

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-58**

### **A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES, FLORIDA, OPPOSING CONVERSION THERAPY ON MINORS; MAKING FINDINGS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Greenacres (“City”) has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of its residents, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (“LGBT” or “LGBTQ”) youth; and

**WHEREAS**, as recognized by major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States and elsewhere for nearly forty (40) years, being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender nonconforming or questioning is not a mental disease, disorder, illness, deficiency or shortcoming; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1993 published an article in its Journal stating: “Therapy directed at specifically changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation;” and

**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”) issued a report in 2009

based a systematic review of peer-reviewed journal literature on sexual orientation change efforts (“SOCE”), concluding that SOCE can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, including, among other things, confusion, depression, guilt, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, 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

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry published an article in its Journal stating that that there is “no medically valid basis for attempting to prevent homosexuality, which is not an illness” and that there is “no evidence that sexual orientation can be altered through therapy and that attempts to do so may be harmful”; 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 contra-indicated and may be harmful; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pan American Health Organization, a regional office of the World 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 entitled “Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth,” which examined 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” which “may put young people at risk of serious harm;” and

**WHEREAS**, the American College of Physicians wrote a position paper in 2015 opposing the use of conversion, reorientation or reparative therapy for the treatment of LGBT persons, stating that “[a]vailable research does not support the use of [such] therapy as an effective method of treatment, and that “[e]vidence shows the practice may actually cause emotional or physical harm to LGBT persons, particularly adolescents or young persons;” and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council hereby finds that overwhelming scholarly research demonstrates 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**, the City Council finds that conversion therapy on minors is a practice that is contrary to the community standards to which Greenacres aspires; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has a compelling interest in protecting its minors from exposure to serious harms caused by sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, the City does not intend to prevent mental health providers from expressing their views about SOCE to the public or to their patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that opposing the practice of conversion therapy on minors is in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREENACRES, FLORIDA, THAT:**

**Section 1:** Each of the above stated recitals is hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2:** The City Council hereby finds that conversion therapy is harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons, and therefore strongly opposes the practice of conversion therapy on minors.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

**RESOLVED AND ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October 2022.**

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**Joel Flores**, Mayor

**Attest:**

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**Quintella Moorer**, City Clerk

***Voted:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Tharp**, Deputy Mayor

***Voted:***

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**Peter Noble**, Council Member, *District II*

***Voted:***

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**Judith Dugo**, Council Member, *District III*

***Voted:***

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**Susy Diaz**, Council Member, *District IV*

***Voted:***

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**Paula Bousquet**, Council Member,  
*District V*

**Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:**

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**Glen J. Torcivia**, City Attorney