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## Boynton Beach officials say no to conversion therapy on minors

- [Alexandra Seltzer](#)

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The Boynton Beach city commissioners approved an ordinance Tuesday night prohibiting licensed mental health professionals from performing conversion therapy.

The ordinance is to protect youngsters from the therapy which comes from the belief that people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender have a mental disorder that can be cured through aversion therapy.

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Similar ordinances have been passed in West Palm Beach, Miami Beach, Cincinnati, Seattle. New Jersey and California have also passed a state-wide ban.

The commission will vote on the ordinance a second and final time Jan. 17.

Dr. Rachel Needle, a licensed psychologist in West Palm Beach, said in a statement:

*“Any ethical mental health practitioner should not attempt to cure or repair gender identity or sexual orientation through these scientifically invalid techniques. Attempting to change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity can have a devastating impact on a minor.”*