

From: Temple Baptist <temple.baptist.lacrosse@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Section 32-191 of the code of ordinances

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I am very concerned that this prohibition of "conversion therapy" will eventually be implemented in a way that runs rough-shod over long-honored principles of freedom of speech and religion. Pastors of Bible-believing churches all across this land have always considered it their duty to give counsel both in private and from the pulpit, against the cultivation or expression of both sexual and romantic desires, attractions, or feelings that run contrary to God's design for love and sexuality. This practice of encouraging people to consciously and intentionally channel their desires and attractions in a God-honoring direction is a large part of what has held this society together for hundreds of years. We urge people, though they may be naturally attracted toward another person's spouse, to avoid feeding that natural romantic and sexual desire for the honor of God and the good of society. We urge 50-year-old men to avoid cultivation or expression of their romantic and/or sexual attraction toward 12-year-old boys or girls; and we as a society not only urge, but demand that they do so. We would urge a 15-year-old girl to avoid cultivating or expressing her romantic and/or sexual attraction toward a 35-year-old teacher at school, no matter how strong that attraction may be. The fact is that though we may not all agree on the details, we all know that some kinds of sexual/romantic attractions are at best ill-advised, and at worst, downright perverse; but if I am understanding the wording of this proposed ordinance correctly, ANY attempt to redirect ANY sexual/romantic attractions in ANY person under 18 years of age will now be considered criminal and punishable by law, no matter if the minor is seeking advice and desiring to be redirected or not. It would appear also, that any attempt to encourage a 5-year-old girl to wait until she is older to make a final decision about permanently eliminating her female anatomy and her ability to bear children, and transforming herself to look and operate like a male, would also be a criminal act, and punishable by law. I believe this proposed ordinance is treading in some very dangerous territory, to say the least, and is a serious threat to the freedom of speech and religion of those who are seeking to give wise advice to those who need it most, our young people. Young people have the freedom to seek advice from those they trust most, and then accept or reject that advice as they see fit. Why should those they trust most NOT have the freedom to give the advice they think is best?

Sincerely Concerned,

Daniel Habegger, Pastor

Temple Baptist Church

La Crosse, WI