

From: Mark Brockberg <markbrockberg@firstfree.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 1:27 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Opposition to ordinance number# Sec.32-191 or the file #22-0636

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I'm writing today in opposition to the proposed ordinance seeking to ban Conversion Therapy.

While I understand the intent of this ordinance is to seek to protect those you deem vulnerable due to their lifestyle choices, I do have a number of questions that I believe deserve answers before taking action:

How far will this ordinance go? Will parents no longer have the right to be concerned about their child's choices and choose a pastor or counselor to talk with them who asks questions about sexuality and gender identity issues? Do parents have the right to make decisions they feel are helpful for their children as they navigate growing up even if the city doesn't agree with their approach?

What about protecting those who disagree with lifestyle choices based on moral grounds? If this ordinance is passed, will I and others be banned or charged with a crime by sharing dissenting views about LGBTQ+ issues?

Doesn't the First Amendment protect our right to speak, even when it is not a popular opinion? Will it be necessary to silence any worldview opposed to the majority rule? The beauty of our society is we have the freedom to disagree knowing we won't be punished for our viewpoint.

I love our community and those in it--including those who identify as LGBTQ+--but I do not believe this ordinance is necessary or helpful.

I'm urging you, based on The First Amendment, to say "No" to this ordinance. I believe you're setting a very dangerous precedent if you vote in favor of it.

Your Friend in Christ,

Mark Brockberg

Executive Pastor

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