RESOLUTION NO. 2016-99

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMISSION OF NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST LICENSED PROFESSIONALS ENGAGING IN COUNSELING EFFORTS, PRACTICES, OR TREATMENTS WITH THE GOAL TO CHANGE A MINOR'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *(INTRODUCED BY COMMISSIONER RICHARD CHERVONY AND MAYOR CONNIE LEON-KREPS)*

WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association published a position statement in December 1998 opposing any psychiatric treatment, including reparative or conversion therapy, which therapy regime is based upon the assumption that homosexuality *per se* is a mental disorder or that a patient should change his or her homosexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Appropriate Therapeutic Responses to Sexual Orientation ("APA Task Force") concluded that sexual orientation change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, and bisexual people, including, among other things, confusion, depression, social withdrawal, suicidality, substance abuse, self-hatred, high-risk sexual behavior, and a feeling of being dehumanized; and

WHEREAS, following the report issued by the APA Task Force, the American Psychological Association issued a Resolution in 2009 on Appropriate Affirmative Responses to Sexual Orientation Distress and Change Efforts, advising parents, guardians, young people, and their families to avoid sexual orientation change efforts that portray homosexuality as a mental illness or developmental disorder and encouraging psychotherapy, social support, and educational services that provide accurate information on sexual orientation and sexuality, increased family and school support, and reduced rejection of sexual minority youth; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry published a statement in 2012 in its journal that, "[g]iven that there is no evidence that efforts to alter sexual orientation are effective, beneficial or necessary, and the possibility that they carry the risk of significant harm, such interventions are contraindicated"; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association Council of Scientific Affairs, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Counseling Association Governing Council, the American School Counselor Association, and the American Psychoanalytic Association have each asserted in reports or position statements that sexual orientation change efforts, including reparative therapy or conversion therapy, are not recommended and may be harmful; and

WHEREAS, the Pan American Health Organization issued a statement in 2012 that "[t]hese supposed conversion therapies constitute a violation of the ethical principles of health care and violate human rights that are protected by international and regional agreements"; and

WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services issued a report in 2015 examining the scientific literature on conversion therapy and concluded that "conversion therapy-efforts to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression-is a practice that is not supported by credible evidence" and that "may put young people at risk of serious harm"; and

WHEREAS, North Bay Village ("Village") has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, and in protecting its minors against exposure to serious harms caused by sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Village Commission hereby finds that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and that research has demonstrated sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the North Bay Village Commission to support the movement to prohibit the use of sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with minors, including reparative and conversion therapy, which have been demonstrated to be harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMISSION OF NORTH BAY VILLAGE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: Each of the above stated recitals is true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. The Commission of North Bay Village hereby expresses support for the movement to prohibit the use of sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with minors, including reparative and conversion therapy, which have been demonstrated to be harmful to the physical and psychological well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons.

Section 3. The Village Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Gwen Margolis, State Representative David Richardson, Miami-Dade County Commission, and Mayor of municipalities in Miami-Dade County.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Andreana Jackson, who moved for its adoption. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Jose Alvarez and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION:

Mayor Connie Leon-Kreps	Yes
Commissioner Jose Alvarez	Yes
Commissioner Andreana Jackson	Yes
Commissioner Eddie Lim	Yes

PASSED AND ENACTED by the Commission of North Bay Village this 13th day of December 2016.

Connie Leon-Kreps
Mayor

ATTEST:

Yvonne Hamilton, CMC, Village Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR THE USE OF
NORTH BAY VILLAGE ONLY:

Village Attorney
Robert L. Switkes & Associates, P.A.

North Bay Village Resolution: Supporting Ban on Conversion Therapy.