

**IN LIEU OF
DIRECTORS' MEETING
ADDENDUM
Monday, February 22, 2021**

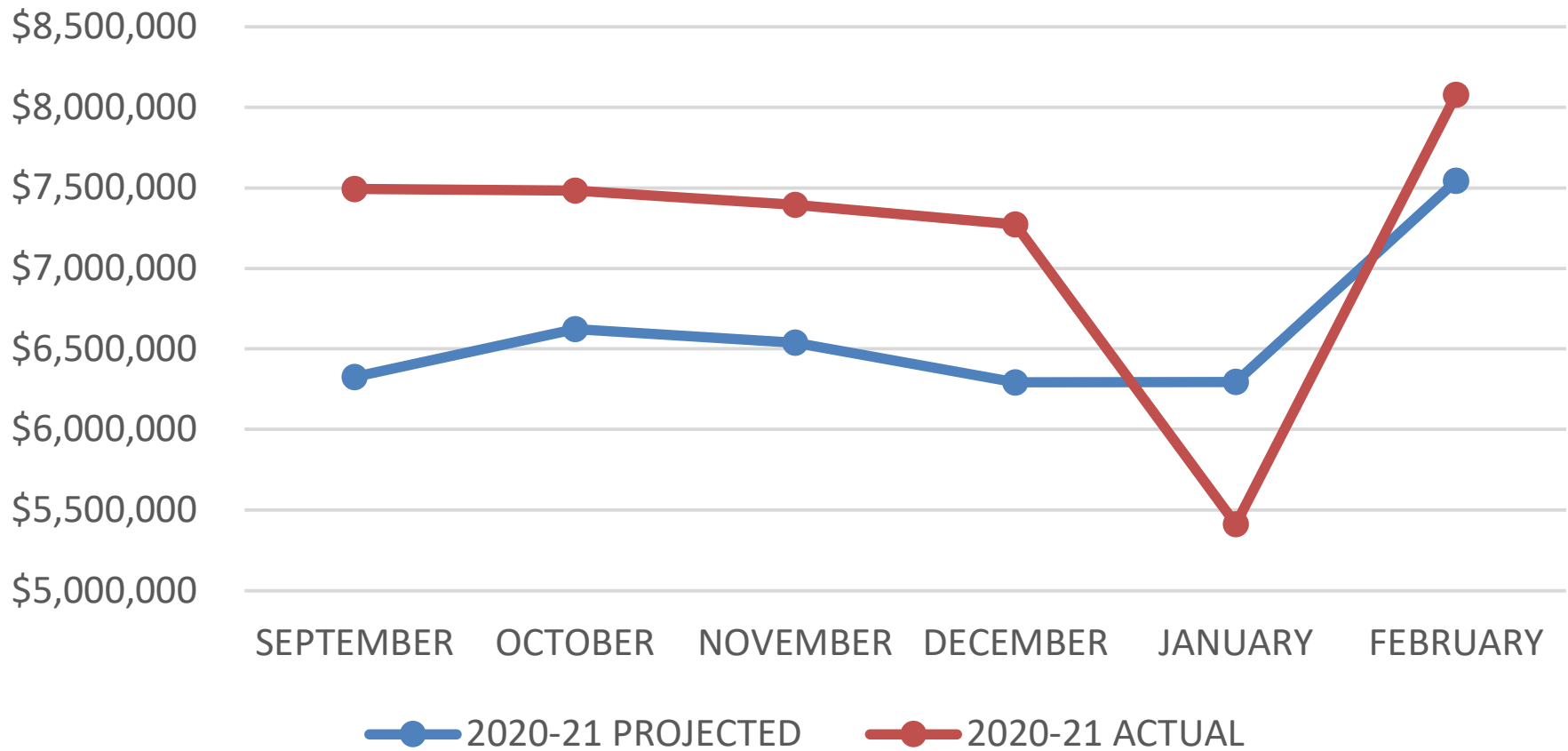
**I. DIRECTORS CORRESPONDENCE
FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

1. February Sales Tax Report reflecting December 2020 sales

II. CONSTITUENT CORRESPONDENCE

1. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Amelia Brehm
2. Sam Lion – Mark Sroczynski
Staff response provided by Councilman Shobe
3. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Timothy Brehm
4. Changes to City Ordinance – Frank Bossemeyer
5. Public “health experts” – Robert Borer
6. Climate Plan – Cheryl Irwin
7. Open the Chamber to the People – Esther Dahar
8. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Vicki Johnson
9. Proposed Gate House Row Project – wearecamping@gmail.com
10. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Cheri Howard
11. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Jeff & Julie Collins
12. Open up our Chambers – Fanchon Blythe
13. How to run for City Council – Travis Harrison
Staff response provided by Angie Birkett, City Council Secretary
14. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Andrew Rodriguez
15. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Sara Rips
16. Open meetings to citizens – Jennifer Reeder
17. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Timothy Fischer
18. Proposed Conversion Therapy – Georgia Snyder
19. Council Chambers – Valerie Hayden

FY 2020-21 Projected vs Actual Net Sales Tax



**Actual Compared to
Projected Sales Tax Collections**

	2020-21 PROJECTED	2020-21 ACTUAL	VARIANCE FROM PROJECTED	\$ CHANGE FROM 19-20	% CHANGE FROM 19-20
SEPTEMBER	\$6,325,838	\$7,492,398	\$1,166,560	\$693,111	10.19%
OCTOBER	\$6,621,779	\$7,480,919	\$859,140	\$401,905	5.68%
NOVEMBER	\$6,537,834	\$7,392,815	\$854,981	\$281,686	3.96%
DECEMBER	\$6,292,944	\$7,273,404	\$980,460	\$389,694	5.66%
JANUARY	\$6,294,730	\$5,412,199	(\$882,531)	(\$567,472)	-9.49%
FEBRUARY	\$7,542,765	\$8,079,047	\$536,282	\$49,294	0.61%
MARCH	\$5,894,467				
APRIL	\$5,740,899				
MAY	\$6,709,386				
JUNE	\$6,338,704				
JULY	\$6,445,755				
AUGUST	\$6,914,489				
TOTAL	\$77,659,590	\$43,130,782	\$3,514,892	\$1,248,218	2.98%

Actual collections for the fiscal year to date are 8.87% over projections for the year.

CITY OF LINCOLN
GROSS SALES TAX COLLECTIONS (WITH REFUNDS ADDED BACK IN)
2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	% CHG.	ACTUAL	% CHG.	ACTUAL	% CHG.
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	FROM PRIOR	2019-20	FROM PRIOR	2020-21	FROM PRIOR
				YEAR		YEAR		YEAR
SEPTEMBER	\$6,265,764	\$6,386,734	\$6,457,192	1.10%	\$6,927,862	7.29%	\$7,514,711	8.47%
OCTOBER	\$6,598,756	\$6,811,452	\$6,817,440	0.09%	\$7,116,483	4.39%	\$7,514,902	5.60%
NOVEMBER	\$6,471,721	\$6,537,754	\$6,637,486	1.53%	\$7,146,575	7.67%	\$7,422,009	3.85%
DECEMBER	\$6,128,386	\$6,371,026	\$6,493,888	1.93%	\$6,897,823	6.22%	\$7,316,836	6.07%
JANUARY	\$6,285,444	\$6,432,363	\$6,516,808	1.31%	\$6,776,561	3.99%	\$6,749,486	-0.40%
FEBRUARY	\$7,293,928	\$7,459,132	\$7,386,107	-0.98%	\$8,118,745	9.92%	\$8,105,671	-0.16%
MARCH	\$5,521,761	\$5,930,406	\$5,981,967	0.87%	\$6,303,510	5.38%		
APRIL	\$5,639,028	\$5,618,037	\$5,586,708	-0.56%	\$6,350,301	13.67%		
MAY	\$6,708,815	\$6,759,407	\$6,623,556	-2.01%	\$6,308,611	-4.75%		
JUNE	\$6,255,952	\$6,325,718	\$6,721,994	6.26%	\$5,793,431	-13.81%		
JULY	\$6,440,709	\$6,644,137	\$6,804,001	2.41%	\$6,282,775	-7.66%		
AUGUST	\$6,736,493	\$6,770,977	\$7,199,568	6.33%	\$7,595,398	5.50%		
TOTAL	\$76,346,757	\$78,047,143	\$79,226,715	1.51%	\$81,618,075	3.02%	\$44,623,615	3.81%

**CITY OF LINCOLN
SALES TAX REFUNDS
2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021**

	ACTUAL 2016-2017	ACTUAL 2017-2018	ACTUAL 2018-2019	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2019-2020	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2020-2021	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR
SEPTEMBER	(\$217,212)	(\$98,235)	(\$52,954)	-46.09%	(\$128,575)	142.81%	(\$22,314)	-82.65%
OCTOBER	(\$31,712)	(\$30,920)	(\$7,524)	-75.66%	(\$37,469)	397.97%	(\$33,982)	-9.31%
NOVEMBER	(\$81,460)	(\$923)	(\$2,944)	218.96%	(\$35,446)	1104.01%	(\$29,194)	-17.64%
DECEMBER	(\$79,179)	(\$46,365)	(\$58,585)	26.36%	(\$14,114)	-75.91%	(\$43,432)	207.72%
JANUARY	(\$294,431)	(\$379,926)	(\$342,169)	-9.94%	(\$796,890)	132.89%	(\$1,337,287)	67.81%
FEBRUARY	(\$90,752)	(\$719)	(\$33,054)	4497.22%	(\$88,992)	169.23%	(\$26,624)	-70.08%
MARCH	(\$92,105)	(\$49,445)	(\$40,643)	-17.80%	(\$36,630)	-9.87%	(\$7,027)	-80.82%
APRIL	(\$29,707)	(\$41,280)	(\$31,464)	-23.78%	(\$30,982)	-1.53%		
MAY	(\$67,726)	(\$91,272)	(\$41,555)	-54.47%	(\$15,309)	-63.16%		
JUNE	(\$83,394)	(\$51,268)	(\$13,186)	-74.28%	(\$10,195)	-22.68%		
JULY	(\$1,932)	(\$347,486)	(\$29,772)	-91.43%	(\$45,946)	54.32%		
AUGUST	(\$17,202)	(\$96,471)	(\$9,385)	-90.27%	(\$34,190)	264.30%		
TOTAL	(\$1,086,812)	(\$1,234,310)	(\$663,236)	-46.27%	(\$1,274,738)	92.20%	(\$1,499,860)	31.78%

**CITY OF LINCOLN
NET SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
2016-2017 THROUGH 2020-2021**

	ACTUAL 2016-17	ACTUAL 2017-18	ACTUAL 2018-19	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2019-20	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2020-21	% CHG. FROM PRIOR YEAR
SEPTEMBER	\$6,048,552	\$6,288,498	\$6,404,239	1.84%	\$6,799,287	6.17%	\$7,492,398	10.19%
OCTOBER	\$6,567,045	\$6,780,531	\$6,809,916	0.43%	\$7,079,014	3.95%	\$7,480,919	5.68%
NOVEMBER	\$6,390,261	\$6,536,831	\$6,634,499	1.49%	\$7,111,129	7.18%	\$7,392,815	3.96%
DECEMBER	\$6,049,207	\$6,324,661	\$6,435,303	1.75%	\$6,883,710	6.97%	\$7,273,404	5.66%
JANUARY	\$5,991,013	\$6,052,437	\$6,174,639	2.02%	\$5,979,671	-3.16%	\$5,412,199	-9.49%
FEBRUARY	\$7,203,175	\$7,458,413	\$7,353,053	-1.41%	\$8,029,753	9.20%	\$8,079,047	0.61%
MARCH	\$5,429,656	\$5,880,960	\$5,941,323	1.03%	\$6,266,880	5.48%		
APRIL	\$5,609,320	\$5,576,757	\$5,555,244	-0.39%	\$6,319,319	13.75%		
MAY	\$6,641,089	\$6,668,135	\$6,582,001	-1.29%	\$6,293,302	-4.39%		
JUNE	\$6,172,558	\$6,274,450	\$6,708,808	6.92%	\$5,783,236	-13.80%		
JULY	\$6,438,777	\$6,296,651	\$6,774,229	7.58%	\$6,236,829	-7.93%		
AUGUST	\$6,719,292	\$6,674,506	\$7,190,183	7.73%	\$7,561,209	5.16%		
TOTAL	\$75,259,945	\$76,812,830	\$78,563,436	2.28%	\$80,343,339	2.27%	\$43,130,782	2.98%

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amelia Brehm <abrehm@ChristPlace.Church>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 3:01 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

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

Hello,

My name is Amelia Brehm, I live in Lincoln at 1711 West Garfield St. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance that would violate the free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors/psychologists and their patients. I believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect no matter what their sexual orientation, yet everyone should be free to choose the counseling goals best for them.

This ordinance weakens individual freedom by its restrictions on counseling and it unconstitutionally engages in viewpoint discrimination. There are many differing views and the City Council should not attempt to sanction moral beliefs of its citizens with regards to human sexuality.

A counselor/therapist should not be used as a tool to impose the government's views on their patients.

Thank you for hearing my concerns.



Amelia Brehm / Bookkeeper
abrehm@christplace.church

Christ Place Church
402.421.1111
1111 Old Cheney Rd | Lincoln NE 68512
www.christplace.church

Angela M. Birkett

From: mark sroczynski <mark.sroczynski@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 5:52 AM
To: Bennie R. Shobe; Council Packet
Subject: Re: Sam lion

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

Thanks for responding Bennie. In Lyons statement, one of the councilwomen's statement indicated that 'people should email as we read our emails if they would like to comment.'

Here I've done so to be met with radio listening silence, except for yourself. Is it too much to ask 'why is this continuing...?'

His point is valid and with merit. Thanks again.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 12, 2021, at 6:55 AM, Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov> wrote:

Good morning Mr. Sroczynski,

Yes, I can confirm the email went to the entire council.

Thanks again for writing.

bennie

Bennie Shobe
Lincoln City Council
At Large Representative.
bshobe@lincoln.ne.gov
531-207-2926

From: mark sroczynski <mark.sroczynski@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 6:24 AM
To: Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: Re: Sam lion

Thank you for the response. Can you confirm the initial email went to the entire council?

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 11, 2021, at 5:17 PM, Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Sroczynski,

Thank you for your email and for sharing your thought
on the resolution introduced by Councilman Christensen.

I agree with you on this issue.

See below the agenda item and a link to the youtube video of council discussion
about placing it on pending from the January 11, 2021 meeting

<image.png>



Lincoln City Council Meeting January 11, 2021

Lincoln City Council Meeting January 11, 2021

youtu.be

Thanks again for your email.

bennie

Bennie Shobe
Lincoln City Council
At Large Representative.
bshobe@lincoln.ne.gov
531-207-2926

From: Angela M. Birkett <ABirkett@lincoln.ne.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 4:27 PM

To: Richard W. Meginnis <RMeginnis@lincoln.ne.gov>; 'royforlincoln@gmail.com'
<royforlincoln@gmail.com>; Bennie R. Shobe <BShobe@lincoln.ne.gov>; Tammy J.

Ward <TJWard@lincoln.ne.gov>; James M. Bowers <JBowers@lincoln.ne.gov>; Jane Raybould <JRaybould@lincoln.ne.gov>; Sandra J. Washington <SWashington@lincoln.ne.gov>; 'Richard Meginnis' <RMeginnis@NAIFMA.com>; Roy A. Christensen <RChristensen@lincoln.ne.gov>

Subject: FW: Sam lion

Please see the email below received through Council email. Thanks.

Angie Birkett
Administrative Secretary
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th St., Ste 111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-6867
Fax 402-441-6533
abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: mark sroczynski [<mailto:mark.sroczynski@outlook.com>]

Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 12:07 PM

To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>

Subject: Sam lion

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

Sam Lion brings up a very good point that an agenda item cannot be discussed because it's "pending" on the agenda and pending with no future date.

The point was raised to remove this off the agenda so a person can actually speak as a citizen of Lincoln, but effectively cannot due to a procedural practice to indefinitely keep the topic from being discussed.

Is this really where we are? Cancel any dissenting opinion or voice of people who wish to be heard on a subject that is greater than 300 days old? Is this really the stance and intent of a city council to not allow a topic to be heard.

Clearly this is a process to do that and strongly advocate to vote to remove for public comment.

I actually can't believe this isn't seen by the council and find myself wondering why it's necessary for me to even need to take the time to write this email. What country is this?

Sent from my iPhone

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message, including any attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any

unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Amelia Brehm <abrehm@ChristPlace.Church>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 9:46 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance

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

Hello, my name is Timothy J Brehm and I reside in Lincoln at 1711 West Garfield St. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed "Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance" which violates the free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors and their patients.

I believe that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect no matter what their sexual orientation or gender identity. Having said that, all people should be free to choose the counseling goals best for them. We live in a very diverse culture and must give room to those with differing views on how best to approach these sensitive issues. The City Council must not attempt to sanction the moral beliefs of its citizens with regards to human sexuality.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right, this is guaranteed by our First Amendment, and this proposed ordinance violates freedom of speech within a very private relationship. This ordinance undermines individual freedom through its restrictions on counseling. As well, it unconstitutionally engages in viewpoint discrimination. A counselor should not be used to impose the government's views on their patients.

Please, I urge you to oppose the proposed "Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance."

Thank you for hearing my concerns.

Timothy J Brehm
1711 West Garfield St
Lincoln, NE 68522

Angela M. Birkett

From: Frank Bossemeyer <frankbossemeyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Changes to city Ordinance

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

I Strongly disagree with the proposed changes to the ordinance.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Robert Borer <robert.borer@doane.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 12:40 PM
To: Pat D. Lopez; Mayor; Council Packet; Scott E. Holmes
Subject: Public "health experts"

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

If a local public "health expert" can't tell me why I haven't contracted the boogeyman disease yet, nearly a year after it supposedly traveled around the world overnight, when I haven't taken any of their phony precautions, then he/she is not a health expert. He/she is a puppet....a political pawn. End of story.

Angela M. Birkett

From: rcirwin@windstream.net
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 2:27 PM
To: Council Packet
Cc: Cheryl Alberts Irwin
Subject: Climate plan

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

Honorable City Council,

As a citizen of Lincoln for 30 years, I am pleased to see there is an initiative regarding climate change. If we do not take positive steps to stop environmental decline, the rest of our efforts are moot.

Please support the Planning Commission's efforts to help arrest climate change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cheryl Irwin
3274 Merrill St.
Lincoln, NE 68503
402-464-7955
rcirwin@windstream.net

Angela M. Birkett

From: EstherDahar <EstherDahar@protonmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 12:16 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Open The Chamber To The People

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

On Monday February 8, 2021, concerned citizens were not allowed to be physically present in the chambers of the Lincoln, Ne city council meeting. The DHM measures at that time clearly stated licensed establishments serving food, liquor or beer could operate at 75 percent capacity. In that room there are 146 seats. We should have been allowed 109.5 people in that room. So was it because you couldn't purchase beer at a city council meeting that you could not sit down and attend it in person?

They operated at a one person at a time capacity. In doing so they forced the general public into the hall outside the chambers. We had to watch the entire session on a television, unable to social distance. Which was the reason we were told we could not be inside the city council chambers. What sense does that even make?

Denying your constituents access to that room will not make the problem (concerned citizens) go away. Instead, it makes concerned citizens (the problem) strengthen in numbers.

Keep the room closed to the people. People will gather in the hallway by the hundreds. Close the building and people will gather in the streets by the thousands. Block the streets and people will unite by the millions. We will not go away.

It is our right to be in there. It is the job of city council members to listen and work for the people. If for what ever reason you are uncomfortable having people physically present inside that room during meetings, then you should resign. We will find true leaders who will work for us, listen to us and allow us to be in their presence.

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Vicki Johnson <vickiandthom@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2021 8:06 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Changes to the city code regarding teaching, counseling...

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

Dear City Council,

We respectfully request that you reject the council's decision to push this ordinance forward. We feel that this ordinance is much too serious to be voted on by a small number of City Council members and should be put before the entire Lincoln electorate.

If there is a movement in this direction we request that the wording of the ordinance be changed so that it does not apply to churches, Christian businesses and non-profits as this would be an infringement of our religious freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Thank you,

Tom and Vicki Johnson

Angela M. Birkett

From: weare camping <wearecamping@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Wyuka development

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

The plan is to build apartments on a VERY narrow area along the west area of WYUKA to stay away from the drainage ditch on the east. I assume the plan is to fill in the area with dirt where the water backs up till it runs through the culvert under 36th and Vine Street. So the question remains where does all the street water from west that has always drained from 33rd east go with no street drains in the area except at 35th and S that dumps back on S street 1/2 block east to run down the hill to the area where the developer is wanting to build . Obviously one person has been to the area and looked at the situation. "Tracy Carr" on the planning commission and voted against it. She pointed out it is not the only open land in the area. A short distance away 'up the hill' at 44th and Vine is vacant land (right on a bus route) not in a ditch where apartments could be built. BUT it is not worthless land that floods. I hope everyone on the council that votes to OK the Wyuka Development Plan (just to satisfy the mayor's goal of affordable housing) is willing to pay for flood insurance for all the tax paying property owners west of the proposed apartments and the 1st floor low income renters. The water from the west will have nowhere to go except into their area.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Cheri Howard <cheri.l.howard@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 6:18 PM
To: Council Packet; Jeff Howard
Subject: Ban on Conversion Therapy

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

As the sister of a gay man who was forever damaged to conversion therapy efforts, my broken heart pleads with you to ban this twisted from of "therapy". Under the guise of religion, the false narrative is that groups should be able to practice their beliefs, but this bottom line is they use their faith as a weapon for what is actually sanctioned discrimination.

This is still going on in our area! Where my brother went in order to "be healed" is Christian Heritage at 14880 Old Cheney and they don't use the words conversion therapy at this point, but if you go to their site the language is there. "God created man in his image - perfect" and "God's design for marriage is a lifelong commitment between one man and one woman" and that is only through Satan that we sin and fall from grace, but they can help to "put aside the temptation to present a false self".

This very month on Feb 1st, Christian Heritage announced their new CEO Roy Baldwin from Monadnock Christian Ministries in New Hampshire. He'll bring that culture to Nebraska which is even more bold. From their public webpage:

– We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.)

– We believe in a “Christian Sexual Ethic” that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful to God (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

– We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

Please understand that I am not bashing Christians as there are any number of congregations that preach acceptance and inclusion as part of their faith.

What I am saying is that "praying the gay away" is spiritual, emotional, psychological terrorism. How tragic it was to tell a young man (and others) they are a deviant and an abberation in the eyes of almighty God and if they just believe, they can be saved.

My brother was *never able to accept himself* because this mantra was so permanently embedded into his psyche.

As I write this, the rage, the tears, the heartache and the trauma inflicted upon him and as a result, our whole family who loved and lost him, his almost too much to bear.

We can't stop people from preaching this harmful dogma, but as leaders of a community, we can declare boldly it is WRONG and give our youth a safe space from the rhetoric.

Please do the right thing and protect our community from those who would, in the name of God, shatter lives potentially beyond repair.

Thank you for reading.

Cheri Howard 5415 Sawgrass Dr. 68526. 402-525-9725

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jeff Julie Collins <collinsfamily4jesus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 11:14 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code
Attachments: TRADING MY SORROWS.pdf

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

Dear Lincoln City Council,

Attached is a letter and information relating to the proposed amendment (21-18) to Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important matters. We will be in prayer for you.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Julie Collins
12801 NW 56th St, Raymond, NE 68428

--

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you,

And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

February 20, 2021

Dear Lincoln City Council Members:

Thank you very much for your service to the people of Lincoln. I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed amendments to Ordinance 21-18. I am opposed to the changes of the ordinance which discriminate against people who value our Constitutional religious freedom.

As a person of faith, I know God created humans. He made them male or female. God has also given us the freedom to trust Him or to reject Him. My faith compels me to share the gospel with everyone regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression. Freedom from discrimination is the right of all people and we should strive to see that everyone in our community is treated with love and kindness.

"Amending Title 11 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to incorporate the Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance prohibiting conversion therapy for minors which seeks to change the minor's sexual orientation or gender identity." (The complete ordinance is a 14-page document.)

According to your proposal, if anyone attempts to counsel, educate, or teach a minor anything regarding their sexuality and gender confusion that is outside the mental health and Lincoln public-school system's curriculum as it relates to gay, lesbian, transgender being a normal and acceptable lifestyle would be considered illegal and subject to fine. In other words, a parent, pastor, Sunday School teacher, youth pastor, Christian school teacher, or Christian counselor could be fined if they taught biblical heterosexual values to a minor as an alternative to homosexuality. This would be considered "conversion therapy" and if this bill passes, teaching biblical sexuality would be illegal. It could potentially place our children at risk. This ordinance could dismantle families. We must speak up to protect our children and strengthen our homes.

This proposed amendment would violate our First Amendment rights to exercise Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Speech. It prohibits our religious rights to teach Biblical values to our children. This discriminates against those who have convictions to embrace God's design for their children. It prohibits minors from getting all the facts about their sexuality. It takes away our freedom as parents to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That is discrimination. It is unconstitutional.

I object to the wording on page 9, line 22.

"Contemporary science recognizes that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human identity..."

These lifestyle "choices" are not normal. They are confusing because God created men and women with distinct differences (Genesis 1:27; 2:19-22; 5:2; Matthew 19:4; Mark 10:6-9). If a person chooses to change their natural, God-given design, that distorts the "natural spectrum of human identity". The choice of sexual identity does not give anyone special or protected rights, other than those guaranteed to all people. Parents need to take a stand against public schools and government policies that are intended to groom children towards gender change and eliminating male and female sex distinctions. Parents cannot afford to stand silently by while their right to parent their children is eroded.

Socially indoctrinating young children toward accepting transgenderism is rampant today in public schools, which have become breeding grounds for sexual activism groups despite serious harm this poses to students. Schools should teach academics not sexuality. Persuading them into transgenderism is medical malpractice. Nothing can ever alter a person's God given genetic gender. Modern medicine has a long history of failing to properly and effectively help people who struggle with unusual emotional and psychological issues. Miserably they fail to get to the heart of their authentic needs. Regarding the heart, each of us need to come to realize that Jesus Christ is Lord. He loves us and cares about every aspect of our lives.

I disagree with the conclusion on page 10, lines 7-10

"Sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts or conversion therapy lead to critical health risks..."

There are health risks and regrets for those who choose an alternate lifestyle. The statistics of depression and suicide among transgenders and lesbian/gay individuals is shocking. To counsel or inform individuals who are confused or questioning their sexual identity does not cause a critical health risk. That is just a presumption which is not based upon data.

- Studies have found that GLBT youth attempt suicide more than 3 times more frequently than their heterosexual counterparts
- A Canadian study estimated that the risk of suicide among LGB youth is 14 times higher than for heterosexual youth
- Among youth who attempted suicide, almost twice as many GLBT youth said they really hoped to die
- Of transgender people, between 30-45% report having attempted suicide
- GBT men have a higher risk of suicide than women although women attempt suicide more frequently

A 2016 Swedish study shows the rate of gay males suffering from lifetime suicidal ideation as **140 percent greater**. The same measure for women there is **110 percent higher** than the general population. Bisexuals are curiously even higher, with females being **250 percent more likely** and bisexual men **160 percent**. In France, fourth on the world's gay-friendly list, gays and lesbians are on average **80 percent more likely** to suffer suicidal ideation than their straight peers. All countries that keep such data show similar findings, regardless of changes in attitudes and policies concerning LGB-identified individuals.

Swedish: <https://jech.bmj.com/content/70/9/895.short>

France: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165032709004765>

The phrase "...including, but not limited to..." is a big concern. What else could be included?

The surge in the number of people expressing gender confusion makes sense when looking at it through the lens of Marxism. The rapid onset of gender dysphoria provides cover for the dangerous onset and adoption of radical destructive Marxist ideas. Marxism, with its guiding principle of abolish and destroy, goes a long way toward explaining today's strident transgender activism. The forces behind the gender agenda have utilized Marxist techniques of silencing dissenters to coerce conformity from the general population.

Karl Marx was a hateful agent of evil. In the last century, the implementation of his ideas was responsible for the loss of 100 million lives worldwide. Marxist objectives are diametrically opposed to faith in the God of the Bible, who made us in His image and put us in family relationships. The goal of social policing of our language by demanding gender-neutral terms is thought control, which epitomizes the Marxist agenda. Marxism is based on hatred of God and destruction of personhood, families, and church. Marxism has three objectives: dehumanize all persons, demoralize all relationships, and decivilize all institutions, including the church. What is the driving factor behind promoting transgender identities, especially among children, and harshly silencing and canceling all who disagree, by any means available? Is it a Progressive-Marxist agenda? It is obscenely Marxist because it deconstructs what it means to be male or female.

Americans have First Amendment Rights. Your proposed amendment threatens those freedoms. Since it is unconstitutional, the Lincoln City Council will face legal battles. Lincoln Nebraska would not benefit from the slippery slope of Progressive-Marxist policies. We need to love God and our country. We need to read the Bible and know our Constitution, which will greatly strengthen our lives in Lincoln.

Sincerely in Christ

Mrs. Julie Collins

‘TRADING MY SORROWS’ — A STORY OF HEALING FROM TRANSGENDERISM

BY JEFF JOHNSTON | SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Walt Heyer's life looked like a success. Since childhood, however, he had struggled with the desire to dress in women's clothes and to be a woman.

NOTE: This article deals with sensitive and difficult issues and contains content for mature readers.

Married for 19 years, successful in business, and the father of two children, Walt Heyer’s life looked like a success. Since childhood, however, he had struggled with the desire to dress in women’s clothes and to be a woman. This obsession was becoming stronger.

After a divorce, and a short visit with a psychologist to refer him for surgery, Walt endured a number of procedures: electrolysis; breast and buttocks implants; a nose job; facial surgeries; skin peels; hormones; and, finally, “sexual reassignment surgery.”

Walt tells his story in the book, *Trading My Sorrows*, where he says that even after spending time and money on “becoming a woman,” he was abusing alcohol and drugs, wrestling with depression and thoughts of suicide, and confused about who he was. He writes,

“My bad choices had destroyed my identity, my family and my career. The surgeon’s knife and resulting amputation had not changed me from a man into a woman. I now knew that. ...

“It was becoming very clear that the surgery they call sex change or gender reassignment is not a sex or gender change at all, but a means to living out a masquerade through the destruction of perfectly good sexual organs.”

But God was at work in Walt’s life, and he began a long, painful road — not without relapses and failure — toward healing. Through support from friends at Alcoholics Anonymous, pastors, counselors, neighbors and church members, he found grace and acceptance. Most importantly, his relationship with God began to bring forgiveness, integration, truth and healing into his life. He was able to face the depths of childhood abuse, self-hatred, shame, and his own sinful choices.

Today, Walt is a man who reaches out to men and women struggling with transgender issues and to men and women who deeply regret their “sexual reassignment surgery,” which is fairly common.

It’s not an easy road, but there are those who leave transgenderism behind.

“A key element to healing is working through the delusion that changing genders is possible,” he says. “It gets much easier to recover when you acknowledge that surgery cannot perform a gender change, nothing can. You are as God made you to be. Live it, love it and celebrate it.”

For more information about Walt Heyer, visit his website, <https://sites.google.com/site/tradingmysorrowsbook/>.

Walt’s book, *Trading My Sorrows*, has been updated and republished as [A Transgender’s Faith](#); it is available at the [Focus on the Family Store](#).

NOTE: Referral to websites not produced by Focus on the Family is for informational purposes only and does not necessarily constitute an endorsement of the sites’ content.

WALT HEYER Ministries <https://waltheyer.com/>

WALT HEYER identified as a transgender woman for 8 years and now has a passion to help others who regret gender change. Walt travels extensively to share his story of redemption at conferences, churches and universities. Walt has appeared on numerous radio and television shows in the U.S. and Canada. Walt's articles have been published online and his many books are a welcome resource in understanding the issue.

Part 1 https://youtu.be/OsRCYTuDX_M

Part 2 <https://youtu.be/f8UUsII6LsA>

Part 3 <https://youtu.be/7EpcFC36kWM>

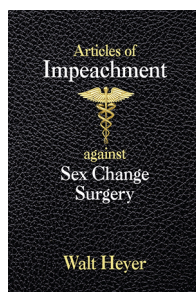
Walt realized that it was wrong for him to turn his body over to surgeons and to hormone therapy. In the long run, those changes did not benefit him. His life was so broken by surgical operations and hormonal therapies. Once he admitted that he was wrong, he was able to get help from God and his church. The Lord healed him. He was redeemed and restored.

TRUST IN WHAT THE LORD SAYS ABOUT US AND HOW HE HAS MADE US.

"You can't keep pushing this idea that this is right, when it's not right. Your gender and your sex are absolutely fixed at conception and they are unchangeable." ~ Walt Heyer

Walt Heyer is an accomplished speaker who travels extensively to share his remarkable testimony of redemption and transformation. Throughout the U.S. and Canada, His radio and television interviews have touched heart and changed lives. Churches especially can benefit from learning how to respond to transgender people in their midst. Contact Walt Heyer: waltsbook@yahoo.com

BOOKS TO HELP AND HEAL:

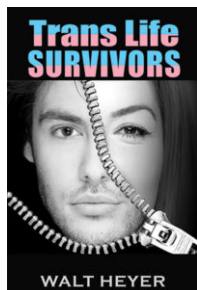


Articles of Impeachment against Sex Change Surgery, by Walt Heyer

These Fifty-five powerful "Articles of Impeachment" compiled between the covers of this book detail the harmful and irreversible consequences of "sex change surgery" which continues to inflict damage on real people—adults, teenagers, and **even children**—and why it needs to be reined in. Fifty-five articles written by an insider turned whistleblower, featuring first-person stories, medical studies, history and politics, formulate a compelling case against sex change surgery. Regret is real. Mutilation is irreversible.

"Changing genders is short-term gain with long-term pain. Its consequences include early mortality, regret, mental illness, and suicide. Instead of encouraging them to undergo unnecessary and destructive surgery, let's affirm and love our young people just the way they are,"

- Written by an insider turned whistleblower
- Featuring first-person stories, medical studies, history and politics
- Published in The Daily Signal, Public Discourse, and The Federalist over the last five years
- Formulate a compelling case against sex change surgery



Trans Life Survivors, by Walt Heyer

Read emails from 30 people who survived sex change and are making their way back. Includes latest research and a section on **children**. Read personal emails from thirty transgender individuals who reflect on the consequences of their gender transition, backed up by the latest research. *Trans Life Survivors* powerfully portrays the human toll inflicted by experts who push gender transition on those who don't need it. This includes a special section on transgender **children** and the latest research.

Reviews of *Trans Life Survivors*:

- **Equip Yourself to Become A True Trans Ally: Read Walt Heyer's Trans Life Survivors**

By sharing the stories of real people suffering real pain and struggling with enormous regret, Walt Heyer enables us to gain the first thing a person seeking to be a true trans ally needs: compassion.

ThePublicDiscourse.com by Jean C. Lloyd on March 3, 2019

<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/03/49788/>

- **30 Transgender Regretters Come Out Of The Closet**

Walt cites numerous studies confirming that most cases of gender dysphoria co-exist with other mental conditions. **Would they allow people with gender dysphoria to seek out therapies that actually explore its psychological source?** "Trans Life Survivors" serves as a road map to make that journey back home.

TheFederalist.com by Stella Morabito

<https://thefederalist.com/2019/01/03/30-transgender-regretters-come-closet-new-book/>

- **A Review of Trans Life Survivors, By Walt Heyer on February 10, 2019**

CultureWatch by Bill Muehlenberg

<https://billmuehlenberg.com/2019/02/10/a-review-of-trans-life-survivors-by-walt-heyer/>

What readers are saying:

*I'm a detransitioner. We exist. Our lives matter. **Despite what the media, the pro-transition activists, and the virtue-signaling "allies" would have you otherwise believe...** I'm so thankful for Walt's courage in telling our stories.*

Barbara Richardson Feb 10, 2019 at 2:17 pm

Wow! Thank you for your courage to tell the TRUTH. Having worked in human service for over 20 years, I have been so concerned at the pressure on young people to change their gender. God made us a man and a woman. Otherwise he would have mentioned it in scripture. I pray your books will resonate with young people asking questions and that the truth will set them free to be all that God intended them to be.

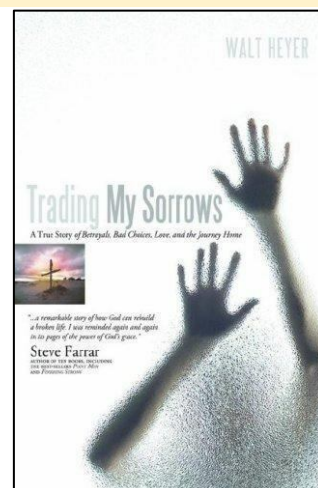


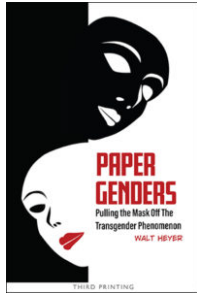
A Transgender's Faith, by Walt Heyer

(previously published under the title *Trading My Sorrows*)

Walt Heyer's remarkable life story of a man plagued since childhood with thoughts and feelings that he should have been a girl. The torment intensified as he grew up, married and started a family, and built an amazing career. Desperate, he secretly seeks out a radical treatment that promises relief, but also could risk the destruction of all he holds dear. This is the true account of Walt's miracle story of restoration.

What readers are saying: *Very enlightening on transgender issue, mental illness, and faith. As a pastor this helped me better understand the issue and know how to respond in love, grace and truth.*





Paper Genders, Pulling the Mask off the Transgender Phenomenon

by Walt Heyer

Well-researched...Exposes and debunks the promises of gender change surgery

A fresh perspective on the medical treatment for gender identity issues, combining well-researched facts with personal accounts. Exposes and debunks the promises of gender change surgery and shines a light on the suicides and dissatisfaction that the advocates would prefer to keep hidden. ***What readers are saying:** The research, reason, passion (even outrage) and compassion makes for compelling reading. An excellent read from someone who has experienced this firsthand. I highly recommend this to anyone silently or openly facing transgender issues. The author gives you the history of gender dysphoria, and offers a compassionate way for families to walk with their loved ones through this journey.*

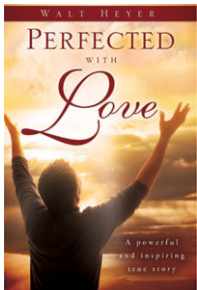


Kid Dakota, by Walt Heyer

A sensational novel based on a transgender person's true story.

In this sensational novel based on a true story, author Walt Heyer powerfully places the reader in the life of Kid Dakota in Los Angeles in the 1940s. Secrets, we learn, have consequences when Kid Dakota becomes the unwilling participant in his grandmother's dark obsession. Dakota tries to shake off Nana's depraved secret—he marries, becomes a father and achieves spectacular success in his career. But Nana's decades-old secret holds him in its grip, threatening to turn his life upside-down.

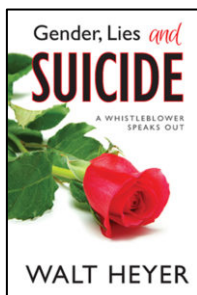
What readers are saying: *Great book; came into my life right at the time I needed it. Walt Heyer has great insight into the whole transgender nightmare because he lived it and managed to come out on the other side and is helping others facing this most unfortunate thing.*



Perfected with Love, by Walt Heyer

One church says "No" to a scary person. Another church says "Yes" and the astonishing results demonstrate why Scripture says of faith, hope and love that "the greatest of these is love." This inspiring true story will encourage and equip you and your church with ways to show God's love to a transgender person.

What readers are saying: *Walt Heyer has written this book to assist churches in helping members of their congregation leave the transgender lifestyle behind. It's a love-in-action by members of the congregation bringing transgender people into the amazing love of Jesus Christ where He can love and transform them. **Everyone should read this!** A church that was obedient to the call of God became a church assured that **miracles still happen.***



Gender, Lies, and Suicide, A Whistleblower Speaks Out, by Walt Heyer

Transgender people undergo hormone injections and irreversible surgeries in a desperate effort to feel better, yet they attempt and commit suicide at an alarming rate, even after treatment. Walt Heyer digs into the issues behind transgender suicide and shares some heart-wrenching letters from those who regret the decision to change genders.

What readers are saying: ***Highly recommended.** This book uses the author's personal experiences, excerpts from e-mails that he has received from other people who have been through surgical gender reassignment, and research papers to explore the phenomenon of transsexualism. Highly recommended for anyone who is interested in getting the **WHOLE STORY.***

Outlawing Psychotherapy For Trans-Kids Will Not Prevent Suicides

<https://thefederalist.com/2015/04/16/outlawing-psychotherapy-for-trans-kids-will-not-prevent-suicides/>

***The White House is backing a move to end some psychotherapies for transgender children.
This is risky and could lead to more suicides.***

By Walt Heyer | April 16, 2015

Psychologically healthy people do not commit suicide. Changing genders is an outward expression of some form of depression that started long before the suicide. Studies have shown conclusively that suicide is the result of mental illness and untreated depression, but the elite who push for gender change ignore the evidence. Gender-change advocates blame lack of support from parents and society for the suicides of transgender people. Advocates blame bullying, discrimination, and inequality in society—anything but mental illness or depression.

In the 1970s, Dr. Charles Ihlenfeld administered hormone therapy to hundreds of transgenders over six years in his practice as an internist and colleague of Dr. Harry Benjamin. His conclusion? He saw too much unhappiness and too many suicides. Not much has changed since the 1970s. Hormone therapy is still administered to transgenders. Suicide still occurs with far too much frequency, and 41 percent of transgenders attempt suicide. Affirming the false belief that changing genders is a cure for depression has not changed the outcome.

According to those who study suicide, “Over 90 percent of people who die by suicide have a mental illness at the time of their death. Untreated depression is the number one cause for suicide.”

When transgenders realize sometime later—after a few months, a few years or, in some cases, a few decades—that gender change didn’t resolve their unhappiness, discouragement and depression follow. They experience first-hand that no amount of surgical manipulation of body parts, cross-gender behaviors, or cosmetic changes to appearance will ever medically change a person from one gender to the other.

Gender Does Not Change

I know; I lived the “transgender life” for eight years. I followed all the prescribed steps to change my gender and I was surrounded by affirming friends. I totally invested myself physically, psychologically, financially, and emotionally into the promise of a future free from gender dysphoria. But I was also one of those 41 percent who attempted suicide out of despair.

All my life I had looked forward to changing genders. All the steps in the transition process added to the anticipation: gender-affirming clothing and hairstyle, a new gender-affirming name, cross-gender hormones or hormone blockers, and surgeries for gender-enhancing appearance. All these activities reinforced the false belief and unrealistic expectation that, by following this process, I could change my gender.

Several years into my new life, I found that I was depressed. Changing genders was a temporary diversion. It offered no permanent solution to my mental distress and, in fact, created new problems. I felt ashamed, broken, and beyond hope.

For me, the first step to walking out of the grip of depression was letting go of the unrealistic expectation that boys can magically change into girls, or girls into boys. The next step was exploring the possibility that I might have some mental illness beyond gender dysphoria.

Transgenderism Means Rejecting the Self

When a person wishes to change his or her gender, he or she is in every sense rejecting his or her core gender self-identity. The avalanche of affirmation for the opposite gender encourages them in their self-rejection and inspires an unachievable hope that happiness is waiting for them on the other side of transition.

In the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, 41 percent of more than 6,000 transgenders surveyed reported they had attempted suicide at some time. How high does the number have to go before the foolishness of denying the role of mental illness stops? The advocates refuse to acknowledge a link between transgender suicide and mental illness, and by doing so they keep transgenders from receiving appropriate treatment that could prevent suicides.

The enlightened elite blame lack of affirmation and acceptance for transgender suicide. They say that transition and cross-gender hormones are the answers to transgender happiness and suicide prevention. Perhaps you agree with them. Think again.

It's Time to Focus on Preventing Suicide

Kyle Scanlon, a female-to-male transgender, lived the life that activists claim will prevent suicide. Fully integrated, supported, and loved, Scanlon was the executive director of the Lesbian Gay Bi Youth Line, and a well-known and well-respected valued leader and mentor in the trans community in Toronto, Canada. He was committed to improving the quality of life for others. Yet, he turned to suicide on July 3, 2012. His friends said he suffered from depression before and after his transition. Not a smidgeon of discrimination or inequality existed in this transgender's life; no society to blame. He chose to die, even after changing genders.

Scanlon, with every possible support for being transgender, still took his life. That should be a lesson for us. You can blame society, but it's the unresolved mental disorders causing suicide.

The time has come to focus first on preventing suicide, not changing genders. We know untreated depression is the leading cause of suicide, but when people tell their doctors they dislike their birth gender and hate their bodies, that fact seems to go out the window. Doctors treat the gender-confused by assisting them toward changing their genders. Perhaps the recklessness of doctors in not identifying mental disorders is causing suicides. For kids, perhaps add in parents and school boards who encourage living the trans life, which places undue psychological pressure on kids who can't deal with it.

Adult and kid suicides will continue as long as doctors fail to effectively diagnose and treat their mental disorders. Kyle's suicide is the factual evidence, an unfortunate consequence of focusing on the outward appearance when psychological issues run deep inside. Some day we will learn that no amount of change—including all the surgeries to “look good”—will ever be enough to heal the ache inside.

Transgender People Need Help

In 2008 the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force joined with the National Center for Transgender Equality to conduct a [survey](#) of more than 6,000 transgenders in the United States. Their findings show the stark reality of the transgender life:

1. Transgenders suffer four times the national average of HIV infections.
2. 70 percent of transgenders misuse drugs and alcohol.
3. Transgenders are twice as likely to be homeless as the general U.S. population.
4. Transgenders are twice as likely to be unemployed as the general U.S. population.
5. Transgenders live in extreme poverty and are more likely to have incomes under \$10,000 a year.
6. 41 percent of transgenders report attempting suicide.

In my view, this sad list makes the case for the prevalence of transgender psychological issues, especially depression, which leads to suicide. The survey results point to the failure to provide effective treatment to individuals who struggle with their gender identity.

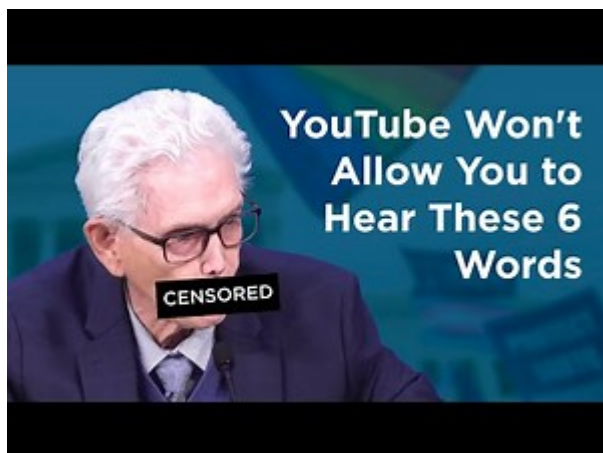
Psychologically healthy people do not commit suicide. Changing genders is an outward expression of some form of depression that started long before the suicide.

Walt Heyer is an accomplished author and public speaker with a passion for mentoring individuals whose lives have been torn apart by unnecessary gender-change surgery.

What Does the Bible Say About Transgenderism? Kevin Deyoung | September 8, 2016

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/what-does-the-bible-say-about-transgenderism/>

- **It's Not Just 'Gender Dysphoria.' It's Now 'Rapid Onset Marxism.'**
January 26, 2021, Daily Signal
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/01/26/its-not-just-gender-dysphoria-its-now-rapid-onset-marxism/>
- **'Sex Change' Isn't Surgically Possible, My Surgeon Testified in Court**
February 21, 2020, Daily Signal
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/02/21/sex-change-isnt-surgically-possible-my-surgeon-testified-in-court/>
- **Pastor Jeff Looked at Me through the Eyes of God**
November 18, 2019, ThePublicDiscourse.com
<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/11/58390/>
- **Diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria—Too General and Too Much Harm**
August 7, 2019, ThePublicDiscourse.com
<https://www.thepublicdiscourse.com/2019/08/55621/>
- **This Man Received 167 Sex-Change Surgeries. He Lives in a World of Regret.**
January 12, 2018 – DailySignal.com
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2018/01/12/man-received-167-sex-change-surgeries-lives-world-regret/>
- **My 'Sex Change' Was a Myth. Why Trying to Change One's Sex Will Always Fail.**
August 23, 2017 – DailySignal.com
<https://www.dailysignal.com/2017/08/23/sex-change-myth-trying-change-ones-sex-will-always-fail/>
- **Pushing Kids Into Transgenderism Is Medical Malpractice**
September 21, 2016 – TheFederalist.com
<https://thefederalist.com/2016/09/21/pushing-kids-transgenderism-medical-malpractice/>
- **Transgender Characters May Win Emmys, But Transgender People Hurt Themselves**
September 22, 2015 – TheFederalist.com
<https://thefederalist.com/2015/09/22/transgender-characters-may-win-emmys-but-transgender-people-hurt-themselves/>
- **Transgender Regret Is Real Even If The Media Tell You Otherwise**
August 19, 2015 – TheFederalist.com
<https://thefederalist.com/2015/08/19/transgender-regret-is-real-even-if-the-media-tell-you-otherwise/>



YouTube Won't Allow You to Hear These 6 Words From Former Transgender Identifying Person Walt Heyer

In 2019, Walt Heyer—who formerly identified as transgender—shared his personal story of regret at an event hosted by The Heritage Foundation.

<https://youtu.be/JBL2bIZtfQw>

Exclusive: Man Tried To Share His Regrets About Transgender Life. YouTube Censored It

*“I said that **children** suffering from gender dysphoria should not be encouraged to try experimental hormones in surgery, and I stand by that statement,”* Heyer emphasizes. The seven-minute clip, which Heritage will publish on YouTube, includes footage of Heyer’s remarks from the original panel, with the allegedly hateful six-word violation bleeped like a curse word.

The panel, convened last October, was billed as a “Summit on **Protecting Children** from Sexualization.” Heyer lived as a transgender-identifying woman for eight years, explaining on his website, SexChangeRegret.org, *“I detransitioned more than 25 years ago. I learned the truth: Hormones and surgery may alter appearances, but nothing changes the immutable fact of your sex.”*

... *“I stand before you with a **mutilated body**, with a life that was destroyed in many ways, redeemed by Christ certainly, but destroyed because I was affirmed and told how cute I look, how wonderful it was. And went to a gender therapist who said, ‘All you need to do is have hormones and reassignment surgery,’”* Heyer shared in the Heritage video removed from YouTube, re-uploaded this week with an emphasis on the website’s censorship.

The company rejected his claim in the original video that individuals are *“not born transgender. **This is a childhood developmental disorder**, that adults are perpetrating on our young people today, and our schools are complicit in this. Schools have become the activist’s indoctrination location for children.”*

Kao said to The Federalist, “There are plenty of YouTube videos on this topic that address gender dysphoria as the American Psychological Association does, which is to classify it as a mental disorder.”

“But,” she added, “YouTube has decided, under the guise of ‘hate speech,’ to censor the viewpoint that it doesn’t like. This won’t help children and families struggling with this disorder **who WANT information from both sides of the debate.**”

<https://thefederalist.com/2020/06/19/exclusive-man-trying-to-share-his-regrets-about-transgender-life-youtube-censored-it/>

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Please consider all of the resources listed in this packet of information and remember our First Amendment Rights. The future of Lincoln, Nebraska depends upon making very wise choices. God has given you the authority to make decisions on the Lincoln City Council. He will personally hold each of you responsible for each choice that you make. It might not seem like a big deal, *“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.”* Matthew 12:36. You are in my prayers. May the LORD bless all of you as you depend upon Him to lead you in his wisdom regarding this decision.

Angela M. Birkett

From: fanchon blythe <fanchonblythe@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 11:30 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: OPEN UP OUR CHAMBERS

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

Lincoln City Council,

Far too long, you have barred Lincoln's citizens from your chambers. WE THE PEOPLE belong in that room. It is our constitutional right to have a voice and there can be no good reason for banning us to the hallway, only being allowed to enter your room a few at a time.

It cannot be for safety reasons considering the fact that what is currently happening is the very opposite of safety.

Cramming a crowd of people into one hallway is not safety.

Making them crowd around one tv in an attempt to see and hear your meeting is not safety.

Directing them to sit in the same few seats in your chambers (without sanitizing in between) while each person waits to testify is not safety.

Why then are we not allowed to sit in OUR chambers if not for safety? Is it because you don't want to see our eyes looking at you as you make decisions that benefit the Mayor and her agenda rather than the citizens of Lincoln? Is it because you are intending to silence our voices and discourage us from coming to speak to you? Is it because you are not used to WE THE PEOPLE paying attention to your dealings and now that we are, you don't know what to do with us?

First it was banning signs in the room, which I did agree with!

Then it was banning applause in support of speakers we agreed with.

Then it was banning us from even sitting in your room.

What will be next? Make us stand outside while we wait to speak to you?

Your job is to represent us. What you are doing now is not representation at all. It is merely serving the agenda of the Mayor and yourselves. This is not your role as City Council and we expect better.

I would like to hear from each of you whether you support opening the chambers to us again for tomorrow's council meeting?

Thank you for your time,

Fanchon Blythe

Resident of Lincoln

--

Fanchon Blythe

2020 National Delegate

LCGOP Engagement Committee

402-304-6092

Fanchonblythe@gmail.com

Angela M. Birkett

From: Angela M. Birkett
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:58 AM
To: 'Travis Harrison'
Subject: RE: How to file to run for City Council

Good Morning Mr. Harrison,

Thank you for contacting the Lincoln City Council. The information pertaining to 'how to file to run for City Council' can be obtained by visiting the Lincoln-Lancaster County Election Commission website (link below) or you may contact them directly at 402-441-7311.

<https://www.lancaster.ne.gov/314/Election-Commissioner>

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Thank you,

Angie Birkett
Administrative Secretary
Lincoln City Council
555 South 10th St., Ste 111
Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone 402-441-6867
Fax 402-441-6533
abirkett@lincoln.ne.gov



From: Travis Harrison [mailto:travisjharrison08@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:40 AM
To: Council Packet <CouncilPacket@lincoln.ne.gov>
Subject: How to file to run for City Council

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

Hi,

I have been looking on your website for information on how to file an application to run for City Council and I am not finding anything. Could you please share that information with me?

Thanks,

Travis

Angela M. Birkett

From: Andrew Rodriguez <cbclincoln@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion Therapy Vote Change

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

Good Morning

Please let me quickly begin with a thank you for your civil service. I am grateful for each of you and your willingness to serve our community in this way. It is unfortunate that so much of what you do can go unnoticed and unrecognized for the most part. I do want to acknowledge that there is a lot of good you do to help our city. Again, thank you.

I am writing this morning asking you to vote no on the proposed changes to the city ordinance regarding counseling and conversion therapy with regard to the LGBTQ community. There are a number of reasons why I am asking you do to do.

I do want to say that although I was not in attendance at the public hearing, I did watch and listen to some of the testimony. I feel it is important to assure you that I reject ALL forms of abuse related to the subject of conversion therapy and it saddens me to hear of so many who have endured that, while having the conversation. However, these changes do raise a number of concerns...

#1. This discussion is far too big for you, the council to have power to unilaterally make this decision. This should be a ballot vote for the people at our next city poll.

#2. Because we vote a council in place, we trust you to make the day to day decisions that help our city and her infrastructure to run smoothly. I have never sought to interfere with your ability to effectively fulfill your service - however, this particular ordinance was a shock - to have the power to "criminalize" the discussion is a significant overreach and needs to be voted on by the city.

#3. Though churches and "all" non profits are not specifically included - means they are not necessarily excluded either. This is a dangerous gap that leaves the language and succeeding "prosecution" open to interpretation and could therefore prohibit these organizations from freely operating in agreement with their own established "charters" by which they / we run our organizations in agreement with our faith.

#4. As already stated, I completely agree with ending abuse. I reject it in all forms. However, discussions, counseling, mental health and guidance are the responsibility of parents. Having these rights "taken away" and "criminalized" is a dangerous overstep as laid out in this ordinance. Scientific studies have proven that the human brain is not even finished developing until the mid 20's. These are not the kind of decisions that can be made without the assistance and involvement of parent(s).

It is my opinion that these stated views, along with the dozens and hopefully thousands of other emails are enough to determine that passing this ordinance is a bad decision on the part of the council.

I oppose this ordinance - Please vote no and bring it to the people

Respectfully

Andy Rodriguez - a concerned citizen

Angela M. Birkett

From: Sara Rips <srips@aclunebraska.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 8:47 PM
To: Council Packet
Subject: ACLU Letter re: SOCE ordinance
Attachments: 2021.02.18 Letter to Lincoln City Council - SOCE Ordinance.pdf

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

Dear City Council Members,

Please find attached to this email a letter from the ACLU of Nebraska regarding the proposed conversion therapy ban ordinance.

Please advise if you have any issues opening the document.

Thank you,

Sara E. Rips
Legal & Policy Counsel | ACLU of Nebraska
134 S. 13th Street, Ste. 1010
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-8091 ext. 113
srips@aclunebraska.org



February 18, 2021

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

Dear City Council Members,

For over 50 years in Nebraska, the ACLU has worked in our courts, legislature, and communities to protect the constitutional and individual rights of all people. With a nationwide network of offices and millions of members and supporters, we take up the toughest civil liberties fights. Beyond one person, party, or side — we the people dare to create a more perfect union.

The ACLU of Nebraska supports efforts to ensure full equality and freedom for LGBTQIA+ Nebraskans.

The ACLU of Nebraska was asked to provide an overview of the civil rights, civil liberties, and legal issues at play in regard to this proposed ordinance. As a threshold matter it is important to note that the proposed ordinance does not prohibit parents, mental health professionals or religious leaders from talking about sexual orientation or gender identity. The proposed ordinance addresses professional conduct. This letter will provide a general overview of conversion therapy and general information about the relevant case law.

Overview

Conversion therapy also known as sexual orientation change efforts (SOCE) seeks to change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity from LGBTQ to straight and cisgender.¹

Psychotherapy is not an exchange of beliefs between the therapist and the patient; it is a medical treatment specifically designed to attempt to treat or address the patient's mental condition. And conversion therapists are not merely conversing or exchanging ideas with their patients. They are engaging in a treatment that seeks to change their patients' mental state by prescribing the patient undertake specific actions to change their sexual orientation or gender identity. Psychotherapy, including conversion therapy, is a specific form of mental health treatment, not an expression of a therapist's opinions.

¹ *More than 20,000 LGBT Teens in the U.S. will be Subjected to Conversion Therapy*, Williams Inst.: UCLA Sch. L. (Jan. 24, 2018), <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/conversion-therapy-release/> [<https://perma.cc/4NNJ-74T6>].



134 S. 13th St. #1010
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-8091
aclunebraska.org



Conversion therapy often consists of “talk” therapy and “aversion” therapy. The “talk” therapy often involves patients, usually children, being told that they are abominations and will forever be alone, rejected, and shunned by their families.² The “aversion” therapy aspect often involves things like inducing nausea or vomiting; electric shock; exposure to extreme elements; and regulation of relationships between the patient and their family.³ These practices are harmful to our children, to whom our governments have an obligation to protect.

Case Law

The government’s obligation to protect minor children from the harmful practice of conversion therapy has been specifically addressed by three Circuit Courts. Two of the courts, the Third and Ninth Circuits, have ruled that state conversion therapy bans did not violate the First Amendment rights of licensed mental health professionals. The other court, the Eleventh Circuit, ruled that a municipal ordinance banning conversion therapy for minors violated First Amendment rights. This section will provide an overview of the rulings of the precedents established by these courts and the Supreme Court.

On January 24, 2014, the Ninth Circuit in *Pickup v. Brown*, addressed a California state law banning conversion therapy on minors.⁴ The Ninth Circuit court found that the narrowness of the law only prohibited therapists from conducting SOCE therapy while still allowing them to publicly advocate for SOCE, inform their patients of SOCE, recommend SOCE, administer SOCE to any consenting person eighteen years of age or older, refer minors to unlicensed counselors, allow religious leaders to administer SOCE to minors and adults, and encourage minors to seek SOCE in other states.⁵ The Ninth Circuit court emphasized that the law regulated conduct, not speech. The Court rejected the First Amendment challenge and found that the legislature had a valid interest in protecting minors and the means chosen to do so were related to that purpose. The Supreme Court declined to review the case.

² Sam Brinton, *I Was Tortured in Gay Conversion Therapy. And It’s Still Legal in 41 States*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 24, 2018), <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/24/opinion/gay-conversion-therapy-torture.html>.

³ Judith M. Glassgold et al., Am. Psychological Ass’n, Report of the American Psychological Association Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation 22 (2009), <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/therapeutic-response.pdf> [<https://perma.cc/MY7Y-MZFP>].

⁴ *Pickup v. Brown*, 740 F.3d 1208 (9th Cir. 2014).

⁵ *Id.* at 1223.



On July 9, 2014, the Third Circuit in *King v. Governor of N.J.*, addressed a New Jersey state law banning conversion therapy on minors.⁶ Unlike the Ninth Circuit, the Third Circuit decided that SOCE counseling bans regulated professional speech rather than conduct. The Court found that professional speech "receives diminished protection, and, accordingly, [...] prohibitions of professional speech are constitutional only if they directly advance the State's interest in protecting its citizens from harmful or ineffective professional practices and are no more extensive than necessary to serve that interest."⁷ The Court upheld the law because it advanced New Jersey's strong interest in protecting youth from practices deemed to be harmful without being overly restrictive. The Supreme Court declined to review the case.

The concept of professional speech, which was mentioned in both the *Pickup* and *King* cases presented a novel concept to the United States Supreme Court. And in 2018, the Supreme Court addressed the concept in *NIFLA v. Becerra*.⁸ *NIFLA* involved a California law which required crisis pregnancy centers, often run by religious organizations, to display a notice regarding the availability of state-funded contraceptive and abortion services. The Court found that the law violated those centers' First Amendment right to refrain from speech.

The Ninth Circuit, the lower court, had upheld the statute on the basis that it regulated professional speech. The Supreme Court rejected the lower court's opinion on the basis that professional speech is not a separate category of speech.⁹ The Court articulated the two exceptions to the strict scrutiny requirement for free speech: 1) compelled disclosures of noncontroversial facts in advertising; and 2) professional conduct regulations incidentally affecting speech, including factual disclosures via informed-consent mandates.

In *NIFLA*, the issue involved disclosure requirements that were not related to the treatment of the patients or advertising commercial products. The Supreme Court found that because the disclosures were not related to informed-consent requirements or regulation of professional conduct, they were not protected.¹⁰ One of the most telling things for the Court was that the notices were in no way tied to professional conduct.¹¹ The Court relied heavily on *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* to support its argument. "*Casey*, the majority found, supported the proposition that informed-consent requirements that require

⁶ *King v. Governor of N.J.*, 767 F.3d 216 (3rd Cir. 2014).

⁷ *Id.* at 233.

⁸ *NIFLA v. Becerra*, 138 S. Ct. 2361 (2018).

⁹ *Id.* at 2371–72.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 2374.

¹¹ *Id.*



professionals—in *Casey*, doctors who perform abortions—to disclose certain facts about a procedure are permissible because they only regulate speech within the context of administering treatment.”¹² *NIFLA* did not involve regulation of the quality of medical care, but a compelled transfer of information from doctor to patient. *NIFLA* held that doctors cannot be compelled to communicate information on behalf of the state. Notably, even though the Supreme Court’s ruling undermined the concept of professional speech discussed in both *Pickup* and *King*, it did not invalidate those rulings and those cases still stand.

The most recent Circuit Court decision occurred last November in *Otto v. City of Boca Raton*.¹³ There Eleventh Circuit rejected a SOCE ban because it posited that the ordinance was a content-based regulation of speech and could not survive strict scrutiny.¹⁴ The Court’s argument can be boiled down to erroneous belief that talk therapy is not a medical procedure because it consists—entirely—of words.¹⁵ The Eleventh Circuit’s holding in *Otto* conflicts with *NIFLA*’s holding that states may regulate medical treatment even if such treatment involves speech. Currently, there is a pending petition for rehearing the matter en banc, which if granted would mean that the entire Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals would rehear the decision of a panel of three judges from the court.

Analysis

Like the *Pickup* and *King* cases, the proposed Lincoln ordinance is limited to minors and it only limits medical professionals from conducting SOCE therapy. Neither the laws from California and New Jersey nor the proposed Lincoln ordinance regulate the conduct of religious leaders or parents. The proposed ordinance also does not prohibit professionals from talking to their clients about sexual orientation or gender identity issues.

While the Supreme Court’s ruling in *NIFLA* soundly rejected the concept of professional speech, the Court also bolstered the argument that legislatures can regulate the conduct of professionals related to their treatment of patients, even if that involves regulation of speech. As mentioned above, the case law from the Third and Ninth Circuits is still valid law. While the ruling of the Eleventh Circuit is currently being challenged.

¹² Clay Calvert *Testing the First Amendment Validity of Laws Banning Sexual Orientation Change Efforts on Minors: What Level of Scrutiny Applies After Becerra and Does a Proportionality Approach Provide a Solution?*, 47 PEPP. L. REV. 1, 25 (2019).

¹³ *Otto v. City of Boca Raton*, 981 F.3d 854 (11th Cir. 2020).

¹⁴ *Id.* at 859.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 866.



Conversion therapy is a form of medical treatment, albeit an unethical and disavowed one. The proposed Lincoln ordinance targets the quality and type of care that licensed professionals can provide to a minor patient. This ordinance protects the provider's ability to express his or her opinion regarding conversion therapy. This ordinance does not compel providers to disclose facts or information with which they disagree. This ordinance does not limit what religious leaders and parents can say to children. This ordinance does not limit providers from discussing seeking SOCE treatment options. The only thing the ordinance prohibits the therapist from doing is actually performing conversion therapy on a minor given the significant risk of harm.

In short, we hope you find this information helpful to your decision-making and are happy to answer any questions.

Thank you for your commitment to public service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sara E. Rips".

Sara E. Rips
LGBTQIA+ Legal & Policy Counsel

Angela M. Birkett

From: Jennifer Reeder <jlreeder@futuretk.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Open meetings to citizens

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

Dear Lincoln City Council,

my name is Jennifer Reeder, and I live in Lincoln, NE.

I am contacting you to request that you open your chambers again to Lincoln's citizens. When this was enacted, we were in the red on the "risk dial." We are now in the yellow. If barring Lincoln's citizens is dependent on Lincoln's "risk dial," circumstances have changed are we are no longer in "severe."

Please let me know what you intend to do about this issue.

Thank you for your time,

Jennifer Reeder
Deer Springs Winery
Lincoln Ne
www.deerspringswinery.com
402.327.8738

Angela M. Birkett

From: Fischer, Timothy <tfischer@hfmane.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:07 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: Conversion Therapy Ban

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

Dear Madam/Sir:

I'm a practicing physician in Lincoln, Nebraska.

I urge you to oppose this suggested bill.

Take away a life line?

If someone comes to me with unwanted same sex attraction and I'm unable to direct them for therapy because of the law(?)

The suicide rate for same sex attraction people already exceeds that of heterosexuals even in the Netherlands!

This bill is of no benefit and is actually harmful to people in this situation.

This is absurd to even consider.

Thank you for your consideration.

God bless,

Timothy H. Fischer, MD

Family Physician, Lincoln, Nebraska

Immortal souls are precious forever.

Angela M. Birkett

From: Georgia Snyder <georog53@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:48 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.

Hello, my name is Georgia Snyder, and I live in Lincoln at 3316 S. 81st Street. I am contacting you to ask that you oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance that would violate the free speech and religious freedom rights of counselors and their patients.

- We can all agree that everyone should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We should also agree that all individuals and families should be free to choose the counseling goals best for them.
- Professional regulations prohibit abusive and coercive therapy, but this ordinance uses broad language to encompass any sort of counseling, including basic talk therapy.
- Freedom of speech is a fundamental right guaranteed by the First Amendment, and this proposed ordinance violates freedom of speech within a very private relationship.
- In a diverse and pluralistic society like ours, space must be given to people with differing views on how best to approach these sensitive issues. The City Council should not attempt to sanction the moral beliefs of its citizens with regards to human sexuality.
- This ordinance undermines individual freedom through its restrictions on counseling and unconstitutionally engages in viewpoint discrimination.
- The proposed ordinance demonstrates hostility toward many of the world's major religions, including Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, that teach about the sacredness of our biological design. These are sincere people of good faith who should not be punished for holding different beliefs on human sexuality than those currently in political power.
- A counselor shouldn't be used as a tool to impose the government's views on their patients.

I urge you to oppose the proposed Youth Mental Health Protection Ordinance.

Thank you for your time and for considering my request.

Georgia Snyder

Angela M. Birkett

From: Yahoo <mrsvavh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Council Packet
Subject: closed council chambers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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

Lincoln City Council,
My name is Valerie Hayden. I live in Lincoln, and I am a registered voter. I am contacting you to request that you open the council chambers back up to Lincoln citizens. We the People pay taxes to operate this chamber, and have the right to attend council meetings. It is our Constitutional right per the Nebraska Open Meetings Act which guarantees that every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies. Find this information at <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings>.

Closing the meetings also violates Nebraska ADA laws.

Thank you for your time in reading this, and I will thank you ahead that you choose to do the right thing by living under and obeying the laws of our state, and country.