

Craig, Sondra

From: Lynn and Karmen Furrow <wlfur@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 9, 2022 12:49 PM
To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Appeal to council to vote NO to ordinance # Sec. 32-191 , file #22-0636

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Dear Council,

I strongly appeal to you to reject the passage of this measure on the following grounds:

1. It is a violation of the right of free speech, prohibiting parents, spiritual leaders, mentors, from speaking into the life of individuals who are still going through maturation and developmental processes. Parents, spiritual leaders, and mentors' rights of free speech should not be stifled. They should be allowed to share their opinions and perspectives, especially in a time when social media and other outside groups try to agendize and propagandize children and teens for their own narratives and purposes. Parents and spiritual/faith families must be recognized in their rights to speak into the lives of their children and members, to voice their opinions and perspectives and concerns. These rights should not be infringed upon.

This is an unconstitutional proposal.

2. This proposed ordinance is also a violation, making attempt to suppress the free exercise of religion guaranteed to us in the constitution through our Bill of Rights. To not permit spiritual counselors and pastors to faithfully and lovingly talk and discuss issues a child or teen is confused about, and even asking for help and guidance about, violates the separation of church and state, meaning the state is telling spiritual leaders what they can believe and what they cannot believe, teach and communicate. These types of ordinances set a dangerous precedent that has potential for the state to govern what people can think and what they can believe and what they can say. This is a form of fascism and a violation of our American liberties.

3. This ordinance supposes that individuals under the age of 18 are mature enough to understand their sexual identity, which are foundational issues that give basis to our understanding of who we are. Ironically though, this ordinance supposes they are not mature enough to have conversations about sexual identity with parents, mentors, and pastors? Those proposing this ordinance cannot have it both ways. It sounds to me that those who advance the homosexual agenda are afraid to debate or have debate on issues upon which people differ in opinion. What are the proponents of this ordinance afraid of?

4. This ordinance, being clearly unconstitutional, will cause the city of La Crosse to waste thousands of dollars of tax payers' money on legal challenges due to the unconstitutional nature of this ordinance. I am sure the tax payers of the city of La Crosse would much rather spend this money on the improvement of our community, instead of creating a problem where no problem exists. Parents, pastors and mentors have always had a voice in our society. They always will have a voice in our society. They always should have a voice in our society.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Please reject the passage of this unconstitutional ordinance.

Respectfully,

Pastor W Lynn Furrow
Adoration Church
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Sent from my iPhone