

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 42 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ENTITLED "MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES," BY CREATING SECTION 42-18, ENTITLED "SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY CHANGE EFFORTS," TO PROHIBIT LICENSED PROFESSIONALS FROM ENGAGING IN COUNSELING EFFORTS, PRACTICES, OR TREATMENTS WITH THE GOAL TO CHANGE A MINOR'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT PROVISIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association published a position statement in December 1998 opposing any psychiatric treatment, including reparative or conversion therapy, which therapy regime is based upon the assumption that homosexuality *per se* is a mental disorder or that a patient should change his or her homosexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation ("APA Task Force") concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, including, among other things, confusion, depression, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, self-hatred, high-risk sexual behavior, and a feeling of being dehumanized; and

WHEREAS, following the report issued by the APA Task Force, the American Psychological Association issued a resolution in 2009 on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts, advising parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder and encouraging psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increased family and school support, and reduced rejection of sexual minority youth; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry published a statement in 2012 in its journal that, “[g]iven that there is no evidence that efforts to alter sexual orientation are effective, beneficial or necessary, and the possibility that they carry the risk of significant harm, such interventions are contraindicated”; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association Council of Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, the American School Counselor Association, and

the American Psychoanalytic Association have each asserted in reports or position statements that sexual orientation change efforts, including reparative therapy or conversion therapy, are not recommended and may be harmful; and

WHEREAS, the Pan American Health Organization issued a statement in 2012 that "[t]hese supposed conversion therapies constitute a violation of the ethical principles of health care and violate human rights that are protected by international and regional agreements"; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services issued a report in 2015 examining the scientific literature on conversion therapy and concluded that "conversion therapy – efforts to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression – is a practice that is not supported by credible evidence" and that "may put young people at risk of serious harm"; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West ("City") has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, and in protecting its minors against exposure

to serious harms caused by sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission hereby finds that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and that research has demonstrated sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Key West City Commission to prohibit, within the geographic boundaries of the City, the use of sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with minors, including reparative and conversion therapy, which have been demonstrated to be harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That section 42-18 is hereby added to the Key West Code of Ordinances as follows*:

CHAPTER 42

MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES

* * *

Section 42-18. - Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Change

Efforts

(1). Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except when the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Conversion therapy means any counseling, practice, or treatment performed with the goal of changing a person's sexual orientation or gender identity including, but not limited to, efforts to change behaviors, gender expression, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward a person of the same gender. Conversion therapy does not include counseling that:

a) Provides support to a person undergoing gender transition; or

*(Coding: Added language is underlined; deleted language is ~~struck through~~.)

b) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, if such counseling is not conducted with the goal of changing the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Minor means a person less than eighteen (18) years of age.

Reparative therapy has the same meaning as conversion therapy defined in this section.

(2). Conversion therapy prohibited.

A person who is licensed by the State of Florida to provide professional counseling, or who performs counseling as part of his or her professional training under Chapters 458, 459, 490, or 491 of the Florida Statutes, as such chapters may be amended, including, but not limited to, medical practitioners, osteopathic practitioners, psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers, marriage and family therapists, and licensed counselors, may not engage in conversion or reparative therapy with a minor.

(3). Enforcement; penalties.

A violation of Section 42-18 (2) shall be enforced pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 1-15 of this Code. Each day that a violation occurs constitutes a separate offense.

Section 2: If any section, provision, clause, phrase, or application of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall be construed as reasonable and necessary to achieve the lawful purposes of this Ordinance.

Section 3: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances of said City in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby superseded to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the presiding officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Read and passed on first reading at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Read and passed on final reading at a regular meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Authenticated by the presiding officer and Clerk of the
Commission on _____ day of _____, 2017.

Filed with the Clerk _____, 2017.

Mayor Craig Cates _____

Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez _____

Commissioner Sam Kaufman _____

Commissioner Richard Payne _____

Commissioner Margaret Romero _____

Commissioner Billy Wardlow _____

Commissioner Jimmy Weekley _____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK