

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 Date: **July 13, 2020**

Response to Citizen Request Regarding Conversion Therapy Ban

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On March 9, 2020, a citizen approached the City Council with a request for the City to consider a ban on reparative therapy, also known as conversion therapy. Within a few weeks of this request, the Council began virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have not had the opportunity for a Council of the whole OCWS until very recently. Enclosed, please find a number of exhibits intended to provide Council some level of background of the issue.

According to the data we have compiled, 20 states and 72 cities across the country have banned conversion therapy for minor children in some fashion. Within Minnesota, the Cities of Duluth and Minneapolis adopted bans on December 16 and November 22, 2019, respectively. We are not aware of other Minnesota Cities having taken up the matter (although they may have). According to the League of Minnesota Cities and Metro Cities, there has been some legislative discussion on this topic, but legislative support for a statewide ban does not appear to be in the immediate future.

It is uncertain if conversion therapy has taken place in West St. Paul or what the impact of a ban would be within the community.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Unknown

		Amount
Fund:		
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Based on Discussion.