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ORDINANCE REQUEST

DATE: June 27, 2022

TO: Public Safety, Law and Courts Committee

RE: Conversion Therapy Ban

Approval:

Completed Joe Begeny	Completed Chris Shook	Stephen Cicak
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This Ordinance is drafted and submitted at the request of Council Member Kristin Bryant, Chair of the Public Safety, Law, and Courts Committee and is being submitted as a work session.

Several communities in Ohio have adopted similar legislation. The language prepared and presented is similar in structure and style to those other communities. The draft has been incorporated into Chapter 503, Unlawful Discriminatory Practices.

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 503 UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATORY
OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG TO
DESIGNATE CONVERSION THERAPY AS A DISCRIMINATORY ACT OR
PRACTICE**

WHEREAS, the City of Reynoldsburg recognizes that efforts which seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity are harmful to young people; and

WHEREAS, such efforts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity pose critical health risks including, but not limited to, confusion, depression, social withdrawal, suicidal ideation, substance abuse, self-hatred, and feelings of being dehumanized; and

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WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, and the American Counseling Association Governing Council each have asserted in reports or position statements that sexual orientation change efforts, including conversion therapy, are not recommended and may be harmful; and

WHEREAS, while the State of Ohio does not currently prohibit such harmful conversion therapy, several municipalities in Ohio have adopted such prohibitions, including the cities of Lakewood, Athens, Kent, Dayton, Columbus, Akron, Toledo, and Cincinnati.

WHEREAS, the City of Reynoldsburg has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors and protecting minors against exposure to serious harms caused by conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Reynoldsburg desires to prohibit the use of conversion therapy with minors by enacting an amendment to Chapter 503 Unlawful Discriminatory Practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 503 Unlawful Discriminatory Practices of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reynoldsburg be and the same is hereby amended to add Section 503.10, "Conversion Therapy Prohibited" as associated definitions to read as follows:

SEE ATTACHED EXHIBIT A.

SECTION 2. That upon adoption by Council, this Ordinance shall be in effect thirty days following signature by the Mayor.