

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 From: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 Date: **July 27, 2020**

Consideration of 1st Reading of Conversion Therapy Ban

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the July 13, 2020 OCWS, Council consensus direction was for Staff to bring an ordinance back to Council addressing Conversion Therapy. The proposed ordinance is enclosed.

As per the ordinance draft, conversion therapy is defined as any practice or treatment by a provider that seeks to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy does not include counseling that provides support and assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person’s coping, social support, identity exploration, development, including sexual orientation and gender identity, and neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, if such counseling is not conducted with the goal of changing the person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to the data we have compiled, 20 states and over 70 cities across the country have banned conversion therapy for minor children in some fashion. Within Minnesota, the Cities of Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul have adopted ordinance bans and Golden Valley has adopted a resolution against the practice. 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.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Hold the first reading.