

INTRODUCED: July 22, 2019

A RESOLUTION No. 2019-R028

To support the prohibition of conversion therapy practices in the city of Richmond and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Patron – Mayor Stoney

Approved as to form and legality
by the City Attorney

PUBLIC HEARING: SEP 9 2019 AT 6 P.M.

WHEREAS, contemporary science recognizes that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human identity and is not a disease, disorder, or illness; and

WHEREAS, “conversion therapy” means any practices or treatments that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy has been rejected by several prominent medical and mental health organizations, including the American Psychological Association, American

AYES: 9 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: _____

ADOPTED: SEP 9 2019 REJECTED: _____ STRICKEN: _____

Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Counseling Association Governing Council, American Psychoanalytic Association, American School Counselor Association, National Association of Social Workers, and the Pan American Health Organization; and

WHEREAS, at its 87th annual meeting, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a resolution in support of the complete ban of conversion therapy in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law estimates that 698,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender adults in the United States have been subject to conversion therapy practices to change their sexual orientation or gender identity at some point in their lives, including approximately 350,000 who were adolescents; and

WHEREAS, a poll conducted by Gravis Marketing in Virginia showed that 71 percent of the individuals polled believed that the use of conversion therapy on youth should be illegal; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy leads to critical health risks including anxiety, depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, minors are especially vulnerable to the harms associated with conversion therapy; and

WHEREAS, the City has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and in protecting its minors against exposure to serious harms caused by conversion therapy;

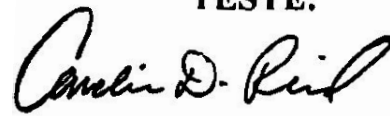
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND:

That the City supports the prohibition of conversion therapy practices in the city of Richmond and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

A TRUE COPY:

TESTE:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amelia D. Reil". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

City Clerk



CITY OF RICHMOND

INTRACITY CORRESPONDENCE

O&R

REQUEST

DATE: July 12, 2019

EDITION: 1

TO: The Honorable Members of City Council

FROM: The Honorable Levar M. Stoney, Mayor

[Handwritten signature]
JAMES NOLAN on behalf of
Mayor Stoney.
7/15/19

RE: City of Richmond Against Conversion Therapy Practices

ORD. OR RES. No. _____

PURPOSE: Resolution in support of prohibiting conversion therapy in the City of Richmond and across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

REASON: To protect youth from conversion therapy practices, which have been shown to lead to critical health risks including anxiety, depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and suicide.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval is recommended by the City Administration.

BACKGROUND: Attached

FISCAL IMPACT / COST: N/A

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

BUDGET AMENDMENT NECESSARY: N/A

REVENUE TO CITY: N/A

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon adoption.

REQUESTED INTRODUCTION DATE: July 22, 2019

CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING DATE:

REQUESTED AGENDA: Consent agenda.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL COMMITTEE:

O&R Request

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CONSIDERATION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES: None.

AFFECTED AGENCIES: N/A

RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING ORD. OR RES.: None.

REQUIRED CHANGES TO WORK PROGRAM(S): None.

ATTACHMENTS: Background: Resolution Against Conversion Therapy

STAFF: Lincoln Saunders, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Levar Stoney