

**TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DUBLIN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 21-2404

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
UPPER DUBLIN TOWNSHIP CONDEMNING THE PRACTICE
OF CONVERSION THERAPY AND DECLARING IT TO BE
INIMICAL TO THE GOOD HEALTH, WELL BEING AND
WELFARE OF ITS CITIZENS**

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 instead encourages 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

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry published a statement in 2012 in its journal that "given 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 “these 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.

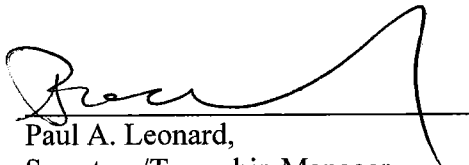
WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services issued a report in 2015 examining the scientific literature on conversion therapy and concluding that “conversion therapy efforts to change in individual’s sexual orientation,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

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Upper Dublin Township finds that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming, and that research has demonstrated conversion therapy can pose critical health risks to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons. Upper Dublin is a township and community that promotes inclusion for all; diversity is welcome, it is valued and is celebrated. The health and safety of our residents and people working in Upper Dublin Township are paramount.

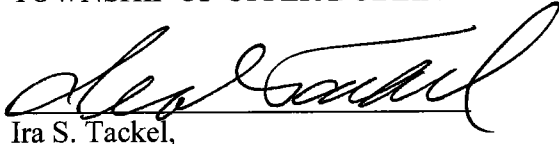
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Upper Dublin Township and it hereby declares that the practice of conversion therapy is inimical to the good health, well being and welfare of the citizens of this Township and it is hereby condemned.

RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Upper Dublin Township meeting “virtually” the 12th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:


Paul A. Leonard,
Secretary/Township Manager

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF UPPER DUBLIN


Ira S. Tackel,
President