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December 1, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on November 22, 2021, passed the following resolution regarding conversion therapy:

"WHEREAS Conversion practices or conversion "therapy" (also known as "reparative therapy", "reintegrative therapy" or "aversiontherapy") include any treatment, practice, or sustained effort that has the intended effect of denying, repressing, discouraging or changing a person's non-heterosexual sexual orientation, noncisgender gender identity or gender expression, or any behaviours associated with a gender other than the person's sex assigned at birth; and,

WHEREAS all such practices are unscientific, dangerous and proven to cause harm to their victims; and,

WHEREAS such practices are opposed by more than 50 professional associations, including the Canadian Association the Canadian Association of Social Workers, Canadian Psychiatric Association, Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health, Canadian Psychological Association, College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario, as well as the United Nations and World Health Organization; and,

WHEREAS Bill C-6-2020, An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Conversion Therapy), which proposed five conversion therapyrelated offences, was an historic piece of legislation preceded by decades of advocacy by conversion practice survivors, that progressed to the second reading stage in the Senate before dying on the order paper when an election was called in August 2021; and,

WHEREAS several cities across Canada have adopted bylaws to prohibit conversion practices or are in the process of doing so, including the City of Kingston and the City of Thunder Bay in Ontario; and,

WHEREAS the City has adopted a Strategic Plan with a theme of being a “Caring Community”, which includes a commitment to supporting our diverse populations, including the removal of social stigmas and where possible being more equitable and inclusive; and,

WHEREAS Kitchener continues to seek opportunities to demonstrate leadership in making all those within our community feel equal and included;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council formally denounce conversion practices as dangerous and harmful, perpetuating myths and stereotypes about sexual orientation and gender identity and expression; and,

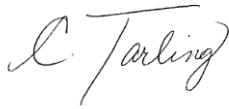
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener request our Office of Equity, Anti-Racism and Indigenous Initiatives explore ways to support conversion therapy survivors and those at risk; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council direct City staff to continue to monitor legislative developments at the federal and/or provincial orders of government pertaining to conversion therapy, and in conjunction with any actions taken by them and our regional and municipal partners locally, bring a report to Council outlining any further legislative and/or policy actions which may be contemplated by the municipality to further prohibit conversion practices, and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Housing, and Diversity and Inclusion, Minister of Justice, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, and area Members of Parliament urging creation of a new bill within the first 100 days of their mandate which will include a “no consent” provision to protect Canadians of all ages; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forward to the Honourable Premier of Ontario, area Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all other municipalities in Ontario encouraging both the Province and other municipalities to also formally denounce and take action to prohibit conversion practices against all persons regardless of age."

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Tarling'.

C. Tarling
Director of Legislated Services
& City Clerk

c: Hon. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice
Hon. Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Tim Louis, MP (Kitchener-Conestoga)
Raj Saini, MP (Kitchener Centre)
Marwan Tabbara, MP (Kitchener South-Hespeler)
Laura Mae Lindo, MPP (Kitchener Centre)
Mike Harris, MPP (Kitchener Conestoga)
Amy Fee, MPP (Kitchener South-Hespeler)
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities