

By:

No

AN INFORMAL RESOLUTION

Establishing the City Commission’s Intention Not to Prioritize the Enforcement of State Laws that Criminalize Abortion

WHEREAS, the City Commission opposes the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision issued by the United States Supreme Court and the related laws and policies put into place by the State of Ohio because they represent a misguided and fundamentally unsound attempt to end abortion; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that criminalizing women’s reproductive rights, including abortions, is untenable and in many cases unenforceable and violates women’s human and civil rights; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission condemns that that the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision and existing and future Ohio state legislation that may result in fining and jailing women and doctors for the perceived notion of having or even discussing abortions; and,

WHEREAS, City resources such as Dayton Police Department investigators or City of Dayton prosecutors may be called upon to carry out state laws criminalizing abortion services; and,

WHEREAS, City services are already under significant resource constraints due to limited budgets, staffing shortages, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, the Commission is already strongly committed to the long-term and difficult work of enacting policies and programming which strengthen families, reduce poverty, and reduce the impacts of racism; and,

WHEREAS, these efforts have included enacting paid parental leave and quality healthcare for City of Dayton employees, funding affordable and effective childcare and educational programs for all four-year-old residents of Dayton, enacting special support for victims of sexual assault and domestic abuse; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes that the state laws passed to criminalize women’s reproductive rights are part of a Republican strategy to legislate away abortion by fiat, without doing the essential work of democracy and will therefore be effective at nothing but alienating and threatening huge segments of society, particularly low-income women of color; and,

WHEREAS, the City Commission believes that the state of Ohio instead needs to take a fundamentally different approach, one that protects women and families, and specifically grants women the voice, dignity, and respect they deserve; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF DAYTON:

Section 1. That this Commission hereby declares its strong opposition to the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision and associated state of Ohio laws and policies.

Section 2. That this Commission intends, to the fullest of its ability, to protect Dayton residents from specious overreaches of state power resulting from the ruling, and to protect city resources for activities that improve the lives of our residents by de-prioritizing enforcement of these laws.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION, 2022

SIGNED BY THE MAYOR, 2022

Mayor of the City of Dayton, Ohio

Attest:

Clerk of the Commission

Approved as to form:

City Attorney