

## The Costs of Special Rights

There is a very vocal minority who thinks that Ordinance 6093 the Fairbanks City Council is considering is a great thing. Well, it sounds nice on the surface, but the facts don't back that up. Ordinance 6093 is a law that will give special privileges to a number of groups, some of which are based on personal choice like LGBTQ. As one testifier pointed out to the City Council, when you give some group particular rights, then you decrease general rights for everyone else. This article will explain the rights the city is taking from everyone, the liabilities we'll all face, and why the ordinance will only create more division, as these agenda-driven laws have been shown to do around the country in the last few years.

First, it starts with employment by allowing lawsuits if anyone thinks they weren't hired or were fired because they were LGBTQ. This forces churches and private religious schools to hire those who are diametrically opposed to their beliefs. This is a violation of the freedom of association given in the First Amendment to the Constitution, which is the right of associations to choose their members. It would require churches to hire atheists, etc. There was enough of an uproar on this one that the City Council amended 6093 to exclude religious institutions. Is this protection sufficient? Will this protect religious schools? The courts will end up determining that. In Austin, Texas, a group of churches is suing the city because of not being able to hire the people they choose.

While we're addressing employment, it should be noted that this will create unlimited liability for businesses with employees. What if they decide not to hire a particular individual because they had found someone they thought was more qualified? They can still be brought to court. Even if they prove their innocence, it still cost them money — and the consumers ultimately will pay that cost. What if they hire someone in that category and then fire them for non-performance? Again, they may still have to go to court and pay for the privilege.

The second right lost is the freedom of speech, also from the First Amendment. There's a complicated section that results in no one being able to speak against the ordinance, once it

passes. This is the kind of thing that caused the lawsuit in Houston, Texas, where the city was trying to subpoena sermons from preachers to see if they spoke against the city's agenda.

Third would be property rights. Business owners have the right to run their businesses as they see fit. There have been many court cases on this. The most famous example is the cake baker in Colorado who was more than willing to sell cakes to anyone but who could not, by his religious beliefs, make cakes with an immoral or pornographic message. He won at the U.S. Supreme Court, and immediately thereafter, another complaint was filed. This time they asked him to make a cake with a model of Satan on top holding a working sex toy. He's now headed back to the Supreme Court. Then, there are the two Phoenix, Arizona, artists who are working their way through the court system because they are being required to make art that violates their religious beliefs.

Another example is the elderly florist who has had to go to court to defend her beliefs. She had no problem selling products to anyone, whatever their orientation, but her beliefs wouldn't allow her to do the arrangements for a same-sex wedding. Notice the pattern: The government is saying that you can't make a determination of how you use your creativity, that you have to make whatever any customer wants as long as that customer can claim to be a member of a special group. It's the socialist concept that government controls the means of production, just applied to the creative arts. Business owners are required to sacrifice their integrity and recant or be punished.

As I've shown, these types of ordinances have created court cases all over the country as tyrannical governments attempt to squash religious beliefs. They also create large costs for the municipalities and states involved with the court costs. In Fairbanks, court costs go above the tax caps, so they will be taxing more to cover those costs. All who live or do business in the city will pay for this social experiment. On Feb. 25, the City Council will decide whether to deprive you of your God-given rights.