

DIRECTORS'/ORGANIZATIONAL AGENDA ADDENDUM

Monday, February 8, 2021

I. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed Eviction Moratorium – Carolyn Nelson
2. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Wendy Smith
3. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Emily Olinger
4. Proposed Conversion Therapy – David Sullivan
5. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Susan Knisely
6. Claim Against the City – Melody Peterson
7. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Chris Russert
8. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Mike Jensen
9. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Sara Mann
10. Hoppe Homes – Steven McFadden
11. LPS Student Information – Tim Diehlman
12. Proposed Eviction Moratorium – Stefan Gaspar
13. Gate House Row Wyuka – Nancy Brt
14. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Leann McGrane
15. Still need snow removal – Jayne Sebbby
16. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Dr. Gina Furr
17. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Dominic Furr
18. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Jeremy Sydik
19. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Roy Furr
20. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Roger Brooks
21. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Ingrid Krist
22. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Barbara DiBernard
23. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Romulo Vega
24. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Lana Ericson
25. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Jack Deyoe
26. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Claire Covert-ByBee
27. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Tiffany Geis
28. Proposed Conversion Therapy - Becca Moore, LIMHP, PLADC, NCC, CCMHC, NCA President
29. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Carina McCormick
30. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Colleen Church
31. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Nancy Petitto
32. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Lucas Peterson
33. Lincoln Police Department – Tim Diehlman

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carolyn <cari888@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: from Carolyn Nelson

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

How much longer can this moratorium again evicting tenants go on? It puts landlords in a real bind. We can't get out of paying our bills. There are too many instances of people who claim they can't pay their rent yet have money for things like tattoos and new TV's. All they have to say is they can't pay due to covid then they are home FREE. Even if a landlord has proof why their non-payment isn't due to covid, it isn't investigated. The benefit goes to the tenant no matter what. If their job is shut down, there are plenty of job opportunities in this town.

Carolyn
402-477-1494

Angela M. Birkett

From: Wendy Smith <wsmith28@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: comments on Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

I write in support of the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance, introduced to the city council February 1. So-called "conversion therapies" are extremely harmful to mental health, and are not effective at causing positive changes with those undergoing the "therapies." "Conversion therapies" are extremely problematic and not supported by science. Please help Lincoln to be a leader and pass this ordinance.
Thank you.

Wendy M. Smith
3300 Neerpark Dr, Lincoln, NE 68506
wsmith28@gmail.com
402-840-1259

Angela M. Birkett

From: Emily Olinger <emilyo1982@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Council Packet; James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen
Subject: Support Ordinance 21-18, Prohibiting Conversion Therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Chairman Meginnis and Lincoln City Council Members,

My name is Emily Olinger. While I am not a citizen of Lincoln, I reside in Firth NE, I wanted to share my support for Ordinance 21-18, prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy, and urge you to support it as well. I work in Lincoln, have worked in Lincoln for 20 years, and hope to continue my love and passion for Lincoln for 20 more years. I am fortunate to be involved in hiring talent and often that means moving people to Lincoln. I would be proud to show people from outside of Nebraska the passing of this ordinance as they consider moving their lives and families to our great city.

I again urge you to support Vice Chair Bower's Ordinance 21-18. I would like this letter entered into the official record and transcript for this resolution's hearing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Emily Olinger
8978 Red Fox Ln
Firth NE, 68358

Angela M. Birkett

From: davidLsullivan <davidLsullivan@protonmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 7:50 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Ordinance 21-18, Prohibiting Conversion Therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Chairman Meginnis and Lincoln City Council Members, My name is David Sullivan. I am a Lincoln citizen, residing at 2742 S. 39th street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506.

I support Ordinance 21-18, prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy, and urge you to support it as well. I am a mental health practitioner with 5 years of experience. Working with children and adults who identify as LGBTQ is a privilege that I would never dishonor by encouraging my client to resist the natural and healthy behavior that reflects their true feelings. Conversion Therapy, (major medical and mental health organizations agree) is dangerous and harmful, and will only confuse and repress which is not a goal of mental health practitioners, nor should it be yours.

I again urge you to support Vice Chair Bower's Ordinance 21-18. I would like this letter entered into the official record and transcript for this resolution's hearing. Thank you for your time.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Susan Knisely <nlcsusan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2021 8:21 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support for conversion therapy ban

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in support of the introduced ordinance banning licensed health care professionals from performing conversion therapy on minors in the city of Lincoln. This practice has been denounced by all major medical and mental health organizations. Youth who are subjected to conversion therapy are at increased risk of depression and suicide not because they identify as something other than straight and cisgender, but because the adults and authority figures in their lives are telling them that there is something fundamentally wrong with them when there is not. If we want Lincoln to be a welcoming, healthy, vibrant community where residents, especially youth, can thrive and develop to their full potential, then passing this ordinance is the right thing to do.

Thanks,

Susan Knisely

Angela M. Birkett

From: Melody Peterson <ymlpeters@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 9:28 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Re: Claim for broken sewer pipe

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

I received a letter from the City of Lincoln in response to my claim for my broken sewer pipe. The reply made it sound like K2 didn't excavate close to my sewer pipe and therefore couldn't have been impacted. That is **not** true. Because of the size of the area they excavated to begin with, **my pipe had to have been exposed also**. It was across the street from me. I saw the excavation, the repeated cave ins. It wasn't just a little indentation in the ground. I saw how deep the cave in was. When you drove by you couldn't see the bottom. The whole ground area between the 2 driveways clasped. It wasn't just one little area. They had to come back 4 times to put in more dirt, compact the soil to repair the cave in.

When the construction was done to put in the new PVC pipe the whole easement area (between the side walk and the street) was dug out. The ground above the area the new pipe was placed completely clasped after installation. The rain we had probably saturated the ground. My sewer pipe was under that clasped ground also and **was impacted** from the repeated compaction to repair the soil. My broken sewer pipe **was close** to where the new pipe was placed.

Per John Henry's, my sewer pipe had a fairly clean break probably due to either improper back filling, or just disturbing dirt and original piping.

I'm asking if you would please consider my claim.

Thank you

Melody Peterson

Angela M. Birkett

From: Chris Russert <chrisrussert@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 9:50 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Please Support the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Members of the Lincoln City Council,

Hello, my name is Chris Russert and I am writing to ask you to support the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. I am disappointed that I am unable to be there in person (I am a student in Minnesota at the moment), but Lincoln is where I grew up, and I am always proud to call it home.

I was reading through my old journals a few weeks ago and found some of what I wrote when I was 15 and questioning my sexuality. I grew up in a social environment that was not accepting. There were times where I wished I could "return to when this was an act and an illness that could be treated", had fears that I would go to hell, and thoughts of suicide.

Today, I am proud and accepting of who I am, but if you would have given that scared, vulnerable kid an opportunity to pursue this so-called "therapy" I would have taken it.

It is not easy to share these details with people I do not know over email, but it is important. Conversion therapy is not therapy, it is abuse. It leaves permanent psychological scars on people who have been through it and it has no place in Lincoln.

While I believe in Lincoln as a community, I am also worried about what the lack of protections on sexual orientation and gender identity means regarding who has the power in our communities. As a teenager, I remember watching the Fairness ordinance get blocked. As a college student, I remember LB 627 get filibustered from the balcony of the state Legislature. Both made me doubt what place I had in our city and our state.

Not only LGBTQ Lincolniters, but young and potential young Lincolniters are watching. We want to know our community is a safe and supportive place to exist, settle down, and raise our families. Please do not let us down.

Thank You,
Chris

Angela M. Birkett

From: Mike Jensen <hi@mikejensen.design>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Council Packet
Cc: James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen
Subject: Support Ordinance 21-18, Banning Sexual Orientation Change Efforts in Lincoln

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Chairman Meginnis and Lincoln City Council Members,

My name is Michael Jensen, currently residing at 3531 S 38th Street here in Lincoln. I'm a strong proponent of Councilman Bower's Ordinance 21-18, seeking to ban the practice of "conversion" therapy here in Lincoln. I'd urge you all to support this ordinance as well.

I identify as a queer man. I've been in the extremely fortunate and privileged position to have an exceptionally accepting family. I have a support system of friends here in Lincoln that love me for who I am. This experience is altogether too rare for LGBTQA+ people, especially here in Nebraska.

Reading through Councilman Bower's proposed ordinance, I was short of breath. I cried. Thinking through the traumatic experiences that so many queer kids have gone through in the name of trying to "change" their sexual orientation or gender identity is almost too much to handle. Even though I don't have first-hand experience with the practice, I know several friends who have gone through these horrific, abusive "therapies". It changed them in numerous ways, but none of them changed their sexuality or gender identity as a result. Depression, anxiety, and PTSD are things they all have experienced as a result of to these unethical, discredited practices.

No person should ever be subjected to the abusive, dangerous, debunked practice of "conversion" therapies – least of all children, and especially not within our city of Lincoln.

Again, I urge you to please support Councilman Bower's Ordinance 21-18 to ban this horrible practice in Lincoln. Vote to pass this ordinance and protect the vulnerable, young, queer community within our city.

I would like this letter to be entered into the official record and transcript for this resolution's public hearing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Michael Jensen

3531 S 38th Street
Lincoln NE, 68506

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sara M <sara.c.mann@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 11:46 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support for Youth Mental Health Protections Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Good morning,

Today I reach out as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community on behalf of James Michael Bowers proposed ordinance that would end the harmful practice of conversion therapy.

Children growing up have a hard enough time navigating the world. Throw in questioning ones gender identity or sexual/romantic orientation, and that adds additional stress when we live in a society that assumes cis gender and heterosexuality is the default. Families ought to be supportive of their children, and forcing a child to go through with a harmful and traumatic experience in an attempt to make a child conform to the ideals of their parents is cruel punishment.

I support this ordinance that will save children from further trauma and abuse that they may suffer through conversion therapy.

Sara Mann
1450 C St
Lincoln, NE 68502

Angela M. Birkett

From: Steven McFadden <odysseey@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 12:25 PM
To: Planning
Cc: Tammy J. Ward; James M. Bowers; Brenda J. Thomas; Council Packet; trodfam@gmail.com; hartleyneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com; Mayor
Subject: Re: Hoppe Homes proposal for N. 36th St. - Gate House Row/Wyuka

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I write to express my concerns about Hoppe Homes proposal to build 98 housing units on Lincoln's N. 36th St. My wife Elizabeth and I own our home in the neighborhood at 301 N. 35th St. (corner of Q and N 35th). We know our neighborhood well, and so are capable of describing the current state of affairs, and the likely impact of the proposed development.

Of primary note, N. 35th St. is a narrow and busy "two-way" thoroughfare. However, parking is allowed on both sides of the street, which essentially squeezes the ways north and south into a narrow one-car-at-a-time, one-way lane. Consequently cars traveling either direction on N. 35th must routinely stop, pull to one side or the other, and wait to let cars coming the other way go by. Then when the coast is clear, they can move ahead. For most of the street there is absolutely no room for two moving vehicles to go by each other. One driver must yield and wait.

Since as the proposal notes there are no other routes available to exit from the proposed massive Hoppe Homes project, then all the new residents of the proposed development will be forced to take turns squeezing along N. 35th, whether headed north or south. That's going to make an already congested street even more congested.

Further, many children live on or near N. 35th St. They play actively in yards, on sidewalks, between cars, and in other precarious configurations close to, and sometimes on the street. Through the warmer months drivers must be particularly alert and cautious, though of course there are always speeders who will roar along N. 35th, as everywhere. Over a hundred new cars and drivers coming and going, and their respective visitors and delivery vans coming and going, will markedly increase risk for the children of our neighborhood.

N. 35th St. is a major bike route. It has official designation as a major Lincoln bicycle thoroughfare, and it carries a lot of bike traffic every day. When school is in session many UNL students ride to and from East Campus. Since there is no crosswalk nor are there any signs or signals at the intersection of N.35th and Vine St., riders must wait there for one of the fleeting opportunities when there is no east or westbound traffic. It's a very tricky yet necessarily busy pedestrian and bike crossing. Adding another 100+ or residents to the neighborhood--people who absolutely must use N. 35th St.-- will further congest and complicate this troublesome situation, as will the steadily increasing number of delivery trucks, which are now an ubiquitous part of city life.

Snow is another significant issue. It's just not cleared hereabouts, at least not promptly. For example, following the significant 13' snowfall of Sunday January 31, we did not see a plow on N. 35th (or anywhere else in the neighborhood) until the following Thursday, four days later. Our roads were all but impassable. The intersection of Q and N. 35, as well as the intersection of Q and N. 34th were vehicle traps. A Bermuda Triangle, as one of our neighbors quipped ruefully. Car after car, and truck after truck became stuck trying to navigate through those key intersections.

No matter what the weather conditions, planners must consider the two end points for the relevant stretch of N 35th: from O St. to Vine St. (*The Wyuka Shortcut* as many local drivers refer to it).

As currently set up, cars headed east on busy O St. can turn across west-bound traffic to enter N. 35th heading north. And cars heading south on N. 35th can cross the westbound lanes of O St. to then turn left onto the eastbound lanes of O St. Based on years of observation and experience, I recognize that these can be

troublesome maneuvers, particularly at rush hours. Adding another 100+ drivers, and their visitors and food and product deliveries, will further discombobulate key N 35th St. intersections at both O St. and Vine St., two of our city's main thoroughfares..

My final concern is with the change of character for Lincoln's historic treasure, Wyuka Cemetery. Rather than being a "place of rest" it will become a much more tightly cordoned urban facility with a harder edge, more traffic, less rest and peace. The foxes who den in the banks of the creek that runs alongside the Hoppe development site will certainly be routed, for better or for worse..

All these issues require careful thought, careful planning, and careful implementation of wise interventions.

After considering the Hoppe Homes proposal and the many issues associated with it, I support the position of the Hartley Neighborhood Association. The imposition of 98 new housing units is far too dense for this old neighborhood of mostly single-family homes. A development of that scale will create a neighborhood disaster. The Hartley Association's recommendation of 54 units, on the other hand, while still a huge imposition on the neighborhood, is more likely to be workable. It would accommodate the city's need for affordable housing, and go forward at a scale that can much less traumatically fit into the neighborhood.

Should the City-County Planning Commission elect to go forward with approval of this project, then we strongly encourage you to follow the common-sense and good-citizenship guidelines set out by the Hartley Neighborhood Association.

Respectfully yours, Steven McFadden

301 N. 35th St.

Lincoln, NE 68503

402-304-6580

Angela M. Birkett

From: Tim Diehlman <diehlmant@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Council Packet; Mayor

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Why does LPS not disclose to the parents and why should they be sharing with outside parties ?

LPS shares information on your children without your consent. I think I've mentioned this here in the past, but a heads-up if you were not aware:

Lincoln Public Schools can, and does, share what they call "directory information" with outside/third parties on a regular basis. By default, your children are OPT-IN to this unless you as a parent specifically instruct otherwise. Even then, it takes follow-up. I've filled out an exemption form on both of my children and they claim to have "forgotten" to enter it into their records.

Regardless, here is what can be shared with outside entities WITHOUT your consent (I word it this way because LPS defaults to sharing this information unless a parent specifically requests otherwise):

1. Student's name, address, telephone listing and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parent or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student,
2. School and dates of attendance,
3. Student's current grade,
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time),
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth,
6. Student's extracurricular participation,
7. Student's achievement awards or honors,
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team,
9. Student's photograph, and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in the Lincoln Public Schools.

This web page explains it a bit more:

<https://home.lps.org/studentservices/directory-information/>

A link on the top right of that page titled "Who has requested and received directory information" will likely be an eye-opening experience as a parent.

An opt-out form is available at that page as well, but if you fill it out and submit it, make sure to follow up with the Student Services department to ensure they actually received the form and followed your instructions.

I discovered this a couple years ago when my then-preschooler started getting postal mailings from the YMCA. He got another one today despite both LPS and the YMCA assuring me his name was removed from their sharing databases, so I have to, yet again, raise some holy hell with LPS and YMCA.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Angela M. Birkett

From: Stefan Gaspar <Stefan@chateaudev.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 1:49 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tom Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen
Subject: Letter in opposition to eviction moratorium
Attachments: The fallacy of an eviction moratorium.pdf

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Honorable City Council,
I submit the attached letter in opposition to any contemplated eviction moratorium.
Respectfully,

Stefan Gaspar

President & Manager

Chateau Development, LLC

402.464.8351

February 8, 2020

Lincoln City Council
555 S 10th Street, Rm 111
Lincoln, NE 68508



CHATEAU
DEVELOPMENT, LLC
www.chateaudev.com

Re: The fallacy of an eviction moratorium

To the Lincoln City Council:

I am writing to you today as President of Chateau Development LLC, to express our strong opposition to a blanket eviction moratorium.

Chateau Development LLC has been operating in Lincoln since 1972. We own and manage more than 1,200 apartments and rent to approximately 4,000 people. As landlord, it is our duty to provide safe housing for our tenants. Ensuring our apartments meet or exceed building codes is only a small part of safe housing. We also strive to provide a safe environment. Apartment complexes are a community, and we manage each community to provide a safe environment by taking action to stop or prevent illegal activities on the property, stop and deter harassment and prevent physical damage to the facilities.

Enactment of a blanket eviction moratorium eliminates our ability to remove the few bad actors to provide a safe environment.

We understand that COVID-19 has decimated sectors of the economy causing some tenants to lose jobs and impacting their ability to pay rent. For these tenants rent assistance is available. Under the CARES Act and through the City of Lincoln and its community nonprofit partners more than \$15 million is available to assist those experiencing financial difficulty due to COVID-19. For tenants experiencing difficulties paying rent we direct them toward these resources, work with them to obtain assistance, we often waive late fees and work with them on partial payments. Further, if the tenant's hardship is due to COVID-19 the state moratorium on evictions, enacted by Governor Ricketts executive order, or the CDC national eviction moratorium still prevent eviction until at least March 31, 2021.

Additionally, an eviction moratorium will do little to reduce community movement and therefore spread of COVID-19. In 2020, despite the pandemic, 40% of our tenants moved. This number is actually 10% higher than before the pandemic in 2019.

Finally, the COVID-19 economy has presented many challenges for Landlords. Our operating costs remain constant. We still pay our mortgages, we still maintain our apartments, we still cut the grass and shovel the snow. But now, our resources are squeezed from both sides. Our lenders now require us to maintain cash reserves equal to six to nine months of mortgage payments for fear that rents will stop flowing in, leaving us unable to pay our mortgage. At the same time, our rent collections are down. Together, this restricts funds available to maintain our properties, pay our employees, and our flexibility to work with tenants in difficult situations.

To summarize, eviction protections already exist for those truly suffering from hardships due to COVID-19. An additional eviction moratorium serves only to impede landlords' efforts to provide a safe environment for their tenants and further strain the rental industry's ability to provide safe housing in these difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,



Stefan Gaspar
President and Manager

CORPORATE OFFICE
PARKVIEW CAMPUS OFFICE

3100 South 72nd Street, Lincoln, NE 68506
p 402.464.8351 f 402.484.8127

TRAILVIEW CAMPUS OFFICE

1025 North 63rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68505
p 402.464.8351 f 402.464.9031

Angela M. Birkett

From: nancy brt <nbrt56@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Jon D. Carlson
Cc: hartleyneighborhoodassociation@gmail.com; Planning; Council Packet; Tammy J. Ward; James M. Bowers
Subject: Re: gate house row wyuka
Attachments: image001.png

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Hello Jon,

In response to your letter:

No matter how you paint the picture, no matter how you negotiate the numbers of people and traffic, it still means this historical green space in the middle of the city, much like Central Park is to New York City, will be forever lost. This is about someone who will make a whole lot of money. That's why our opinion as neighbors carry no weight.

Wyuka used to belong to the city, and they sold it to an out of state corporation, that corporation is going broke so they want to make a profit and parcel off the space.

This really isn't about affordable housing either. It is, as always, about money. One or two people will make a lot of money, then move on. We will be stuck with too many people in too small an area. The animals will die off, move out, or try to survive in thin strips of land. Crime will increase as it always does when you jam too many people into apartments. Our cozy sweet little neighborhood will be no more. I hope you all will prove me wrong and do something incredibly progressive with this space. But I'm not betting the grocery money on it.

Please prove me wrong.

Nancy Brt
30 year resident

On Fri, Feb 5, 2021, 8:25 AM Jon D. Carlson <jcarlson@lincoln.ne.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms Brt:

Thank you for your letter; we appreciate hearing from you and sharing your concerns for your neighborhood. We have been working with the Gatehouse Row developers for a number of months, because as you know there are challenges to building in this area. We have also had, and continue to have regular communication with the Hartley Neighborhood Association. The development team has come a long way in trying to accommodate and address some issues identified early in the process.

The developer originally proposed a development of up to 134 units and that has since been reduced to 98 units. The original proposal asked for on-street parking and a reduced parking ratio, and recently all parking has been moved off City right-of-way onto the project area and the parking ratio has increased. A traffic study was completed that shows minimal impact based on this development. The developer has also been working with our Watershed Management staff and are adhering to those requirements. The developer is incorporating green space as part of the project.

The developer does need to meet with the Historic Preservation Commission to answer questions in relation to the historic significance of Wyuka cemetery. There are still a number of steps the developer must go through in order for the project to proceed and we will certainly share your concerns with other city staff and the development team. This item will also have hearings at both Planning Commission and City Council where you can share your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jon

Jon Carlson

Deputy Chief of Staff | Office of Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird

City of Lincoln

O: 402-441-7224 | M: 402-450-1637

555 South 10th Street, Ste. 301
Lincoln, NE 68508

lincoln.ne.gov

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From: nancy brt <nbrt56@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 4:11 PM

To: Mayor <mayor@lincoln.ne.gov>

Subject: gate house row wyuka

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Nancy Brt

625 N 35th St.

February 1st, 2021,

Dear Mayor,

I am in complete opposition to Gate House Row apartments being built on the western edge of Wyuka. I support affordable housing; however, I also support green space and wildlife space. We just keep squeezing the wildlife to tiny parcels of land separated by 4 lane streets. Has anyone sought that sort of funding? There is an ever shrinking area on the east side of Wyuka. There is a small lake there that had some special funding from the Natural Resources District to establish. There are many places to put up affordable housing without forever changing the complexion of our neighborhood. We've lived here 30 years, my neighbor has been here 50 or 60 years, and Wyuka is a huge part of this neighborhood. We walk there almost daily. We enjoy watching the fox

hunt and raise their young. This will completely displace 1 or 2 fox families. There is a great horned owl that hunts there. There are red tail Hawks that live and hunt there. But soon, there will be talk of foxes carrying off small dogs. This is one place in town where nature truly doesn't bother the locals. Please don't do this! Every place on the planet does not need a building and people on it. We need nature to be truly healthy! Please, consider integrating new housing in empty lots where older housing has crumpled. But keep this a wildlife space for both humans and animals.

Nancy Brt

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Angela M. Birkett

From: Leann McGrane <leannmcgrane@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 2:59 PM
To: James M. Bowers; Richard W. Meginnis; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen; Council Packet
Subject: Ordinance 21-18

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Chairman Meginnis and Lincoln City Council Members,

My name is Leann McGrane. I do not live in Lincoln, but do work in Lincoln and have frequented Lincoln my entire life. I am writing in support of Ordinance 21-18, prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy, and urge you to support it as well.

I believe Lincoln can be a leader for the State of Nebraska and set a precedent for the support of all humans wellbeing, safety and support.

I again urge you to support Vice Chair Bower's Ordinance 21-18.

I would like this letter entered into the official record and transcript for this resolution's hearing.

Thank you,

Leann McGrane

115 S 51st Ave

Omaha, NE 68132

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jayne Sebby <jaynesebby@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Still need snow removal
Attachments: 2021 27th & L Street snow removal.jpg; 2021 27th & L Street snow removal #2.jpg

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

This afternoon (Feb. 5, 2021) at approximately 2 p.m. I saw a road grader traveling south on South 17th Street at about F street followed by a plow truck. The road grader was literally plowing the snow off the grass between the street and the sidewalk. The street itself was clear. I don't know what the plow was doing - it wasn't spreading sand or brine.

At 3 p.m. I turned onto L Street from S. 27th - where the snow is still on the ground 10+ feet into the intersection. See photos. Can you explain to me why the city is plowing grass but it can't clean up an intersection in the same area?

I note that while the west side of South 27th is cleared to the curb, the east side is still snow packed and the curb is not even visible in most places in the same area. It's been 11 days since the massive snow storm and a week since that idiot who's in charge of snow removal announced that all the streets in the residential areas had been cleared and yet you still can't get two cars simultaneously passing through the intersections in the core neighborhoods without scraping the side of one of them on snow or ice.

I filed a request for service with the UpLnk system and submitted it before drafting this email. Got a notice back that my request was being held for review because I had possibly violated some community standard. What I submitted is what is written above plus an additional sentence that I was going to copy the submission off to the Council.

I recommend that Tim get demoted to truck driver, that all the "inspectors" who checked to see that the contractors did a good job be terminated, and that someone else be placed in charge of snow removal for the rest of the season.

Jayne Sebby
Woods Park Neighborhood Association
320 S. 29th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
jaynesebby@gmail.com





Angela M. Birkett

From: Dr. Gina Furr <DrGinaFurr@peacepracticepc.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 5:20 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Statement on Proposed Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Lincoln City Council:

Thank you for your willingness to deliberate on the ordinance to ban the practice of conversion therapy by licensed healthcare professionals. As a group of licensed psychologists practicing in Lincoln, we fully support this ordinance.

Across the board, conversion and “gay reparative” therapies have been found to be harmful and ineffective. A host of peer-reviewed articles have demonstrated that conversion therapy not only does not change sexual orientation (Zucker & Bradley, 1995), but also, it leaves those who have been a part of these therapies with significant negative outcomes, such as frequent suicidal ideations and attempts, social isolation and anger toward family members, and decreased levels of self-worth (Haldeman, 2002; Serovich et al., 2008). Adolescents are found to be especially vulnerable to the negative outcomes of conversion therapy (American Psychological Association, 2009b; SAMHSA, 2015). The American Psychological Association (APA) as well as American Counseling Association (ACA), Substance Abuse And Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and many professional medical associations governing the health care field, have condemned the practice of conversion therapy. In fact, per APA ethical and best practice guidelines, practicing this type of therapy is unethical. These decisions have been thoughtfully made to protect the public and uphold the integrity of mental health services. The practice of conversion “therapy” is not compatible with professional standards required of licensed professionals. Banning the practice among licensed professionals and enforcement with a fine is more than warranted by the severity of the harm it is evidenced to cause. Conversion “therapy” is not therapeutic and should not be sold or tolerated as such.

We at the Lincoln Wellness Collective believe in the integrity of all individuals and in doing our best to improve the mental health of those who choose to work with us. Further, we see all sexual orientations and gender identities as “normal” and healthy. In line with our professional governing body, with research, with our code of ethics, and with the value we place on honoring all people, we would never allow the practice of conversion therapy within the walls of our practice, nor do we believe it should be condoned in any practice.

Thank you again for consideration of this ordinance, which is vital for the protection of an already-vulnerable population.

Respectfully submitted,

Drs. Gina Furr, Allison Bitz, Megan Watson, Chelsi Davis, and Nichole Shada
Licensed Psychologists at
The Lincoln Wellness Collective
1919 S.40th Street, Suite 111
Lincoln, NE 68506
<https://www.lincolnwellnesscollective.com>

Gina Furr, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Peace Practice at Lincoln Wellness Collective
<http://www.drginafurr.com>
402-617-7237

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Virus-free. www.avg.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Dominic Furr <dominicfurr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 5:34 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Ordinance Letter

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Our names are Dominic, Oscar, and Ramie. We support the ordinance banning conversion therapy. We believe conversion therapy is harmful and that licensed healthcare providers should avoid doing harm.

Respectfully signed,
Dominic Furr
Oscar Furr
Ramie Furr

1201 Mulder Dr
Lincoln NE 68510

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jeremy Sydik <jsydik@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2021 7:21 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Proposed Conversion Therapy Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Members of the Lincoln City Council,

I write to you in support of the ordinance banning licensed healthcare professionals from engaging in the practice of conversion therapy on minors. The practice of so-called conversion “therapy”, based on the unsupported notion that sexual orientation or gender identity should or could be changed to meet a heterosexual cisgendered norm, has been found broadly to be harmful and well outside the bounds of evidence based care. This degrading and inhumane practice can be appropriately classified as a form of torture leaving its victims to face enduring physical, emotional, or psychological damage. With attentive consideration of evidence, The American Psychological Association (APA) has condemned the practice as unethical for practitioners and the American Medical Association (AMA) has called for legislative bans at state and federal levels. AMA Board Member William E. Kobler, M.D. remarked, “Conversion therapy has no foundation as scientifically valid medical care and lacks credible evidence to support its efficacy or safety.” In the interest of protecting the rights and wellbeing of our community from this unevidenced, unethical, and nontherapeutic practice, the proposed ban and associated enforcement are well warranted.

Respectfully,
Jeremy Sydik, Ph.D.
2421 Philadelphia Dr.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Roy Furr <royfurr@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: A tragic story regarding growing up gay in Nebraska [conversion therapy community feedback]

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear members of the Lincoln City Council,

I grew up in Omaha and lived for 5 years in Oregon. But I got my degree at UNL (Class of 2004), have now lived in Lincoln continually since 2011, am raising 3 kids here with my wife, and we consider this our family's "forever home."

At Omaha North High School, I had a friend named Brad.

Brad was an honor student, active, and social. He was a member of the Student Council, well-known, and also well-liked throughout school. He was stylish and charismatic, and seemed to have so much going for him.

I also remember that he had a really cool, shiny, black VW Jetta (relevant in a moment).

Brad was also gay.

Now, I don't know if Brad was ever recommended for conversion therapy.

I don't know his exact pressures at home. Or in his broader family and community.

I knew him at school, from being in the same friend group. And among friends he was warm and vibrant.

I remember Brad's beaming smile.

And then one day, that smile was gone.

He parked that VW Jetta in his parents' garage, at home...

He closed the garage, and rolled down the windows...

And let the carbon monoxide from his Jetta's exhaust fill the garage... His car... His lungs... His blood and body...

And then Brad was gone.

I saw the incredible, awesome parts of Brad that he chose to bring to school.

I didn't see all the hidden hurt that caused him to take his own life before he even reached adulthood.

I didn't see all the hidden hurt I am sure was piled on his shoulders and heart — at least in part because he'd been born gay in a world and community that does not always accept being gay, and often actively rejects it.

Brad was not alone.

According to the CDC and reported by The Trevor Project, LGB youth like Brad contemplate suicide at 3X the rate of heterosexual youth.

They're 5X as likely to have attempted suicide.

Their suicide attempts are 5X as likely to require medical treatment versus suicide attempts by heterosexual youth.

(And for those born with gender dysphoria or who wish to transition between genders, the data gets even worse.)

And unfortunately, many of those suicide attempts are successful — like Brad's.

(The data on completed suicides among LGB is harder to find and report because for many, this is a secret identity — as a result of cultural shaming. Especially in youth and adolescence, when suicide rate is highest and the second-leading cause of death.)

Being born gay is just like being born with any other trait — our skin color, eye color, hair color, body parts, height, as well as a whole other mix of traits that we mostly experience subjectively (in our hearts and minds), including our sexual identity...

These have been proven to be outside of our conscious choice or control.

You no more choose to be gay than you choose your natural hair color — sure, you can dye your hair and hide the truth from those around you, but that doesn't change the truth underneath.

And the moment someone rejects us or tells us that these inborn traits are wrong or bad, they are telling us that we as humans are wrong or bad. That's the message we hear. That's the message we internalize.

And then, we can't accept ourselves.

We can't love ourselves.

And without that, we feel broken.

This is shaming, and it is harmful, toxic, and dangerous.

And when an entire society, culture, or community accepts and even implicitly endorses this shaming by allowing it to become institutional, it leads to trends and outcomes like we see in the suicide data I've presented above.

Conversion therapy is one of the WORST possible institutionalized practices of this cultural rejection of people who are born gay or lesbian.

It doesn't work.

Its goal is impossible — whether you believe we are created by God or nature, Conversion Therapy denies this creative mystery and wonder that led to this amazing human being.

At best, it shames the patient into hiding their true identity, to the point where their whole life and public identity becomes a lie.

It contributes to those suicide stats above...

But it's not just suicide.

It leads to lives lived in shame and misery, out of this fundamental cultural rejection and lack of acceptance. And those lives are often filled with depression, anxiety, drug use, and homelessness — with or without suicide attempts — according to The Human Rights Campaign.

Because instead of accepting this human being in front of us, we are rejecting their fundamental, inborn identity and thus them as a person.

And even worse for us as a community, Conversion Therapy uses an authority position and cultural identity — a professional, practicing, and often government-licensed therapist — to perpetuate this shame and rejection.

And this happens despite the fact that national secular professional associations — such as the American Psychological Association — have outright rejected Conversion Therapy as ineffective and unethical based on the outcomes it creates.

If we allow this in our community — this rejection and shame against those who are born gay — we are endorsing it, and all the pain and negative outcomes it creates.

I am a cisgendered, straight, white man, who comes from a middle-class Nebraska upbringing.

Conversion therapy has not directly impacted me or anyone in my family that I am aware of.

In a sense, it would be incredibly easy for me to stay silent or ignore this issue. To essentially hide my head in the sand and pretend like this isn't my business, that it's not something I have to worry about.

My life is unlikely to change because of your decision on banning Conversion Therapy in Lincoln.

But maybe there is a bright, shining star like Brad whose life will be saved.

And it's for this nameless shining star that I write this letter.

Please unequivocally reject and ban the practice of Conversion Therapy in Lincoln, and instead institutionalize the practice of acceptance and love of every human being and community member in Lincoln, with this being one important step toward that goal.

Thank you for all the work you do to make Lincoln a wonderful community, the city where I am raising my family and that I love to call our family's "forever home."

Sincerely,

Roy Furr
1201 Mulder Dr.

Lincoln, NE 68510

royfurr@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Roger Brooks <rbrooks@adflegal.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Richard W. Meginnis; James M. Bowers; Jane Raybould; Tammy J. Ward; Sandra J. Washington; Bennie R. Shobe; Roy A. Christensen; Council Packet
Subject: Letter regarding proposed counseling censorship ordinance
Attachments: 2021.02.06 Lincoln NE Letter.pdf

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Honorable City Councilors:

Please see the attached correspondence.

Roger G. Brooks
Senior Counsel
Alliance Defending Freedom



Roger Brooks
Sr. Counsel
+1 480 444 0020 (Office)
+1 480 388 8211 (Direct Dial)
+1 917 843 4251 (Mobile)
rbrooks@adflegal.org
ADFlegal.org



February 6, 2021

Lincoln City Council, councilpacket@lincoln.ne.gov
555 S 10th St., Rm 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Richard Meginnis, Chair (rmeginnis@lincoln.ne.gov)
James Michael Bowers, Vice-Chair (jbowers@lincoln.ne.gov)
Jane Raybould (jraybould@lincoln.ne.gov)
Tammy Ward (tjward@lincoln.ne.gov)
Sandra Washington (swashington@lincoln.ne.gov)
Bennie Shobe (bshobe@lincoln.ne.gov)
Roy Christensen (rchristensen@lincoln.ne.gov)

Via e-mail

To the Members of the City Council of Lincoln, Nebraska:

We understand that the Lincoln City Council is considering adoption of an ordinance which would purport to censor and punish voluntary, private, conversations between individuals and their chosen counselors, based on the content of those conversations (“the Ordinance”).

This proposed Ordinance violates rights of both free speech and free exercise of religion protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. If the City adopts this ordinance, constitutional litigation is likely to ensue, the Ordinance is likely to be held invalid and unenforceable, and the City may be required, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, to pay the attorneys’ fees of any affected party who challenges the Ordinance.

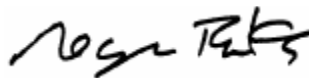
It is true that similar ordinances were upheld in *King v. New Jersey*, 767 F.3d 216 (3d Cir. 2014) and *Pickup v. Brown*, 740 F.3d 1208 (2014). However, the rationales of both those cases were firmly rejected by the Supreme Court in *NIFLA v. Becerra*, 138 S. Ct. 2361 (2018). As a result, the City of New York repealed a similar ordinance in 2019 after it was challenged in federal court in *Schwartz v. City of New York*, and agreed to pay attorneys’ fees of the plaintiff. And in 2020, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit declared the virtually identical ordinance of Boca Raton, Florida to be an unconstitutional content- and viewpoint-based infringement of freedom of speech. *Otto v. City of Boca Raton*, 981 F.3d 854 (11th Cir. 2020). We expect that the City Council and its counsel are aware of these facts.

While this was not addressed in *Otto v. City of Boca Raton*, the Ordinance also unconstitutionally infringes the rights of both counselors and clients to free exercise of religion, because it does not contain any exemption for counseling goals and counseling speech motivated or informed by the religious beliefs of clients or their chosen counselors.

Since the *NIFLA* decision, no court has sustained a counseling censorship law against federal constitutional challenge. As a result, Lincoln and its officials are on ample notice of the unconstitutionality of such censorship, and no responsible public official of Lincoln is likely to be protected by qualified immunity from liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 that may result from the proposed Ordinance.

We will respectfully suggest that for these reasons, the City Council should not adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Brooks", written in a cursive style.

Roger G. Brooks
Senior Counsel
Alliance Defending Freedom

Angela M. Birkett

From: Ingrid Kirst <ikirst2@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 11:13 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Support for Ordinance 21-18

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for Ordinance 21-18, the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors.

Conversion therapy is a flawed practice that has been rejected by medical organizations and practitioners across the country. Laws have been passed in many states and cities to ban conversion therapy, and the Supreme Court has upheld these laws. This practice continues to perpetuate stereotypes and discrimination against LGBTQ youth.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, "Therapy directed specifically at changing sexual orientation is contraindicated, since it can provoke guilt and anxiety while having little or no potential for achieving changes in orientation."

It is past time for the City of Lincoln to ban this harmful practice.

Thank you.

Ingrid Kirst

1666 Burr St, Lincoln NE 68502
ikirst2@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Barbara DiBernard <bdibernard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 2:11 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: conversion therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

To Members of the City Council:

Conversion therapy inevitably fails to secure the outcomes it seeks to achieve: a "conversion" in its target's sexual orientation. It results in a damaging battle between one's fundamental sexual makeup and the sexual orientation the "therapy" is intended to convert one to. This often leads to personal anguish, self-castigation, humiliation, and serious depression; it is documented to lead to suicide as well.

There is no place for subjecting minors to the harmful practice of "conversion therapy" in Lincoln.

The Membership of Fairness Lincoln

Angela M. Birkett

From: Romulo Vega <romulovega@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: In Support of Ordinance to Ban Conversion Therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Greetings Lincoln City Council Members,

I write to you in support of the ban on conversion therapy, as proposed by Councilman Bowers.

As a professional who works with high school youth, and as a Lincolnite who abhors discrimination in any form, it is time for our city to make the reasonable decision to ban an archaic, abusive, and ineffective practice that only leads to mental health trauma, and in far too many cases, tragic outcomes such as substance abuse and/or suicide. It is time to ban conversion therapy.

All young people in Lincoln deserve the right to exist, to thrive, and to find the peace and prosperity that is at the foundation of what it is to be a Nebraskan, and an American.

Let us be perfectly clear: Conversion Therapy is a tool of manipulation and oppression, wielded by someone who chooses to infringe upon another American's right to exist. Please let our city do what is morally correct, and logically correct, and ban the dangerous practice of conversion therapy, as we all work toward building a prosperous and productive Lincoln, in 2021 and beyond.

Thank you, council members, for reading this message.

Romulo Vega Jr
1601 S 20th St #5
Lincoln, Nebraska

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lana Erickson <lanamoosh@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: In support of the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Dear Lincoln City Council,

I am writing in support of the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance. Conversion therapy is a traumatic practice that has been [proven through research](#) to be ineffective and harmful.

As a mother to a teenager and a young adult who both identify LGBTQ, we have become something of a haven for teens that are fearful of coming out or have come out and are not accepted by their families. I have seen first hand the stress and the damage to these young people who are struggling for acceptance. These kids struggle with anxiety, depression, and self-hate -- sometimes to an alarming extent.

Unfortunately, we cannot MAKE families accept the gender and sexual identities of their children, but we can prevent them from doing additional harm but making it illegal to further traumatize them through the harmful practice of conversion therapy. Perhaps, instead, parents will turn to mental health care that can provide them and their children with the help they need to cope and support each other.

[Today, 20 U.S. states have banned conversion therapy for minors with an additional four states and one U.S. territory working through partial bans or additional judiciary action.](#) Additionally, five countries have banned the practice, and just last summer, [experts testified to the UN, calling for a global ban in a report to the Human Rights Council.](#)

Nebraska, as a state, has taken no action on this life-threatening practice--but our city has the opportunity to be a leader. To show the country and the world that the safety, well-being, and acceptance of ALL people matter, and that we're ready to do more than talk about being Nebraska Nice.

Tomorrow, as you vote on this ordinance, I am sure you will receive passionate testimony from both supporters and opponents. Whether or not you have experienced first-hand the effects of being devalued for your identity, consider for a moment the consequences of your vote. A vote against this ordinance may offend some constituents who are not able or willing to consider science against their own beliefs. A vote for is a vote for HUMAN RIGHTS and may save the life of a young person.

Please make a choice for life.

Sincerely,

Lana Erickson
7056 Kentwell Lane
Lincoln, NE

Angela M. Birkett

From: jdeyoe52@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 3:36 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion therapy action

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

To whom it may concern:

Conversion therapy for any LGBTQ person is brutally wrong. As an educator for over three decades, telling or forcing any person, particularly a young person, to be something that they are not is a sure fire means of losing that person. Not accepting the genuine individual leads to dropouts, drug and/or alcohol abuse or in the worst case scenario, suicide. There is no conversion or changing of someone who is LGBTQ. Just the way people are blond, brunette or redheaded, their DNA determined their path. It wasn't a choice. It's not a mistake. It's not evil or sinful. It is nature not nurture.

Jack Deyoe
5808 Brookview Dr
Lincoln, NE 68506

Sent from my iPhone

Angela M. Birkett

From: Claire Covert-ByBee <cconvert77@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 6:04 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Testimony on Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Council Members,

My name is Claire Covert-Bybee, and I am a resident of Lincoln, NE. I am also a member of the LGBTQIA community.

I support Council Member Bowers' proposed ordinance to make conversion therapy illegal within the Lincoln city limits.

Any words that I could develop independently would pale in comparison to what the experts have already developed. So, I will defer to said experts in the following quote from The Trevor Project,
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-involved/trevor-advocacy/50-bills-50-states/about-conversion-therapy/> :

"What is “conversion therapy?”

Conversion therapy refers to any of several dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. For example, that could mean attempting to change someone's sexual orientation from lesbian, gay, or bisexual to straight or their gender identity from [transgender](#) or nonbinary to cisgender. And it could include efforts to change a person's gender expression (to make a person act more stereotypically masculine or feminine, for example), or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward a person of the same gender.

“Conversion therapy” can come in many forms and is sometimes known by other names, including:

- “gender critical therapy”
- “reparative therapy”
- “ex-gay ministries”
- “sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts”

Conversion therapy can be performed by licensed professionals, unlicensed ministries, or life coaches; it can be done one-on-one in an office or in groups at retreats or conferences; and it can be done for money or for free. Faith-based conversion therapy can be found across a wide range of religious traditions; faith communities have also played an important and growing role in protecting LGBTQ youth from conversion therapy.

While some conversion therapists continue to use physical methods, including painful aversive conditioning, the most common techniques in the United States today include “talk therapies” that licensed or unlicensed practitioners use in attempt to “treat” a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. They may falsely claim that a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is a result of abuse and childhood trauma, or otherwise a result of the person's environment and upbringing. Part of the reason for the vast diversity in experiences of change efforts is due to the fact that modern science has so thoroughly rejected the practice, so there is no accredited training for mental health professionals on how to attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. That also means there is no ethical standard of care for doing so.

Especially for faith-based providers, conversion therapy often involves teachings pulled from religious texts, prayer, spiritual discipline, and practices modeled off of twelve-step programs targeting “sexual brokenness,” “unwanted same-sex attractions,” or “gender confusion.”

Importantly, “conversion therapy” does not include counseling that helps a person to find social support or explore their identity. Laws against conversion therapy also do not prevent people from providing treatment for sexual assault, harassment, and abuse.

Does conversion therapy work?

No. Conversion therapy is based on the outdated and false notion that being LGBTQ is a mental illness that should be cured, despite all major medical associations’ agreement that LGBTQ identities are a normal variant of human nature. The American Psychiatric Association has not treated homosexuality as a mental illness [since 1973](#), and being transgender is no longer treated as a mental illness since “gender identity disorder” was removed from [psychological diagnostic manuals in 2013](#).

No credible scientific study has ever supported the claims of conversion therapists to actually change a person’s sexual orientation. A 2009 report by an American Psychological Association Task Force found that “*results of scientifically valid research indicate that it is unlikely that individuals will be able to reduce same-sex attractions or increase other-sex sexual attractions through [sexual orientation change efforts].*”

In recent years, many [former ex-gay leaders have come out](#) to declare that conversion therapy is not effective and never was.

Is conversion therapy harmful?

Yes. The risks of conversion therapy extend far beyond its ineffectiveness, and the time and money wasted on “therapies” that don’t work. Conversion therapy is strongly associated with negative mental health outcomes and greater rates of attempting suicide.

According to The Trevor Project’s [2020 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#), 10% of LGBTQ youth reported undergoing conversion therapy, with 78% reporting it occurred when they were under age 18. Youth who reported undergoing conversion therapy reported more than twice the rate of attempting suicide in the past year compared to those who did not.

Furthermore, a peer-reviewed study published by The Trevor Project in the [American Journal of Public Health](#) [found that](#) LGBTQ youth who underwent conversion therapy were more than twice as likely to report having attempted suicide and more than 2.5 times as likely to report multiple suicide attempts in the past year.

That’s why conversion therapy is widely opposed by prominent professional medical associations including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Testimonies:

“[T]he potential risks of reparative therapy are great, including depression, anxiety and self-destructive behavior, since therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient.”

—American Psychiatric Association

“[Conversion therapy] lack[s] medical justification and represent[s] a serious threat to the health and well-being of affected people.”

—Pan American Health Organization – WHO

The [American Psychological Association Task Force](#) found that conversion therapy, in addition to being ineffective, can have a wide range of harmful side effects to participants, including:

- Shame
- Guilt
- Helplessness
- Hopelessness
- Loss of faith

- Decreased self-esteem
- Increased self-hatred
- Social withdrawal
- Feeling dehumanized and untrue to self
- Depression
- Increased substance abuse
- High-risk sexual behaviors
- Suicidality

Conversion therapy as a form of family rejection

Conversion therapy amplifies the shame and stigma so many LGBTQ young people already experience. Parents who attempt to change their child's sexual orientation or gender identity instill feelings of family rejection and risk, which can seriously fracture their relationship with their child. A [2018 study by The Family Acceptance Project found](#) that:

1. Rates of attempted suicide by LGBT young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation were more than double (48%) the rate of LGBT young adults who reported no conversion experiences (22%).
2. Suicide attempts nearly tripled for LGBT young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation (63%).
3. High levels of depression more than doubled (33%) for LGBT young people whose parents tried to change their sexual orientation compared with those who reported no conversion experiences (16%) and more than tripled (52%) for LGBT young people who reported both home-based and out-of-home efforts to change their sexual orientation.
4. Sexual orientation change experiences during adolescence by both parents/caregivers and externally by therapists and religious leaders were associated with lower young adult socioeconomic status, less educational attainment, and lower weekly income.

Is it still happening?

Yes. The Trevor Project regularly hears from LGBTQ youth affected by conversion therapy across our 24/7 crisis services. This includes young survivors of conversion therapy and youth who are afraid to come out to their families because of the fear that their relatives will force them to go to conversion therapy. Other LGBTQ youth contact The Trevor Project because they are in conversion therapy, it is not working, and their feelings of isolation and failure contribute to suicidal thoughts and behaviors.

Every year, more conversion therapy survivors are coming forward to tell their stories, with [documentaries, media, and a growing body of research](#) demonstrating the real and ongoing harm from these discredited practices across the United States and the globe. Far from being a relic of the past, conversion therapy may actually be on the rise again, especially as proponents rebrand and shift their focus to "treating" transgender and nonbinary youth.

According to studies by the [UCLA Williams Institute](#), more than 700,000 LGBTQ people have been subjected to the horrors of conversion therapy, and an estimated 80,000 LGBTQ youth will experience this unprofessional conduct in coming years, often at the insistence of well-intentioned but misinformed parents or caretakers.

Conversion therapy is still legal in 30 states across the United States. "

Thank you,

Claire Covert-Bybee

Angela M. Birkett

From: tgeis@neb.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion Therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

I do not support Conversion Therapy in Lincoln or anywhere. Please help stop this practice.

Tiffany Geis
Lincoln Resident

Angela M. Birkett

From: Nebraska Counseling <necounseling@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 8:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Letter of support for conversion therapy ban
Attachments: Lincoln City Council Letter.pdf

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Please see attached letter of support for the conversion therapy ban.

Cordially,

Becca Moore, LIMHP, PLADC, NCC, CCMHC
NCA President

--

Nebraska Counseling Association
www.necounseling.org
necounseling@gmail.com

"Since 1954, NCA has been committed to the promotion of human development by serving and enhancing the counseling profession"



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2703 W. 44th St.
Kearney, NE 68845
necounseling@gmail.com

February 7th, 2021

Lincoln City Council
555 S 10th Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

RE: SUPPORT FOR BAN AGAINST CONVERSION THERAPY

Dear City Council Members:

We want to thank you for taking our written statement of support for Title 11 – Amendment AN ORDINANCE amending Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code relating to Equal Opportunity to add Section 11.09: Youth Mental Health Protection; and amending section 11.01.010 to include definitions of “minor”, “provider”, “sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts or conversion therapy.” or the ban against conversion therapy for minors. We are the Nebraska Counseling Association, a non-profit organization that represents counselors and therapists across the state, as well as the Nebraskans we serve. We are the state branch of the American Counseling Association, or ACA.

Conversion or reparative therapy is the discredited practice of using "therapy" to attempt to change someone's sexual orientation. The American Counseling Association opposes conversion therapy because it does not work, can cause harm, and violates our Code of Ethics. It is an attempt to treat something that is not a mental illness.

Conversion therapy has been banned in California, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New Jersey, New Mexico, Connecticut, Nevada, Rhode Island, Washington, Maryland, New Hampshire, Hawaii, Delaware, New York, Massachusetts, Colorado, Maine, and Washington DC. ACA will continue to support state legislation that bans this discredited practice.

Counselors who conduct this type of therapy view same-sex attractions and behaviors as abnormal and unnatural and, therefore, in need of "curing." The belief that same-sex attraction and behavior is abnormal and in need of treatment is in opposition to the position taken by national mental health organizations, including ACA.

The ACA Governing Council passed a resolution in 1998 with respect to sexual orientation and mental health. This resolution specifically notes that ACA opposes portrayals of lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation. In addition, the resolution supports dissemination of accurate information about sexual orientation, mental health and appropriate interventions and instructs counselors to "report research accurately and in a manner that minimizes the possibility that results will be misleading" (ACA Code of Ethics, 1995, Section G.3.b). In 1999, the Governing Council adopted a statement "opposing the promotion of reparative therapy as a cure for individuals who are homosexual." In fact, according to the DSM-IV-TR, homosexuality

is not a mental disorder in need of being changed. With this in mind, we have a difficult time discussing the appropriateness of conversion therapy as a treatment plan.

ACA found that the majority of studies on this topic have been expository in nature. They also found no scientific evidence published in psychological peer-reviewed journals that conversion therapy is effective in changing an individual's sexual orientation from same-sex attractions to opposite-sex attractions. Further, ACA did not find any longitudinal studies conducted to follow the outcomes for those individuals who have engaged in this type of treatment. ACA did conclude that research published in peer-reviewed counseling journals indicates that conversion therapies may harm clients.

Historically, the mental health professions viewed homosexuality as a mental disorder. But in 1973, homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual as a mental disorder. However, within various religious and cultural communities, same-sex attractions and behaviors are still viewed as pathological. Yet the professional communities of counseling and psychology no longer diagnose a client who has attractions to people of the same sex as mentally disordered. To refer a client to someone who engages in conversion therapy communicates to the client that his/her same-sex attractions and behaviors are disordered and, therefore, need to be changed. This contradicts the dictates of the 2005 ACA Code of Ethics.

Conversion therapy assumes that a person who has same-sex attractions and behaviors is mentally disordered and that this belief contradicts positions held by the American Counseling Association and other mental health and biomedical professional organizations. Additionally, the ACA passed a resolution in 1999 stating that it does not endorse reparative therapy as a "cure" for homosexuality. Any professional who engages in conversion therapy is not offering the professional standard of care and would need to include that he or she is offering it not as a professional counselor but is providing counseling within the scope of practice of some other profession (i.e., Christian counselor).

Conversion therapy as a practice is a religious, not psychologically-based, practice. The premise of the treatment is to change a client's sexual orientation. The treatment may include techniques based in Christian faith-based methods such as the use of "testimonials, mentoring, prayer, Bible readings, and Christian weekend workshops" (Shroeder & Shidlo, 2001, p. 150). It may also use cognitive-behavioral techniques such as aversion therapy (i.e.; stopping clients from masturbating to same-sex images; encouraging imagery of getting AIDS paired to same-sex arousal), reinforcement techniques that emphasize traditional gender role behavior (i.e., for men to "engage in team sports, to go the gym, and to attend Promise Keepers" and for women "to learn how to cook, sew, and apply make-up"; Shroeder & Shidlo, 2001, p. 149), and use of sexual surrogates. However, there is no training offered or condoned by the American Counseling Association to educate and prepare a professional counselor wishing to engage in this type of treatment.

Research does not support conversion therapy as an effective treatment modality. There have been "no objective screening criteria, no consensus about outcome measurement, and no blinded or

side-by-side studies" (Forstein, 2001, p. 173) and there is "no article in a peer reviewed scientific journal" stating that conversion therapy alters someone's sexual orientation (p. 177). The results of some research indicate that some clients seeking this treatment do change their behavior approximately 30% of the time, but the same clients report changing only their behaviors but not their sexual orientation. This is an important distinction to share with clients, helping them understand the difference between behaviors and sexual identity. Further, no long-term studies have been conducted to discern whether research participants who reported a change in their behaviors maintained these changes over time.

There is potential for harm when clients participate in conversion therapy. Results of studies indicate that there are clients who enter this type of treatment and then report that they function more poorly than when they entered (Nicolosi, Byrd, & Potts, 2000; Schroeder & Shidlo, 2001).

There are treatments endorsed by the Association for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Issues in Counseling (see <http://www.aglbic.org/resources/competencies.html>), a division of the American Counseling Association and the American Psychological Association (see <http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/guidelines.html>) that have been successful in helping clients with their sexual orientation. These treatments are gay affirmative and help a client reconcile his/her same-sex attractions with religious beliefs.

In closing, we strongly support the ban on conversion therapy for minors, and ask that you do the same. We are also enclosing a copy of the 2017 ACA Resolution on Reparative/Conversion Therapy for your reference.

Sincerely,

Nebraska Counseling Association Executive Board

Dr. Matt Mims, Executive Director
Becca Moore, President
Meghan Horton, President Elect
Chuanyao Zheng, Past President

Lauren Bush, Secretary
Sarah Schroeder, Treasurer
Nicole Kauk, Public Policy and Legislation
Jeremy Eberle, Membership Chair

Enclosure: 12-19-2017 ACA Resolution on Reparative Therapy/Conversion Therapy/Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) as a Significant and Serious Violation of the ACA Code of Ethics

Source:

https://www.counseling.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/reparative-therapy-resolution-letter-head_edited.pdf?sfvrsn=8ed562c_4



AMERICAN COUNSELING
ASSOCIATION

Governing Council Motion

Your Passion. Your Profession. Our Purpose.

Subject: Resolution on Reparative Therapy/Conversion Therapy/Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) as a Significant and Serious Violation of the ACA Code of Ethics

It is Moved:

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly affirmed that sexual orientation and gender nonconformity are not mental disorders;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly opposed the portrayal of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth and adults as mentally ill due to their sexual orientation or gender identity;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly supported the dissemination of accurate information about sexual orientation, affectional orientation, gender identity, mental health, and appropriate interventions, in order to counteract bias that is based in ignorance or unfounded beliefs about same-sex sexual orientation and gender nonconformity;

Whereas the American Counseling Association has expressly opposed the promotion of reparative therapy/conversion therapy/sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) as a cure for LGBTQ+ individuals;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been shown to be ineffectual;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been shown to cause harm;

Whereas reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE has been found to violate consumer fraud-protection law;

Be it resolved that promoting, conducting, engaging in, or referring for reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE is a significant and serious violation of the ACA Code of Ethics including, but not necessarily limited to, a breach of the mandates to:

- Do no harm.
- Avoid the imposition of the counselor's personal values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors.
- Practice within the boundaries of professional competencies.
- Avoid discrimination based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Moved by: Michael Kocet

Seconded by: Simone Lambert

Endorsements: This motion has been endorsed by

- The ACA Ethics Committee
- The ACA Human Rights Committee
- The ACA Professional Standards Committee

Rationale/Need: This motion codified ACA's current position.

Impact on the Profession and Relationship to the Strategic Priority:

This motion makes it clear to members, the profession, and the public that promoting, conducting, engaging in, or referring for reparative therapy/conversion therapy/SOCE is a significant and serious violation of the ACA Code of Ethics. While this has been ACA's position for some time, it has not yet been codified in writing.

ACA Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 2 – Improving member services and benefits to address 21st century needs

Strategic Priority 3 – Balancing practice with academia

Strategic Priority 4 – Advocating for the profession

Strategic Priority 5 – Strengthening the organization

Motion Passed: Governing Council Meeting – Dec. 19, 2017

Angela M. Birkett

From: Carina McCormick <carinamc@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2021 8:55 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

From: Carina M. McCormick, PhD
1502 E St.
Lincoln, NE 68508
Re: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance
Position: For (proponent)

It is both my professional opinion and moral belief that this ordinance prohibiting "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ+ youth in Lincoln is necessary and right. So-called "conversion therapy" is the opposite of therapy: it is child abuse. It teaches children that who they are is wrong and immoral and must be changed when, in contrast, scientific research consistently shows that sexual orientation and gender identify is not a choice made by individuals. The harm caused by this practice can be lifelong or life-shortening through suicide of individuals who were harmed by it. From a moral perspective as well as a legislative responsibility, we must end the practice of subjecting children to the lifelong psychological impact of enduring the barbaric actions misleadingly referred to as "therapy. " Although Lincoln cannot mandate that parents love and accept their children, the city has a responsibility to prevent child abuse in all its forms, including psychological abuse at the hands of those who proposit to change inherent characteristics of youths' identity through the discredited means addressed in this proposed ordinance.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Colleen Church <colleen02marie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 8:31 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Please ban conversion therapy

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Good morning council members,

I am writing as a concerned Lincoln citizen and mother of a gay teenager. Please consider what conversion therapy really is, and how it negatively impacts those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community. The term, "therapy", often has a positive connotation to it. However, anytime an adolescent is told that the core of who they are is "wrong", "sinful", or needs to be changed, creates irreversible damage to that person's emotional and spiritual wellbeing. As elected officials, we count on you to protect our youth, our citizens, and our society. We look up to you to enforce equal treatment and fairness for all. Conversion therapy allows those who disagree with homosexuality to place shame, judgement, and guilt on some of the most beautiful souls in our community.

Please work to BAN conversion therapy and stand up for the LGBTQ+ community. Afterall, many of us voted you each into office. Now we look to you to do what is RIGHT.

Thank you,

Colleen Church

Angela M. Birkett

From: Nancy Petitto <nancyapetitto@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protections Ordinance Support Letter
Attachments: YMHP Ordinance Support Letter.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Members of the Lincoln City Council,

Please find a letter of support for the Youth Mental Health Protections ordinance attached. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Nancy Petitto
3430 Franklin Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

February 8, 2021

Lincoln City Council
555 S. 10th Street, Rm 111
Lincoln, NE 68508

Councilperson Meginnis and members of the Lincoln City Council:

As a Lincoln resident, I support the Youth Mental Health Protections ordinance introduced by Councilperson James Michael Bowers, which addresses the harmful practice of conversion therapy. Lincoln must take the necessary steps to ban this practice and protect the LGBTQ youth in our communities. Passing this ordinance will help ensure Lincoln youth will not suffer from the harms of conversion therapy, which aims to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Conversion therapy greatly increases the chance for LGBTQ youth to lose their life to serious health risks including depression, isolation, substance abuse, and suicide.

I want to live in a city that supports, embraces, and uplifts LGBTQ individuals. As Lincoln continues to grow and strives to be more diverse, inclusive, and equitable, our elected officials and local leaders have the obligation to take every step necessary to uphold this effort. We have the opportunity to make a substantive and substantial change that will greatly impact LGBTQ youth in our community.

I support the Youth Mental Health Protections ordinance and strongly urge the City Council to pass this ordinance. By supporting this ordinance, you can be a part of ending this harmful practice and ensure the LGBTQ youth in Lincoln can have a strong future in our community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Petitto
3430 Franklin Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

Angela M. Birkett

From: Lucas Peterson <luke.in.lincoln@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 9:36 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

Distinguished members of the Lincoln City Council,

Greetings, my name is Luke Peterson and I have no relation to the Nebraska Attorney General (he wouldn't claim me, just as I don't for him). I am writing to you on my own behalf and not representing any group or organization I belong to. I want you to support the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance sponsored by Councilman James Michael Bowers. I know you're receiving a lot of emails over this from proponents and opponents alike but I felt like I needed to voice my support of the ordinance. As you know, it seeks to ban harmful practices of so-called "conversion therapy" in where people are subjected to rhetoric and "therapy" that is designed to make a person more conforming to societal standards. It is an egregious practice because it doesn't work and leaves many "patients" devastated, broken and sadly leads to self-harming behaviours that can kill. There is no place for such therapy, at all, for Nebraskans.

I know you're hearing from individuals who have survived conversion therapy and I don't have that experience personally. But I do have experience of trying to find myself in a place that is hostile to openly gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. I've had 6 years of therapy myself, 3 years with a Substance Abuse Counselor and 3 years of Grief Therapy. I know what it's like to be unhappy about yourself, I know that people can hate themselves and I know how vulnerable you become when you let others decide your worth for you. It took me a long time to get to where I am at today, and I can assure you that it's still a struggle some days. I've been called many things in my life and have been referred to as some of the most horrendous labels one can think. I am at an age where I stop caring about others' perception of me because none of it is original to my ears. That being said; I just cannot imagine where I would be today had my family chosen to not love me unconditionally, to discard me to a place where it's a constant reminder that you are not deserving enough to simply exist as you are. Simply put, to be subjected to cruelty as a means to "cure" oneself from their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. To be frank, if the tables were turned and we would subject heterosexual, cisgendered individuals to "conversion therapy"-this topic would have been outlawed long ago. We can start today with being the examples of what unconditional love means and that's by banning conversion therapy.

Thank you for your time, hope you stay warm and safe today!

--

Luke Peterson
luke.in.lincoln@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Tim Diehlman <diehlmant@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Mayor; Council Packet
Subject: Police Department

[CAUTION] This email comes from a sender outside your organization.

If we keep undermining the Police with an advisory board with BLM police hate groups this is only going to get worse ! Chief because of this problem !

https://journalstar.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/city-hall-departures-from-lincoln-police-force-grow-amid-pandemic-unrest/article_64f89baa-1c94-5e55-8d3f-e347358e1836.html#utm_source=journalstar.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=d9f4e72ef9a2c177c4403e437a6b21bc857df17b



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