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Office of the County Council
Courthouse
436 Grant Street, Room 119
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Via Fax: (412) 350-6499

RE: Ordinance 4201-08

January 16, 2009

Dear County Council Members:

The American Family Association of Pennsylvania is a statewide pro-family organization, affiliated with the American Family Association, headquartered in Tupelo, MS. We have hundreds of members within this county.

I wish to lay out concerns over the proposed Ordinance 4201-08 which would amend the Allegheny County Code of Ordinances, Division 2 entitled "County Government Operations" and create a new Article V, entitled Human Relations Commission. This ordinance would create a human rights ordinance which deals with employment, housing, real estate practices and public accommodations. Our concern is the definition of 'discrimination' which contains 'gender identity' and 'sexual orientation.' I do not believe you realize the full ramifications, if such an ordinance passes. Let me give you a few examples:

The inclusion of 'sexual orientation' would **negatively impact the Boy Scout troops in the county.** In Philadelphia the Cradle of Liberty Scout Council (COLBSA) is facing eviction from the headquarters they built and have maintained since 1929 on property the 1928 City Council gave them free use of 'in perpetuity' – forever. (see documentation) Why are they facing this eviction? Because the Boy Scouts prohibit open homosexuals from being Scout leaders or members – a right the United States Supreme Court has upheld because the Scouts are a private organization. In the 80's Philadelphia added 'sexual orientation' to their ordinances. It was almost two decades before they began making the attempt to evict the Boy Scouts based on that ordinance change. It must be noted here that COLBSA has a policy which forbids all unlawful discrimination, but this is not good enough for the homosexual activists pushing the city to evict the Scouts.

Changes you propose would probably not have an immediate impact on the Boy Scouts of the county, but what will happen two decades down the road? In a February 4, 2004 *Scranton Times News* article [Stephen Glassman](#), chairman of the PA Human Relations Commission, whom I understand testified in favor of this ordinance in November, agreed with the AFA of PA's interpretation that the passage of human rights ordinances with the 'sexual orientation' language would affect the Scouts ability to use government buildings, parks and facilities. Do the people of Allegheny County want Boy Scout troops targeted because of the passage of this ordinance? Councilwoman Cleary, will Troop 350 continue to be able to meet in the Castle Shannon Borough Building?

There are actually **many more sexual orientations** (see documentation) – once this language is in your county laws, where does it stop? "Gender identity" laws in other areas have permitted **men who think they are women to use the women's restrooms, fitting rooms, and, in Cleveland, OH there's a man who thinks he is a woman who is demanding to use the women's locker room at the city pool.** (see documentation) Needless to say the women who frequent the pool are upset by the idea of a man changing clothes and showering with them. Is this the situation that County Council wants for their residents? How do female voters in the County feel about the presence of men in their restrooms, shower facilities and fitting rooms?