

June 8, 2022

To Whom it May concern:

We are asking that you reconsider the ban on Conversion Therapy *as it is currently written*. While we are not proponents of this practice as a therapeutic tool and would not be against banning it as a *specific therapy*, we are very concerned regarding the writing of this ordinance as it pertains to Religious Liberty and Freedom of Speech.

As we read through all the ordinances from around the state of Wisconsin, we found that there were certain protections written in them that would protect these freedoms. First, we found that: Sun Prairie, Madison, Sheboygan, West Allis, Superior, Glendale, Appleton, and Kenosha all have some form of “For a Fee”—which was taken out of the La Crosse ordinance. We would ask that you reinstate that section. Other municipalities—Sun Prairie and Appleton—wrote specially to whom their ordinances applied. We would like to see that included in the La Crosse Ordinance as well.

Finally, we noticed the specific protections to guard Freedom of Speech and Religion written in the ordinances of Sun Prairie and Superior. Sun Prairie included in their “Definitions” sections, “D”:

“Constitutionally Protected Activity. This section shall not be construed to apply to any constitutionally protected activity or speech.”

While Superior wrote In Sec. 86-124:

(b) *Definitions*. In this section: Conversion therapy means any practices or treatments offered or rendered to consumers for a fee, in the marketplace, including psychological counseling,

The ordinance from which this section was derived **does not restrict the pulpit or pastoral work between a pastor and a parishioner.**

The City of Superior recognizes and adheres to the United States Constitution which includes therein freedom of religion, a constitutionally protected right provided in the clauses of the First Amendment.

It should be noted that according to Fox21online, the vote “for” the ban in Superior was unanimous and no one spoke against it at the meeting. Please consider adding protection for both Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Religion.

Thank You,

Pastors Kael and Jen Clemmerson
New Beginnings Christian Fellowship