

**22-379**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING REPORT**  
**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.**

Attendees: Councillor Emily Lazzaro, Committee Chair; Councillor Justin Tseng, Committee Vice Chair; Councillor Anna Callahan; Council Vice President Kit Collins; City Clerk Adam Hurtubise; other participants as noted in the body of this report.

Chair Lazzaro called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. on February 4, 2025 in the Medford City Council Chambers and via Zoom. The start of the meeting was delayed by a committee meeting immediately beforehand. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a resolution to draft an ordinance to secure rights to gender-affirming care (Paper **22-379**).

Chair Lazzaro thanked participants for attending. She said that KP Law informed her that a legal review wouldn't be complete tonight but could be completed later this week. She read a communication from the Healey-Driscoll Administration saying that gender-affirming care is a constitutional right. She said she still felt it important to bring this ordinance forward. She said we have been hearing from advocacy groups. She said we have a draft and hopefully people have looked at it.

Councillor Tseng said that Chair Lazzaro has put it correctly as to why we are doing this. She said people have been concerned since the Dobbs decision. He said we don't want Medford to be the site of conflict. He said we don't want doctors to give up their patients to police outside of Massachusetts. He said that a lot of what is going on nationally is actually illegal. He said that on many levels what is national is local. He said we have cleaned up the text from the last draft of this paper from previous meetings. He said we made sure the language is accurate and we chose to expand parts of it. He said this overlaps with what has already been passed by other municipalities in Massachusetts.

Chair Lazzaro said we need to get an affirmative response from legal and we need some other conversations before we move this forward. She said we are not trying to do the work of another municipality or another state or the federal government.

Vice President Collins thanked Councillor Tseng for his leadership on this. She said it's even more thorough than when it was removed in committee. She said she wants to make sure that we are making these protections just as airtight as we can. She said that federal authorities are taking a regressive and oppressive politicizing approach to these measures. She said it's important for the City Council to affirm reproductive healthcare and gender affirming healthcare in all their forms. She said she doesn't know if it's necessary to pass this on to Committee of the Whole for further adjustments.

Councillor Tseng said it makes sense to keep this in committee and we can act quickly on this once we hear from KP Law. Chair Lazzaro said she said she is also fine keeping this in committee.

Councillor Callahan said it is probably easiest to keep the paper in this committee and we can take it up next month when we have the legal review because there isn't the urgency on the state level.

Councillor Callahan moved to keep the paper in committee pending legal review (Councillor Tseng second)—approved.

Ellen Epstein, 15 Grove Street, thanked the Council for working on this.

Jen Sullivan, 35 Washington Street, said she wanted to echo the same sentiment.

Chair Lazzaro thanked everyone for being here. She said she hoped the legal review would come back swiftly.

Councillor Callahan moved to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. (Councillor Tseng second)—approved.

Chair Lazzaro adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.