

Economic Development Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark
June 15, 2016

There was a meeting of the Economic Development Committee in Council Chambers on Monday June 13, 2016 after Safety Committee with these members present:

Jeremy Blake	Curtis Johnson
Jeff Rath	Mark Fraizer
Bill Cost Jr	

We Wish to Report:

1. **Ordinance No. 16-18** amending chapters 254, 628, and 636 of the codified ordinances of the City of Newark, Ohio, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was considered.

Mr. Blake- when I introduced this legislation last week and gave it to our Clerk to put on the agenda obviously I didn't know the events that would take place yesterday down in Orlando Florida.

There was a moment of silence for the first responders and the victims as well as their families and friends.

Motion by Mr. Blake to send Ordinance 16-18 to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer

Mr. Blake- I think that in October of 2014 Council unanimously supported the term sexual orientation into our human relations ordinances. At that time that affected our employees and provided protection for them. Alex Shanks with Equality Ohio is sitting back here, myself and Councilman Alex Rolletta went over to Columbus and worked with Equality Ohio and found out that there are some other areas in our ordinances that we could update to make sure that we are fully inclusive in making things more equal amongst people that may be marginalized in our city. I want to thanks Alex for his work and help in bringing this forward. Purely this is truly to make sure that Newark is open for business, open for people who live here, open for people who shop here, work here and is a place where we want to have the right relationship. I think that we want to respect people, value people and that is truly the intent of this ordinance and hopefully the intent of Council by supporting this. So we can tell people no matter what your difference is in our community we accept you and we value your diversity. That is where I am coming from as the author of this legislation and clearly where I am going.

Director Rhodes- we had an opportunity to review the ordinance and the administration is in support of it. We think it is current legislation for today.

Mr. Blake- I appreciate the support of you and the Mayor on this.

Brad Lepper 3790 Milner Rd- expressed strong support for Ordinance 16-18 and the intent to enlarge the protections against ethnic intimidation and discriminatory conduct in employment and housing on the basis of sexual orientation. The Declaration of Independence lists life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as our unalienable rights and that document also makes clear that it is the responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments to secure these rights for its

'citizens. Extending these rights to Newark's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens is not just fair and the right thing to do it is a necessary thing to do in order to uphold the love and spirit of the founding documents of our nation. Failure to do so suggests that our LGBT brothers and sisters are less than full citizens and undeserving of these protections. And with a start like yesterday's terrible tragedy in Orlando we can't hesitate as a community to declare with the force of law that we will not abide the intolerance, discrimination and hatred that can and has led to acts of violence to our citizens simply because of their sexual orientation.

Karen Lepper 3790 Milner Rd- expressed strong support for Ordinance 16-18. Members of the LGBT community are our neighbors, co-workers, our friends and our family members and I can see no benefit to allowing others in the community to discriminate against them but I can see the potential for harm. Some might argue that protecting the religious liberty allows such discrimination however one person's rights only extend as far as another person's. We have a history of a long standing principal that civil rights protect them against other people's discriminatory rights. The terrible events from this past weekend in Orlando remind us of the need to protect the rights of our fellow citizens from hate and discrimination. I would like us to show the LTGB community in Newark that we have their backs.

Mr. Rolletta- I would like to thank the Leppers for their comments and I would like to thank you for bringing this forward Councilman Blake. I enjoyed working with you on this and I look forward to supporting it at full Council.

Mr. Blake- many of you know I am a member of the United Church of Granville. There will be a visual and I think the details may be in the paper. There will be a visual Thursday night to reflect the activities of the attack that happened last Sunday.

Mr. Fraizer- I think that this brings our codes up to date and gets us with the times and gives equal protection to everybody under the law. The law is not meant to pick and choose favorites the law is meant to treat everybody equally and ultimately in our community we want people to come here. We want to be supportive of everybody and we want to hold everybody equally under the law. Thank you for bringing this forward and making this more in line with Federal statutes. I couldn't get a solid answer as to whether the State law is an equivalent to this but it is nice that we can get our ordinance and statutes up to the present day.

Mr. Blake- thank you for your comments and to answer your question I hope that Newark will become a leader with this regard. There is legislation at the State House in Columbus that is considering protections for the GLBT community and there is legislation at the Federal level in Washington but I think that we would become the 14th city in Ohio to add protections for GLBT community. As momentum grows I hope that we can put pressure in Columbus and Washington so they can get things corrected.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Jeremy Blake, Chair