

My name is Eric Bell,

My written summary is as follows:

I urge City council to pass this bylaw as it currently stands, without amendments. This process has gone on long enough. This should not be controversial. It is widely accepted and well documented that conversion therapy is an abusive, harmful practice that preys on LGBTQ2S+ children and youth, and has devastating impacts on its victims. Conversion therapy has been denounced by medical and health organizations worldwide. Despite this, we know that it is still happening here in our city. A recent Canadian study showed that as many as 1 in 10 LGBTQ2S+ people in Canada has been victims of the practice. Conversion therapy has caused immense harm for so many in our community. And, while the federal government passed a bill banning it in the country, it will not pass the senate in time before the next election. In the meantime, this bylaw will be an important stop gap to ban conversion therapy in our community until a federal law is finally put in place. Communities across Canada, from Saskatoon to Lethbridge, has successfully introduced bans in their cities. I urge city council to do the same- to listen to the science, the experts, and those of us in the local queer community who have worked so hard for this, and who have had to sit and listen to the bigotry and hate spread by some who wish to be able to legally continue to harm us through this abusive, horrible, disgusting practice. I urge, I beg, city council to please, do the right thing, and ensure that this bylaw passes in its entirety without any amendments that would water it down or allow conversion therapy to sneak through the cracks. It is time to end conversion therapy in our city once and for all. Thank you.

Eric Bell