



February 7, 2020

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Eden Bentley, County Attorney

RE: Item G., Staff Direction to Review Policies and Procedures and Code of Ordinances
Regarding Non-discrimination

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 6, 2020, discussed and directed you to do an analysis of Policies and Procedures and Brevard County Code of Ordinances to see if improvement can be made regarding non-discrimination.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

/kp


cc: Each Commissioner

Hello Members of the court my name is Arianna Dorney and I am here to state the reasons that conversion therapy and discrimination of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community is wrong. Due to my experiences volunteering with special needs students I have a unique perspective on this issue.

My experiences have taught me that people with disabilities are more than capable of living Fruitful, productive, and happy lives. As long as small accommodations are made in their education and social development it was not long ago that this was not the case. In the recent past people with mental disabilities were considered to be burdens to society to be hidden away in the homes of their parents or stuck in an insane insilum.

Now this attitude is rightly viewed as cruel and unjust. Also in the past horrifying medical treatments were used to "Cure " mental illness: lobotomy, electric shock, and insulin shock therapy. Now these treatments are viewed as cruel and inhumane. It is my hope that conversion therapy for the LGBT people will be viewed in the same way. We have learned that we can't change how a person's brain functions on a fundamental level

. In the same way that people are born with various mental capabilities, people are also born with different sexual preferences. NO amount of tourture disguised as therapy can change how someone's brain functions. The basic prmiss of conversion therapy is wrong you can not tell a person how to feel or think. NO amount of therapy is going to make an Autistic child not Autistic. Likewise NO amount of therapy is going to change a person's sexual orientation or how they identify.

In today's society there are many people  people with disabilities working at the restaurants you eat at. So why shouldn't members of the LGBT community receive the same treatment?

Take Alan Turing for example he was highly influential in the development of theoretical computer science, providing a formulation of the concepts of algorithm and computation with the Touring machine which is considered a model of the general purpose computer. Sounds like a successful and well respected man right? Wrong!

turing took his own life in 1954, two years after being outed as gay. Homosexuality was still a crime at the time, and Turing was convicted of "indecenty." He died from eating an apple laced with cyanide. He was only 41 years old. And this is still going on in today's society and it is terrible to think we could be losing some of the brightest minds over something as simple as who they love.

