

Allegheny County Council

*119 Courthouse
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-350-6490*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Government Reform

*Nick Futules, Chair; Tom Baker, Liv Bennett, Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein and
Anita Prizio, Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01.

Invited Guests:

Mr. Barker and Mr. Varhola were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 1 - Nick Futules

Members Absent: 0

Members Phone: 6 - Tom Baker, Olivia Bennett, Sam DeMarco, Cindy Kirk, Paul Klein and Anita Prizio

III. Approval of Minutes**IV. Agenda Items****Ordinances**[11542-20](#)

An Ordinance of the County of Allegheny, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2, entitled "County Government Operations," Chapter 215, entitled "Boards, Commissions and Committees," Article V, entitled "Human Relations Commission," in order to establish a Countywide nondiscrimination requirement in medical treatment settings.

Sponsors: Council Member Klein, Council Member Futules, Council Member Duerr, Council Member Hallam, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Prizio, Council Member Walton, Council Member Palmosina, Council Member Zavarella and Council Member Catena

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Mr. Klein summarized its provisions, noting that the County has an existing antidiscrimination ordinance that is administered by the Human Relations Commission, and which prohibits discrimination based on certain classifications, including transgendered individuals in employment, housing, and other settings. Mr. Klein noted that the Federal Department of Health and Human Services had created a rule forwarding similar protections in medical care settings under Federal regulation in 2016, but in mid-June, the rule was revised to eliminate those protections. Mr. Klein indicated that a variety of professional organizations opposed the change.

Ms. Kirk agreed that providing care regardless of personal characteristics is important.

In response to a question from Ms. Kirk regarding preexisting condition language, Mr. Klein suggested that classifications can be elusive and that a broad net should probably be cast.

Ms. Bennet thanked Mr. Klein for advancing the ordinance.

In response to a question from Mr. DeMarco, Mr. Klein suggested that medical practitioners might be best qualified to speak to instances of discrimination relevant to the ordinance.

Mr. Macey suggested that if there is no quantifiable discrimination within Allegheny County, perhaps there is no reason to enact the ordinance, but offered to contact medical professionals to offer their perspectives.

Mr. Walton indicated that he supports the legislation as written.

Mr. Zavarella and Mr. Klein discussed the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act as not preempting the local ordinance.

A motion was made by Bennett, seconded by Klein, that this matter be Affirmatively Recommended. The motion carried by the following vote:

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20.