

MOTION

5. Conversion Therapy

At the Regular Council meeting on June 5, 2018, Vancouver City Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on June 6, 2018, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Stevenson
SECONDED by Councillor

WHEREAS

1. The Council of the City of Vancouver is strongly committed to supporting the equality and human rights of the LGBTQ2+ community and all city residents;
2. “Sex”, “sexual orientation” and “gender identity or expression” are prohibited grounds of discrimination in the B.C. Human Rights Code;
3. The practice of “conversion therapy” or “reparative therapy”, pseudo-scientific techniques that attempt to persuade persons to change their sexual orientation or gender identity, is seriously harmful to persons and is opposed by the Canadian Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association and others;
4. Governments are recognizing the harms of “conversion therapy” and taking steps to ban its practice:
 - a. In 2015, the province of Ontario adopted the Affirming Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Act to ban “conversion therapy” on minors and prohibit practitioners from billing for the practice through public health insurance;
 - b. In 2015, the province of Manitoba passed a health regulation banning “conversion therapy”; and
 - c. In 2018, the European parliament voted to ban conversion therapy in member states of the European Union;
5. The Council of the City of Vancouver is authorized to prohibit businesses, with a unanimous vote of Council, under section 203(d) of the *Vancouver Charter* and has prohibited a variety of businesses under the Business Prohibition By-law No. 5156.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council support, in principle, amending the Business Prohibition By-law No. 5156, to prohibit the business of providing conversion therapy to minors.
- B. THAT the Director of Legal Services be directed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Business Prohibition By-law in accordance with this resolution.

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