody else's house and tell them how to run their house as long as there's nothing illegal being done I don't go into your house to tell you what to do you don't come to my house and tell me what to do there's mutual respect you follow my rules I follow your rules when I am on your turf. Also how they be monitoring mosques, temples and churches that have more exclusive membership where outsiders just can't come in how is that going to be managed.. finally under the constitution I have a right to freedom of religion freedom of belief so how is that not conflicting with the constitutional rights.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Grant

* Last name Novak

Email grant.novak5@gmail.com

Phone 4032009247

* Subject Ban on "Conversion Therapy"

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

We long ago banned practices which were aimed at "educating" first nations youth to be more white, known as residential schools. We now recognize that this was not an attempt at bringing a primitive people into modernity; but rather a deliberate attempt to eradicate a culture that we, the white majority, were uncomfortable with.

So-called conversion therapy is nothing more than an attempt to erase homosexuality, which the religious right are uncomfortable with, by convincing homosexual youth that something basic and unalterable about themselves is wrong and in need of correction. There is no reason it should be protected as a religious freedom. Nobody's freedom is being protected by the continued existence of this damaging practice.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Carlos

* Last name Vargas Gamboa

Email crobmonyoya@yahoo.com

Phone 5877182116

* Subject Conversion Therapy

Dear Council Members Committee,

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am writing you to express my opinion about the controversy of banning the Conversion Therapy, I truly believe if this bylaw passes it will hurt our rights of freedom of Religion, it will prohibit the constitution right of freedom of expression. I see everywhere a lot of support and advertising from the LGBTQ community to the public in general encouraging to "get out of the closet" and openly accepted the possibility that you are homosexual or any other sexual preference other than the gender you were born. On equal rights why the LGBTQ community are becoming upset with the option for anyone whom wishes to seek conversion therapy back to their original born gender? If anyone wants to change their lives why is that bad? I do not see advertising anywhere promoting conversion therapy, but if the option is there, let it be available. I am not talking about to force anyone that is not right and therefore needs to deal on individual case by case like any other matters in our society. I am a big supporter of those whom VOLUNTARILY seeking conversion therapy and I am against the possibility of banning this service for those whom may looking for.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Laura

* Last name Hesp

Email lauraehesp@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Laura Heal, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Toronto, Ontario as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,

Laura Hesp



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* First name Jeffrey

* Last name Kerr

Email jeffgkerr@hotmail.com

Phone 4039688332

* Subject RE: Conversion Therapy Bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I would like to request that the attached letter be read aloud verbatim and in its entirety before council during the council meeting on May 25, 2020. The letter is regarding the conversion therapy bylaw which is under imminent consideration by Council. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kerr

Jeffrey Kerr
135 Citadel Mesa Close NW
Calgary, AB, T3G 5K9

May 24, 2020

Calgary City Council
City Hall
700 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB, T2G 2M3

RE: Calgary Conversion Therapy Bylaw

Dear Mayor Nenshi and City Council,

I will be as concise as possible. At issue here is not whether or not this bylaw should exist, but the current composition of the bylaw, as well as what should constitute the definition of "Conversion Therapy." No abusive or coercive practices should ever be permitted. I stand with all of those who have spoken in condemnation of such practices, and in support of a safe and accepting city for those of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

I have grave concerns in relation to the following: (a) the profound implications due to the bylaw on the charter right of freedom of expression. (b) The profound implications due to the bylaw on the charter right of freedom of religion. (c) The vast overextension of culpability as set out in Part II, 5(2) of the bylaw.

Much has already been submitted by the public regarding concerns surrounding the charter rights of freedom of expression and freedom of religion. While I deeply share the concerns expressed, in reading the public submissions to the SPC on Community and Protective Services as appended to the agenda for the committee meeting on May 13, 2020, I do not believe I have anything of significant substance to add beyond what has already been articulated. I do however want to emphasize that I believe and am in full agreement that these charter rights are under *direct and manifest threat* by this bylaw as is currently written, and that the City stands not only probable chance of protracted litigation if passed, but that council is also under ethical obligation to weigh the implications for this bylaw against the fundamental rights of Canadian citizens. While council may not agree with contrary opinions to popular contemporary definitions of gender identity or sexual orientation, unless these contrary opinions rise to the *legitimate* threshold of hate speech as defined in section 319 of the criminal code, council should be unapologetically opposed to signing a ban on these definitions or opinions into law, as is currently being considered with this bylaw. Council is urged to hold section 319 of the criminal code, as well as the charter rights of freedom of religion and freedom of expression, up to the current bylaw in question to discern whether or not it will be able to

withstand challenges from each of these fronts. As currently written, it unquestionably will not.

I am also concerned that the aforementioned section in Part II of the bylaw has not been parsed or challenged in great enough detail. Part II, 5(2) stands to hold property owners liable to an unprecedented extent, and to a degree that is beyond reasonable expectation. Take as an example, the property owner of a strip mall who leases one of their bays to a counseling practice which employs multiple psychologists – some on a part time or contract basis – and any one of these psychologists is found to have provided services or advice of any type deemed to amount to the provision of conversion therapy as outlined in the bylaw. Not only can the owner and operator of the counseling practice be held culpable under Part II 5(3) of the bylaw, but the owner of the strip mall itself can also be held accountable under Part II 5(2). This is an unconscionable overreach. The protections afforded under Part II 5(4) regarding the threshold of authorization, assent, acquiescence, or participation in relation to principals, directors, etc. of a corporation are not here afforded to property owners. This is profoundly concerning. This section should be struck from the bylaw entirely, or we should be holding the operators of strip malls containing massage parlors operating as fronts for human trafficking in this city to the same standard. The severity of penalties outlined in this bylaw comprise what may well be a crippling blow to a property owner who cannot reasonably be expected to know or police the actions of their tenants to the degree necessitated by this bylaw – especially given the fact that in the example given above, a practice such as described is protected by FOIP laws and client-practitioner confidentiality.

The matters at hand are fundamentally charter rights, human rights, and criminal code issues. Please accept this as a request for council to remain within their purview and defer this bylaw. It is not ready and it is not properly composed. Furthermore, the federal government has legislation *currently in process* regarding this exact and specific issue. That legislation is highly likely to impact and potentially conflict with this bylaw. The federal arena is where this debate, and any laws surrounding it belong. These are issues that affect all Canadians, and they are issues currently and actively being dealt with at the federal level for the benefit of all Canadians. The City of Calgary has no place in legislating on issues fundamental to the value hierarchy of Canadian society, especially in ways that will so directly and clearly impinge upon freedoms of speech and religion. We trample on these things at our collective peril. Council is urged to sober minded and careful thought.

Thank you for your service to our city, and thank you kindly for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kerr



Public Submission

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name **Tamara**

* Last name **Wrigley**

Email **tamara@thecalmlcat.ca**

Phone **4034557850**

* Subject **Conversion therapy ban**

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am writing to show my support in asking the Mayor and City Council to pass the conversion therapy bylaw with no amendments and no changes.

Thank you

From: Sona Kuliyeva [<mailto:sona.kuliyeva@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:13 PM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>
Subject: [EXT] OPPOSITION TO GREEN LINE LRT UPDATED ALIGNMENT

PLEASE HEAR YOUR CITIZENS!!!!!!!!!!

Green Line Technical Committee and Members of Calgary City Council

Attention: Councillor Shane Keating, GL Technical Committee Chair
His Worship, Mayor Naheed Nenshi
Councillor Druh Farrell, Ward 7, Greenline Committee member
Other Members of Calgary City Council

800 MacLeod Trail South
P.O. Box 2100, Station
Calgary Alberta, T2P 2M5

Submitted by E-Mail to Office of the City Clerk publicsubmissions@calgary.ca

MY CONCERNS REGARDING THE GREEN LINE LRT UPDATED ALIGNMENT (MAY 12, 2020)

Your Worship and Members of Calgary City Council,

The Green Line LRT alignment approved by Calgary City Council in 2017 committed to an underground tunnel beneath 2nd Street SW in the downtown core, the Riverwalk Pathway, Prince's Island Park, Bow River, Crescent Heights community, and Centre Street to 16th Avenue North. This approved alignment, which I continue to support, brought with it the promise to:

- **Preserve and enhance public access and enjoyment of the Riverwalk pathway and Prince's Island Park;**
- **Protect the wetlands and the birds, fish and other wildlife that call it home;**
- **Revitalize the Crescent Heights, Chinatown, Eau Claire, Beltline and Victoria Park communities with the spirit of best practices of urban planning in mind;**
- **Create a legacy LRT line to serve the long-standing needs of Calgary's growing communities; and**
- **Embrace and deliver on the vision of Calgary as a world class, vibrant, and walkable city where all residents can access and enjoy the beautiful natural setting and culturally diverse communities of the downtown core.**

I understand and appreciate that due to funding and other concerns, City Council directed the Green Line Project Team to revisit the alignment and build approach in order to examine other alternatives, but the proposed revised alignment does not meet the commitments made to community residents.

Calgarians, like me and my neighbours, are still holding The City to these promises.

My Concerns

An updated Green Line LRT alignment was presented on May 12, 2020. I support the SE segment to the Downtown, but the alignment and the build approach north of the downtown core are unacceptable.

Specifically:

- Any LRT bridge over Prince's Island Park and the Bow River breaks the promises made to:
 - Preserve the park and its wetlands, birds and fish;
 - Maintain or increase access and walkability of the local pathways and park spaces;
 - Maintain the spectacular views of Prince's Island Park and the Bow River, which are currently enjoyed by the local residents and many members of the public visiting the area;
 - Enhance and revitalize the local neighbourhoods through the thoughtful addition of mass transit in a manner that respects the history and residents of those communities.
- The LRT bridge intersecting at the top of the Centre Street Bridge will impede southbound vehicle traffic, impair access to downtown and Chinatown, hurt business operators and festival / event organizers;
- Placing the LRT line at-grade (i.e. street level) with two center roadway train lines breaks the promise of a city-shaping initiative. It would create traffic barriers east / west, increase accident risk at intersections, deter people from visiting by personal vehicles.
- The proposed Green Line LRT alignment is a 'less than' approach where scope and quality is reduced to stay within the \$4.9B funding envelope. This, again, breaks the promise of a legacy mass transit system.
- An LRT Bridge over the river will have the impact of obstructed views, produce significant noise and light pollution and an overall negative effect on my property value.

As a local resident who stands to be impacted by the future Green Line LRT, I find the current proposal, with respect to the issues outlined above, unsupportable. This is our only opportunity to make the Green Line the best it can be – settling for an inferior proposal shouldn't be on the table.

I urge the Green Line Technical Committee and Members of Calgary City Council to revisit and rethink this segment of the plan. It should not, in its current form, be approved by Council at their June 15th meeting.

Sincerely,

Name: Sona Kuliyeva

Address: 222 Riverfront Ave SW Calgary, T2P 0X2

-----Original Message-----

From: georgeslater@sympatico.ca [<mailto:georgeslater@sympatico.ca>]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 10:59 AM

To: Mayor's Office <MAYOR@calgary.ca>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Emailing: Conversion Therapy ban bylaw Mayor Maheed Nenshi letter.docx

Dear Mr. Mayor,

In the Council's upcoming debate on May 25th of the proposed ban of conversion therapy in Calgary, I would appreciate your careful consideration of the points made in my attached letter.

Thank you.

Dr. George Slater

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

Conversion Therapy ban bylaw Mayor Maheed Nenshi letter.docx

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

May 22, 2020

Dear Mayor Maheed Nenshi,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am writing as a health care professional with twenty-five years' experience in private practice as a psychotherapist, marriage and family therapist and pastoral counsellor in Toronto, now retired. I hold a PhD in the Psychology of Religion and Counselling from Boston University Graduate School.

There is mis-information swirling about "conversion therapy" that must be corrected before you can make an informed decision next Monday. The innuendo is that conversion therapy is harmful—that it uses aversive methods to force a person to give up same-sex attraction and revert to heterosexual functioning. Fifty or more years ago that may have been so, when electro and chemical shock treatments were sometimes tried in order to condition persons out of their same-sex attraction. But that is never done today, nor would anyone condone such treatment now.

What is practiced today is psychotherapy – talk therapy—with a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist, or pastoral counselling with a minister or priest; and it is available when a person wants help to overcome gender confusion or simply to share their struggle with someone. For that portion of our population that suffers distress from sexual dysphoria, supportive psychotherapy offers many benefits –stress reduction and esteem-building among them. Also, it is both humane and ethical, in that it works within the person's own value system and at the person's own request.

This bylaw, if enacted, will prevent people who want help in addressing their unwanted same-sex attraction from getting that help. It will forbid medical practitioners, professional therapists, pastoral counsellors and spiritual advisors from giving the supportive, respectful and compassionate help they might otherwise provide.

This bylaw, if enacted, will infringe on religious freedom and assert the dominance of the State over the Church. It could result, for example, in the City fining or jailing a minister or priest for praying with a parishioner. It could, if enacted, penalize churches and synagogues for upholding their basic Scriptural tenets, such as traditional marriage. It will insert the State between the minister/priest and the parishioner, introducing an element of fear, suspicion and censorship where there needs to be openness, trust and honesty.

This bylaw as proposed is biased and hypocritical in that, on the one hand, it believes that sexual orientation and behaviour can change, but , on the other hand, it prohibits change, or even the discussion of possible change, from homosexual to heterosexual, gay to straight.

Finally, it will criminalize free speech. Open debate will be stifled, and the voice of conscience will be punished. Such a bylaw is dangerous to our democratic freedoms.

For these reasons I hope that you and the Council will recognize the harm that the proposed conversion therapy bylaw could do and defeat this ban.

With respect,

George R. Slater, PhD.
georgeslater@sympatico.ca

To whom it may concern at the City of Calgary,

I have never written to the City requesting for any political action before, but on this subject I must.

I urge you to redefine the phrasing of the conversion therapy bylaw. As currently written, it is far too broad and ambiguous, and has the potential to infringe on our, my, religious freedom as a Christian.

It is one thing to ban extreme medical practices, but to broadly state that "services" are banned - what does that mean? Does it mean that my pastor, a loving man who faithfully teaches Bible, is at risk of committing a criminal offence when he preaches that "God created them male and female"? Or that I myself am at risk of committing a crime by stating my own personal religious beliefs?

The City has a duty to protect its people. Protect all persons from bullying and extreme medical practices and psychotherapy services. I do not condone or participate in the bullying or degradation of the LGBTQ community. BUT you have a duty to protect me too - a 29 year old woman who believes in the teaching of the Bible and freedom of speech and religious belief and expression.

You can't protect one community and hang the other out to dry.

I urge you - not to dismiss the ban - but to rewrite it in a way that can be clearly understood and that protects religious freedoms in Canada.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Meredith

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dave Mellott [<mailto:davem@onpointinv.com>]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 3:25 PM
To: City Clerk
Subject: [EXT] Fw: Ward 4: Conversion Therapy By-law comments

Hello,

Please see the attached letter re: the proposed "Conversion Therapy" by-law.

Regards,

Dave

From: Dave M
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2020 6:53 PM
To: Chu, Sean <Sean.Chu@calgary.ca>
Cc: Ward4 - Andrew Chin <Ward04@calgary.ca>
Subject: Ward 4: Conversion Therapy By-law

Councillor Chu,

Please see the attached letter re: the proposed "Conversion Therapy" By-law.

Sincerely,

Dave

Dear Councillor Chu,

21.May.2020

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed "conversion therapy" bylaw that is currently being considered by city council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understandings of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punished accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of family relationships and religious communities, including religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the city to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the city's vision.

Best Regards,



David Mellott

May 21, 2020

Dear Councillor Chu,

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed “conversion therapy” bylaw that is currently being considered by city council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understandings of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punished accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of family relationships and religious communities, including religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary’s conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the city to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the city’s vision.

Best Regards,

/s/ Shayla Mellott

Shayla Mellott

From: Val P [<mailto:valplouffe@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 12:56 PM

To: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Change the proposed Conversion Therapy Bylaw before voting on it

Dear City Clerk's Office,

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed "conversion therapy" bylaw that is currently being considered by city council and is being brought to vote on Monday, May 25.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ2S+ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ+ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understandings of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punished accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of family relationships and religious communities, including religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the city to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the city's vision.

Sincerely,
Valerie Plouffe
Calgary Resident



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Ashley

* Last name Adams

Email aphadams@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversation Therapy

Conversion Therapy Bill:

"To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Ashley, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Calgary, Alberta as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Thank you for your time,
Ashley Adams



Public Submission

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Ashley

* Last name Wolak

Email ashleydamphouse@gmail.com

Phone 5874380698

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

Conversion Therapy Bill:

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Ashley and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Calgary as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Ashley Wolak



Public Submission

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Carla

* Last name Simac

Email carlSimac@gmail.com

Phone 4164193770

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

To whom it may concern,

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Hello, my name is Carla Simac, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Toronto as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,

Carla Simac



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Chantelle

* Last name Little

Email chantellelittle@icloud.com

Phone

* Subject Concerns about Proposed Bylaw Banning Conversion Therapy, CPS2020-0532

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Our freedoms as Canadians are very important, including freedom of choice, speech, and religion. I am concerned that the current wording of the proposed bylaw, is in fact limiting freedoms that are protected by the Charter. I ask that you clarify the wording of the bylaw to ensure that private conversations, parental/family guidance, and religious services/teaching/counselling are not included within the scope of conversation therapy. It is important that Calgarians and Canadians alike, are able to freely get the support they seek.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Crystal

* Last name McDermott

Email cmcdermott2@myseneca.ca

Phone

* Subject Ban of Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Crystal McDermott, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Canada as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Don

* Last name Ray

Email ray@ucalgary.ca

Phone

* Subject Ban Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)
Ban conversion Therapy.



Public Submission

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Emily

* Last name Bedford

Email emilymjantz@gmail.com

Phone 4039686492

* Subject Conversion Therapy Ban

Hello Councillors,

I hope this finds you well. I'm a resident of Discovery Ridge and I am writing to express my support of the proposed Conversion Therapy Ban bylaw as it is currently written, as well as your intention to vote in favour of it. As a member of the faith community, I was disappointed to come across efforts to oppose the bylaw from my colleagues, which is why I am writing to you today.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Ultimately, I believe that their theology and interpretation of Scripture is at best misguided and at worst discriminatory. Religion should never be used as a justification for this kind of behaviour. I believe it is rare for an individual to seek to change their sexual orientation or behaviour without a religious organization convincing them of their need to do so. This is harmful and needs to be banned, and treats people as problems to be solved rather than people to be loved.

I adamantly believe that the claim that the bylaw infringes on religious rights and freedoms is false. We do not and should not have the freedom to harm others on the basis of our beliefs.

I very much appreciate your intention to support the bylaw as it is written. I'm trusting that tomorrow will be a memorable and long-awaited day for you and for the LGBTQ community.



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office



Public Submission

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Erica

* Last name Gesell

Email erica.gesell@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Erica, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Calgary as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Erica Gesell



Public Submission

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Gwen

* Last name Linstead

Email Gwenlinstead6@gmail.com

Phone 14033333310

* Subject Conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I can not believe in this day and age we are even considering conversion therapy. There is nothing unnatural or abhorrent about the gay and lesbian population. What is abhorrent are parents who are weak and hateful who will not stand up for or standby their children. Nowhere in the charter of rights and freedoms does it say "if you don not meet my ideals I can torture you".



Public Submission

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Isabelle

* Last name Landry

Email isabellemklandry@gmail.com

Phone 6472079794

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

To whom it may concern,

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Hello, my name is Isabelle, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Toronto as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Isabelle Landry



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name John

* Last name Mykes

Email mykesj@shaw.ca

Phone 4032698281

* Subject Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Please vote to stop this unhealthy, unfounded and abusive practice. It is important that people are allowed to be comfortable and accepted for who they are.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Kaitlin

* Last name Gardner

Email kaitlinngardner@gmail.com

Phone 6047608204

* Subject RE: Conversion Therapy Bill

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Kaitlin Gardner and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. As someone who has lived in Calgary, I know the city is strong and diverse, and I fully believe that without protection and support for all that need it, the city will not meet its full potential. I also hope that this regulation brings change across Canada; the first step just needs to be taken. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Mission, BC as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Kaitlin Gardner



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Karley

* Last name Kent

Email karley.k@hotmail.com

Phone (204) 898-9635

* Subject I support the ban of conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Hi, I am Karley Kent and I support the ban of conversion therapy. I have read the bylaw. I am in Winnipeg, Mb. I am aware of the increased suicide, mental illness and trauma that conversion therapy causes and I believe conversion therapy should be banned for the safety of the LGBTQ community.

Thank you,

Karley Kent



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Keisha

* Last name Reilly

Email keisha.reilly@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Keisha Reilly, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Ontario, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Keisha Reilly



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* First name Krystina

* Last name Ali

Email

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

Conversion Therapy Bill:

"To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Krystina Ali, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Toronto, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Thank you for your time,
Krystina Ali



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Kyla

* Last name Pifw

Email Kylastrickland@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion therapy needs to end NOW

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Hi, I'm writing for the fight against conversion therapy as I've lost many lives physically/ mentally and spiritually to a treatment that was deemed INEFFECTIVE DECADES AGO. Pain is not the answer.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Cora

* Last name McDonald

Email arocmcdonald@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Concerning the Conversion Therapy Bylaw Vote

Firstly I would like to say thank you for the strong leadership our municipal officials have shown during the Covid19 Crisis. How you have navigated the challenges of caring for our diverse community has not gone unnoticed.

I am writing out of specific concern over the proposed Conversion Therapy bylaw that has been placed before City Council. Calgary is a world class city, and part of what makes us world class is that we are safe and welcoming to all people. We are a diverse collection of ethnicities, backgrounds, traditions, faiths and preferences that can live together peacefully and respectfully.

Banning harmful, abusing, coercive, or manipulative therapy of any kind, that seeks to change someone against their will is the right decision, however, the proposed bylaw (as explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14) goes beyond this level of protection. The proposed bylaw interferes deeply with the ability of Calgarians, including those in religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am concerned that many LGBTQ2S+ people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values. Also, the Council has made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understanding of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punishable accordingly.

ISC:

1/2

Unrestricted

May 23, 2020

11:17:35 PM



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

Adults should be able to consent to the counselling and support of their choosing, not have those choices made for them, or restricted, by any level of government. I am asking that the City change the bylaw to make this possible. I am also asking that the city protect Religious Rights and Freedoms, and allow for the compassionate expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender.

As proposed the City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. I am asking that the City of Calgary make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives and whose beliefs don't align with the City's vision.

People should be free to make voluntary choices about their sexual and gender identity, without interference from government in their private lives. Please, do not take this freedom away from Calgarians.

City Clerk's Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

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* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda

* First name Madalena

* Last name Pinto

Email maddypinto@hotmail.com

Phone

* Subject Ban on Conversion Therapy Bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I wish to express my deep concern with regards to the bylaw that Calgary City Council is proposing on the ban on conversion therapy. I strongly stand against coercive, abusive, or manipulative approaches to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. However, I also support the freedom of people to make voluntary choices about their sexual orientation and gender identity including seeking counselors and medical professional who are able to provide honest and complete information without the interference from government in their private lives. Limiting the information that a professional can provide or discuss amounts to a violation of the freedom of speech and freedom of religion especially if an individual is wishing to seek out that information of their own will.

I therefore ask that Calgary City Council ban abusive and coercive practices, while also respecting the voluntary choice of individuals concerning their sexuality and identity.

City Clerk's Office

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name	Madison
* Last name	Treacy
Email	madison_treacy5@msn.com
Phone	
* Subject	Conversion Therapy Bill

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Madison Treacy and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Ajax, Ontario, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Madison Treacy



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name McKenzie

* Last name Campbell

Email

Phone 9053715369

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bill

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is McKenzie Campbell, and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from St Catharines, Ontario, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find.
This is ESSENTIAL in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
McKenzie Campbell



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* First name **Samantha**

* Last name **Fisher**

Email **samfisher1999@hotmail.com**

Phone **5873776014**

* Subject **Conversion therapy bill**

Conversion Therapy Bill:

"To whom it may concern,

Hello, my name is Samantha Fisher and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Calgary Alberta, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Meredith

* Last name Papps

Email meredithpapps@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Concerns about Proposed Bylaw Banning Conversion Therapy, CPS2020-0532

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

To whom it may concern at the City of Calgary,
I urge you to please clearly define the phrasing of the conversion therapy bylaw to ensure that religious freedoms are protected. I understand that the intent of the bylaw is to prohibit businesses from offering paid conversion therapy services, not restrict religious freedoms. But I urge you to please ensure that there is no possible risk for misinterpretation of this bylaw that would prohibit faith leaders from freely teaching and expressing Biblical views. Please also ensure there is no room for accusation against personal conversations between individuals including those between parents and children.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the protection of all parties involved in this bylaw.



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* First name Naomi

* Last name Shea

Email naomishay@live.ca

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy BAN in Calgary

Conversion Therapy Bill:

To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Naomi Shea and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from (Toronto, Ontario) as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,
Naomi Shea

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Nicole

* Last name Sgarbossa

Email nsgarbossa@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Bylaw to Ban Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

As an ally and supporter of the LGBTQ+ community I support the passing of the bylaw to prohibit conversion therapy as it is written. It is an immoral practice and one that should not be allowed anywhere, ever.



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* First name Samantha

* Last name Fisher

Email samfisher1999@hotmail.com

Phone 5873776014

* Subject Conversion therapy bill

Conversion Therapy Bill:

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

"To whom it may concern,
Hello, my name is Samantha Fisher and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Calgary Alberta, as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Sarah

* Last name Elton

Email

Phone 403-479-7766

* Subject In favor of the Bylaw to ban Conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I am in favor of the bylaw to ban conversion therapy. Human beings should be allowed to be who they are without judgement or being convinced to change who they are to please others who are uncomfortable.



Public Submission

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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Sarah

* Last name Lupker

Email slupker@alumni.uwo.ca

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy

PROTEST

To whom it may concern,

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Hello, my name is Sarah and I support that ban of conversion therapy in its current written state. I have read the bylaw and am writing from Toronto as I recognize the increase risk of mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide that conversion therapy creates; and see it as essential to support LGBTQ2SA+ Calgarians in their safety as well as their right to love and be loved. This bill written in its current state is clear and direct, and is preventative of any loopholes that those who wish to profit from conversion therapy might find. This is essential in protecting the lives and well being of vulnerable Calgarians.

Thank you for your time,

Sarah Lupker, BA, SSW



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Stasi

* Last name Fernandes

Email Stasi_marie9@hotmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion Therapy Bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

As a Chair of the Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee with the Alberta Teachers' Association Local 55, I ask the Mayor and City Council to pass the conversion therapy bylaw with no amendments and no changes. I fully support the diversity and dignity of all members of the LGBTQi2* Community, and must stop these harmful practices.

City Clerk's Office

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Vonny

* Last name Fast

Email vfastpromotions@gmail.com

Phone 403-804-2603

* Subject Conversion Therapy Ban

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Thank you for your countless hours in considering this bylaw. I support the ban on conversion therapy as it is written.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Wayne

* Last name Linton

Email wayne.linton17@gmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion 'therapy' bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Pass this bylaw as written. There is no room for weakening it, no place in society for this harmful, abusive, so-called 'therapy' in today's world.

Lives depend on you to do the right thing here.

Pendola, Amy J.

From: Barbaatar, Davaa on behalf of City Clerk
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 10:14 AM
To: Public Submissions
Subject: FW: [EXT] Conversion Therapy Proposed Bylaw

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Astrid Eckstein [mailto:laughingeckstein@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 2:00 PM
To: Office of the Mayor <TheMayor@calgary.ca>; City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>; Sutherland, Ward <Ward.Sutherland@calgary.ca>; Magliocca, Joe <Joe.Magliocca@calgary.ca>; Gondek, Jyoti <Jyoti.Gondek@calgary.ca>; Chu, Sean <Sean.Chu@calgary.ca>; Chahal, George <george.chahal@calgary.ca>; Davison, Jeffrey R. <Jeff.Davison@calgary.ca>; Farrell, Druh <Druh.Farrell@calgary.ca>; Woolley, Evan V. <Evan.Woolley@calgary.ca>; Carra, Gian-Carlo S. <Gian-Carlo.Carra@calgary.ca>; EAWard10 - Lesley Stasiuk <EAWARD10@calgary.ca>; Farkas, Jeromy A. <Jeromy.Farkas@calgary.ca>; Keating, Shane <Shane.Keating@calgary.ca>; Colley-Urquhart, Diane <Diane.Colley-Urquhart@calgary.ca>; Demong, Peter <Peter.Demong@calgary.ca>
Subject: [EXT] Conversion Therapy Proposed Bylaw

Dear Mayor and City Councillors,

I just found out that the City is currently looking at a so-called conversion therapy bylaw.

One of the things that makes it home is that Calgary is a welcoming place (past slogans back that up). Part of what makes Calgary unique is its desire to welcome people here, to be part of something bigger and better than they've experienced before. I had a quick peek at the white hat ceremony oath, and while it certainly brings a smile to my face, the bottom line is that it's all about sharing our western hospitality, with "all folks and critters who cross our path."

City Council's job is to ensure that our city remains welcoming to all. We welcome those with different faiths, backgrounds and beliefs with the recognition that while we don't have to agree with everyone, we still welcome them.

The new bylaw that the city is looking at is much too broad and could be used in potentially negative ways that do not support individual right to choice about sexuality. If we say as a city that it is OK for people to choose their own path of sexual identity, how then can we say all choices are OK except if you should choose to get support in this one area? That is, what about the person who might say, even if they have a same sex attraction, that they do not want to follow that attraction, that they would like help in abstaining from that? Whether we agree with them or not is irrelevant. What is relevant is that we need to leave that choice open to them.

Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. It doesn't mean that we have to agree with each other over everything. But it would be intolerant to say that people should not have a choice as to what therapy they choose to seek.

In addition, we need to maintain the freedom of religious expression and the freedom of different houses of worship to follow their belief systems. The City does not have a right to come into people's homes to presume parental rights over a child. Parents have always had the right to teach their children their belief systems.

Nor does the City have a right to come into houses of worship or religious schools to tell people what can and cannot be taught. The City does not have the right to say you can teach about everything else but not sexuality. How does that make sense? One of the first things that a new parent says is, "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" Again, it does not mean that we will all agree with each other (that's not possible). But it does mean that we will respect the individual's right to express themselves according to their belief system.

One of the jobs of the City of Calgary is to uphold our core belief of welcome in our city. This is what we have always stood for. Council and Calgarians need to continue to be welcoming to all the folks and critters who cross our paths.

Sincerely,

Astrid Eckstein

Resident, Ward 4, Calgary



Public Submission

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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Don

* Last name Ray

Email ray@ucalgary.ca

Phone

* Subject Ban Conversion Therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)
Ban conversion Therapy.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Gary

* Last name Cheung

Email gary222ca@yahoo.com

Phone 4038636880

* Subject vote against the bylaw proposal. To ban conversion therapy.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

Please vote against the bylaw proposal to ban conversion therapy. This is not what I as a Calgary tax payer expect city councillors to do. We want you focusing on city services: policing, garbage, streets, etc., and not weighing into highly controversial human rights issues that are clearly being promoted by the LGBTQ agenda. I'm not planning to quit quoting the Bible in church. All our services are online now - is that advertising? Is talking to a gay or transgendered individual about her orientation a crime to pay a fine for or a jail sentence? As a member of our church board, if someone inside our church tries to help someone change their gender orientation, am I responsible? You want us to spend thousands of dollars in legal costs to debate what even council can't quite agree on? Don't let the agenda of the day determine your vote.

I'll be looking for a city councillor who focuses on the right priorities - the economy, city services, recovering from Covid.



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Linda

* Last name Maschmeyer

Email maschmeyer@shaw.ca

Phone

* Subject Banning conversion therapy

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I'm supporting the ban as it comes before council. I believe conversion therapy goes against medical information as we now know it and will cause more harm than good.



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✓ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name PST. DAVID

* Last name OLADEJI

Email doladeji@gmail.com

Phone 4038157055

* Subject Objection To The Conversion Therapy ByLaw

I am writing out of concern for the proposed "conversion therapy" bylaw that is currently being considered by thy City Council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming to people of all faith, creed, background and gender. This is what makes Calgary one of the unique and most beautiful places to life on earth. As such, we always appreciate, love and welcome people of all gender, creed and faith to the saving arms of the Almighty God and our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ - including but not limited to the LGBTQ2S+ community and people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary and Greater Calgary Area have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we can ALL live together under the mercies of God.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many LGBTQ2S+ will be disenfranchised and those who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

this field (maximum 2500
characters)

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that the Council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understanding of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punishable accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the compassionate expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary's conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the City to make reasonable accommodations for people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the City's vision.

Kind regards,

Pastor David Oladeji
The Redeemed Christian Church of God
Parish - Dominion Restoration Chapel



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☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Jeffrey

* Last name Kerr

Email jeffgkerr@hotmail.com

Phone 4039688332

* Subject RE: Conversion Therapy Bylaw

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I would like to request that the attached letter be read aloud verbatim and in its entirety before council during the council meeting on May 25, 2020. The letter is regarding the conversion therapy bylaw which is under imminent consideration by Council. Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kerr

Jeffrey Kerr
135 Citadel Mesa Close NW
Calgary, AB, T3G 5K9

May 24, 2020

Calgary City Council
City Hall
700 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB, T2G 2M3

RE: Calgary Conversion Therapy Bylaw

Dear Mayor Nenshi and City Council,

I will be as concise as possible. At issue here is not whether or not this bylaw should exist, but the current composition of the bylaw, as well as what should constitute the definition of "Conversion Therapy." No abusive or coercive practices should ever be permitted. I stand with all of those who have spoken in condemnation of such practices, and in support of a safe and accepting city for those of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

I have grave concerns in relation to the following: (a) the profound implications due to the bylaw on the charter right of freedom of expression. (b) The profound implications due to the bylaw on the charter right of freedom of religion. (c) The vast overextension of culpability as set out in Part II, 5(2) of the bylaw.

Much has already been submitted by the public regarding concerns surrounding the charter rights of freedom of expression and freedom of religion. While I deeply share the concerns expressed, in reading the public submissions to the SPC on Community and Protective Services as appended to the agenda for the committee meeting on May 13, 2020, I do not believe I have anything of significant substance to add beyond what has already been articulated. I do however want to emphasize that I believe and am in full agreement that these charter rights are under *direct and manifest threat* by this bylaw as is currently written, and that the City stands not only probable chance of protracted litigation if passed, but that council is also under ethical obligation to weigh the implications for this bylaw against the fundamental rights of Canadian citizens. While council may not agree with contrary opinions to popular contemporary definitions of gender identity or sexual orientation, unless these contrary opinions rise to the *legitimate* threshold of hate speech as defined in section 319 of the criminal code, council should be unapologetically opposed to signing a ban on these definitions or opinions into law, as is currently being considered with this bylaw. Council is urged to hold section 319 of the criminal code, as well as the charter rights of freedom of religion and freedom of expression, up to the current bylaw in question to discern whether or not it will be able to

withstand challenges from each of these fronts. As currently written, it unquestionably will not.

I am also concerned that the aforementioned section in Part II of the bylaw has not been parsed or challenged in great enough detail. Part II, 5(2) stands to hold property owners liable to an unprecedented extent, and to a degree that is beyond reasonable expectation. Take as an example, the property owner of a strip mall who leases one of their bays to a counseling practice which employs multiple psychologists – some on a part time or contract basis – and any one of these psychologists is found to have provided services or advice of any type deemed to amount to the provision of conversion therapy as outlined in the bylaw. Not only can the owner and operator of the counseling practice be held culpable under Part II 5(3) of the bylaw, but the owner of the strip mall itself can also be held accountable under Part II 5(2). This is an unconscionable overreach. The protections afforded under Part II 5(4) regarding the threshold of authorization, assent, acquiescence, or participation in relation to principals, directors, etc. of a corporation are not here afforded to property owners. This is profoundly concerning. This section should be struck from the bylaw entirely, or we should be holding the operators of strip malls containing massage parlors operating as fronts for human trafficking in this city to the same standard. The severity of penalties outlined in this bylaw comprise what may well be a crippling blow to a property owner who cannot reasonably be expected to know or police the actions of their tenants to the degree necessitated by this bylaw – especially given the fact that in the example given above, a practice such as described is protected by FOIP laws and client-practitioner confidentiality.

The matters at hand are fundamentally charter rights, human rights, and criminal code issues. Please accept this as a request for council to remain within their purview and defer this bylaw. It is not ready and it is not properly composed. Furthermore, the federal government has legislation *currently in process* regarding this exact and specific issue. That legislation is highly likely to impact and potentially conflict with this bylaw. The federal arena is where this debate, and any laws surrounding it belong. These are issues that affect all Canadians, and they are issues currently and actively being dealt with at the federal level for the benefit of all Canadians. The City of Calgary has no place in legislating on issues fundamental to the value hierarchy of Canadian society, especially in ways that will so directly and clearly impinge upon freedoms of speech and religion. We trample on these things at our collective peril. Council is urged to sober minded and careful thought.

Thank you for your service to our city, and thank you kindly for your consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Kerr

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I am writing to you out of concern for the proposed “conversion therapy” bylaw that is currently being considered by city council.

We all agree that Calgary needs to be safe and welcoming for all people. We want LGBTQ2S+ people to be welcome, along with people of various faiths, backgrounds, and communities. People throughout Calgary have different approaches and beliefs when it comes to things like sexuality and faith, and we all can live together.

As explained at the Community and Protective Services Committee meeting on May 13 and 14, the bylaw would deeply interfere with the ability of many Calgarians, including many religious communities, to care for people in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs around sexuality.

It would also mean that many sexual minority people who choose not to identify with their sexuality or who want to change their sexual behaviour would be prohibited from obtaining support consistent with their values.

Finally, we are very concerned about the fact that council made it clear that speaking events where faith-based understandings of sexuality is taught would be a violation of the bylaw and punished accordingly.

We are calling on the City to change the bylaw in a way that makes way for sexual minority adults to consent to the counseling and support of their choosing. We are also asking that the City include provisions in the bylaw that create space for the expression of traditional beliefs regarding sexuality and gender, including requirements for compliance with such beliefs in the context of family relationships and religious communities, including religious organizations, religious schools, and houses of worship.

The City of Calgary’s conversion therapy bylaw represents a significant and dangerous intrusion into the relational and spiritual lives of citizens. We are asking the city to make reasonable accommodations for

people who want the freedom to make their own decisions about their sexual lives, and whose sincere beliefs do not align with the city's vision.

Kind regards,

Adrian Cheuk

Calgary

From: Nancy Westad [<mailto:weeklymomentums@gmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Office of the Mayor <TheMayor@calgary.ca>
Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>; Sutherland, Ward <Ward.Sutherland@calgary.ca>; Magliocca, Joe <Joe.Magliocca@calgary.ca>; Gondek, Jyoti <Jyoti.Gondek@calgary.ca>; Chu, Sean <Sean.Chu@calgary.ca>; Chahal, George <george.chahal@calgary.ca>; Davison, Jeffrey R. <Jeff.Davison@calgary.ca>; Farrell, Druh <Druh.Farrell@calgary.ca>; Woolley, Evan V. <Evan.Woolley@calgary.ca>; Carra, Gian-Carlo S. <Gian-Carlo.Carra@calgary.ca>; EAWard10 - Lesley Stasiuk <EAWARD10@calgary.ca>; Farkas, Jeromy A. <Jeromy.Farkas@calgary.ca>; Keating, Shane <Shane.Keating@calgary.ca>; Colley-Urquhart, Diane <Diane.Colley-Urquhart@calgary.ca>; Demong, Peter <Peter.Demong@calgary.ca>
Subject: [EXT] Urgent Submission and inquiry for Conversion Therapy

Good morning, please accept this submission in consideration while deliberating your Conversion Therapy Bylaw.

Sincerely,

Nancy Westad

From: Stephanie Pedora [<mailto:srpedora@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 10:14 AM

To: Office of the Mayor <TheMayor@calgary.ca>; City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>; Sutherland, Ward <Ward.Sutherland@calgary.ca>; Magliocca, Joe <Joe.Magliocca@calgary.ca>; Gondek, Jyoti <Jyoti.Gondek@calgary.ca>; Chu, Sean <Sean.Chu@calgary.ca>; geroge.chahal@calgary.ca; Davison, Jeffrey R. <Jeff.Davison@calgary.ca>; Farrell, Druh <Druh.Farrell@calgary.ca>; Woolley, Evan V. <Evan.Woolley@calgary.ca>; carlo.carra@calgary.ca; ray.jhones@calgary.ca; Farkas, Jeromy A. <Jeromy.Farkas@calgary.ca>; Keating, Shane <Shane.Keating@calgary.ca>; Colley-Urquhart, Diane <Diane.Colley-Urquhart@calgary.ca>; Demong, Peter <Peter.Demong@calgary.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Ban on Conversion Therapy

Hello,

I want to come out in vehement opposition to Dr. Ann Gillies and her mobilization of conservative christians to attempt to strike down the bill to ban all forms of conversion therapy. Please see attached summary paper, based in empirical science and citing a multitude of individual study results. The evidence is overwhelmingly negative. I urge you to vote in support of the ban on conversion therapy.

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2019-12/conversion-therapy-issue-brief.pdf>

Thanks,

-Stephanie Pedora

From: KATHRYN LAPP [<mailto:kalapp@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2020 11:00 AM

To: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>; Sutherland, Ward <Ward.Sutherland@calgary.ca>;
Magliocca, Joe <Joe.Magliocca@calgary.ca>; Gondek, Jyoti <Jyoti.Gondek@calgary.ca>;
Chu, Sean <Sean.Chu@calgary.ca>; Chahal, George <george.chahal@calgary.ca>;
Davison, Jeffrey R. <Jeff.Davison@calgary.ca>; Farrell, Druh <Druh.Farrell@calgary.ca>;
Woolley, Evan V. <Evan.Woolley@calgary.ca>; Carra, Gian-Carlo S. <Gian-Carlo.Carra@calgary.ca>;
EAWard10 - Lesley Stasiuk <EAWARD10@calgary.ca>; Farkas, Jeromy A. <Jeromy.Farkas@calgary.ca>;
Keating, Shane <Shane.Keating@calgary.ca>; Colley-Urquhart, Diane <Diane.Colley-Urquhart@calgary.ca>;
Demong, Peter <Peter.Demong@calgary.ca>

Subject: [EXT] Say *NO* to a ban on conversion therapy on Monday

May 23, 2020

Dear Mayor Nenshi and Councillors:

Please vote NO on Monday to a ban on conversion therapy. A ban on conversion therapy would severely and negatively impact our freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

I passionately believe in the sanctity of the traditional family and marriage, as instituted by God in the Bible.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. And Adam said:

"This is now bone of my bones

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man."

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed. Genesis 2: 21 – 24

People are born either male or female. Anyone who questions their own sexuality are suffering from a mental disorder called "gender dysphoria", as named by the American Psychiatric Association.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/patients-families/gender-dysphoria>

Our freedoms of speech and religion are guaranteed by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Every Canadian citizen and every church must be allowed to speak freely on any subject. This includes sharing our thoughts on God's original intention for men and women, conversion therapy and homosexuality.

The

Canadian

Charter of Rights and Freedoms of 1982 is part of Canada's Constitution. The Charter protects every Canadian's right to be treated equally under the law. The Charter guarantees broad equality rights and other fundamental rights such as the freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion.

<https://www.chrc-ccdp.gc.ca/eng/content/human-rights-in-canada>

History teaches us that every culture which has not protected the traditional family and marriage (between one man and one woman) has collapsed and died within a couple of generations.

Voting NO to the ban on conversion therapy is one step forward in protecting the family and traditional marriage, thus protecting the future of Calgary. Therefore, I urge you to vote NO on the ban on conversion therapy on Monday.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Lapp

4520 – 26 Ave NE, Calgary Alberta T1Y 3C8

kalapp@shaw.ca

403-280-6506

From: Sara Mahood [<mailto:simahood@shaw.ca>]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 9:44 PM

Subject: [EXT] On the Conversion therapy by-law

Dear Calgary City Counsel Members,

We are writing regarding the conversion therapy by-law proposal upon which you will soon be making a decision. Because we know all persons should be free to make decisions regarding things as personal and sacred as sexuality, marriage, family, morality and belief about what is of ultimate worth, to promote a policy which eliminates exploration of option and stymies the freedom of change is fundamentally wrong.

If there is to be freedom in a culture, we should not restrict people from exploring all options available and the right to make whatsoever changes needed. If one is free to change one's sex, another should be free to change other areas if they choose. One should be free to explore options. Carried to a further end, this by-law would imply that an atheist who desires to become a practising Catholic, Muslim, Mormon or an Evangelical could not receive appropriate guidance if they wanted help. Autonomy is a two way street. To insist all of society hold the same opinion in regard to sexual life styles seems a bit dictatorial. Why should it be law that citizens cannot seek to hear opposing sides of an argument? What truly is being protected in this situation? When did disagreeing philosophically become a reason for people to think they do not hold more in common than they hold in difference? Why must one's sexuality be more of a dominant identity than one's humanity? We believe in great respect for all people. But this by-law does seem to imply people are not free to make new choices.

We believe we think and reason like a large group of our current population and a vast group of past humanity which we do not have the arrogance or blindness to ignore.

Mark and Sara Mahood



Public Submission

City Clerk's Office

Please use this form to send your comments relating to matters, or other Council and Committee matters, to the City Clerk's Office. In accordance with sections 43 through 45 of Procedure Bylaw 35M2017, as amended. The information provided may be included in written record for Council and Council Committee meetings which are publicly available through www.calgary.ca/ph. Comments that are disrespectful or do not contain required information may not be included.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Personal information provided in submissions relating to Matters before Council or Council Committees is collected under the authority of Bylaw 35M2017 and Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act of Alberta, and/or the Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 636, for the purpose of receiving public participation in municipal decision-making. Your name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda. If you have questions regarding the collection and use of your personal information, please contact City Clerk's Legislative Coordinator at 403-268-5861, or City Clerk's Office, 700 Macleod Trail S.E., P.O Box 2100, Postal Station 'M' 8007, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2M5.

☒ * I have read and understand that my name, contact information and comments will be made publicly available in the Council Agenda.

* First name Jesse

* Last name Amasio

Email jesse_amasio@hotmail.com

Phone

* Subject Conversion therapy bylaw must pass

Hello,

* Comments - please refrain from providing personal information in this field (maximum 2500 characters)

I want to affirm my support for the conversion therapy bylaw to pass as it is written. I believe that altering the wording would weaken the law. This is something that should have been passed years ago. I believe it will help protect our LGBTQ citizens from harmful practices. Please make sure this important bylaw passes.

Thank you,

Jesse Amasio

From: Patricia Odoerfer [<mailto:odoerp@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 1:43 PM
To: City Clerk <CityClerk@calgary.ca>
Subject: [EXT] Conversion Therapy Bill

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please understand that this bill is more than just a conversion therapy bill. I still believe in traditional marriage and after being here for 60 years, why would that change now that marriage is not to be spoken of between a man and a woman ? Please ammend this so that Churches are not fined for speaking of marriage between a man and a woman. This is not conversion therapy. If someone requests help because they are in a heterosexual marriage and are attracted to another of the same sex, why is it wrong for them to seek help to save their marriage? Please please make appropriate ammendements to this bill

Thanking you in advance,

Patricia Odoerfer

