

DRAFT

..Number

..Version

ORIGINAL

..Reference

..Sponsor

THE CHAIR

..Title

An ordinance relating to discrimination based on a person's preferred language.

..Section

109-5-11.5 cr

109-5-12 am

..Analysis

This ordinance prohibits discrimination based on a person's preferred language.

Preferred language means a person's perceived or actual spoken or written language, or form of sign language most preferred by the person as a means of communication.

..Body

Whereas, Immigrants and refugees with limited English proficiency, or individuals who use a form of sign language or non-spoken language, and individuals of differing abilities have been subject to discrimination; and

Whereas, It is essential that businesses provide services to everyone, regardless of a person's language, to carry out professional, amicable, and financially responsible business relationships with all parties; and

Whereas, Housing discrimination based on the language a person speaks or is perceived to speak, may result in segregation by race or ethnic origin, or unsafe housing conditions; and

Whereas, The City of Milwaukee believes that all residents and visitors should be afforded the same treatment and experience regardless of the languages they speak; now, therefore, be it

The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Milwaukee do ordain as follows:

Part 1. Section 109-5-11.5 of the code is created to read:

109-5 Definitions.

11.5. PREFERRED LANGUAGE means a person's perceived or actual spoken or written language, or form of sign language most preferred by the person as a means of communication.

Part 2. Section 109-5-12 of the code is amended to read:

12. PROTECTED PERSON means any individual intended to be protected from violations of prohibited discrimination under this chapter. This includes an individual's sex, race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, lawful source of income, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, victimhood of

domestic abuse or sexual assault, protected hairstyle, >>protected language,<< past or present membership in the military service, HIV status, domestic partnership, genetic identity, homelessness, familial status, or an individual's affiliation or perceived affiliation with any of these categories.

..LRB

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Legislative Reference Bureau

Date: _____

..Attorney

IT IS OUR OPINION THAT THE ORDINANCE
IS LEGAL AND ENFORCEABLE

Office of the City Attorney

Date: _____

Department

..Department of Administration

LRB176937-1

Heather Wolfgram

09/08/2021