

MOTION

HEALTH, EDUCATION, NEIGHBORHOOD
PARKS, ARTS & RECREATION

Participation in quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs during the ages of 0-5 is critical to the cognitive, social and emotional development of children, yet families often find that ECE opportunities are expensive and difficult to find. In the City of Los Angeles, ninety-six percent of children under the age of two lack access to a licensed child care center seat. There are only 3,406 licensed infant/toddler child care center seats for the 85,251 children under the age of two in the City of Los Angeles.

ECE is also a critical industry sector of small business owners, and they provide a service that is essential to allowing parents to pursue jobs and education. Navigating the challenging land use approval process, including high fees for Conditional Use Permits (CUPs), long wait times for hearings, and the imposition of unnecessary and costly requirements, sidelines most prospective child care center providers. These barriers not only hurt small business owners, but also low-income families and communities that these businesses could serve.

In an effort to increase the supply of child care, the City of San Francisco removed the CUP requirement for child care facilities in all areas of the City, except heavy industrial. They have also facilitated a partnership between their local parks and recreation department and the Department of Social Services that allows ECE facilities to satisfy their outdoor space requirements with adjacent parks. Additionally, the City of Santa Monica has created a Child Care Center Planning Guide and implemented a pre-submittal review process for providers that explores viability up front with a dedicated staff person with ECE expertise.

Due to COVID-19, many child care centers and in-home daycares have shut down, and some may never have the ability to open again. Losing these child care facilities will exacerbate the child care shortage in California, and make it even harder for parents to find care for their children as they return to work. In the 2019 state budget, Governor Gavin Newsom allocated \$263 million for ECE facilities. The time is now to streamline the administrative facilities approval process in order to bring much needed facilities funds to the City of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Planning Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, the Chief Legislative Analyst, and the Department of Building and Safety report with recommendations for:

1. Permitting child care facilities by-right in all areas of the City, except heavy industrial; or
2. Creating an administrative approval process for childcare facilities if the applicant complies with licensing requirements and agrees to a set of standard conditions, such as the proposed standard conditions attached to this Motion; and
3. Implementing a pre-submittal review process with ECE providers like the City of Santa Monica’s program,

I FURTHER MOVE that the Planning Department with the assistance of the Department of Recreation and Parks, the City Attorney, and the Chief Legislative Analyst, report with recommendations on implementing a pilot program that allows ECE providers to satisfy their outdoor space requirement with public parks, similar to the City of San Francisco’s program.

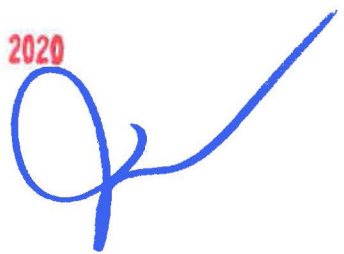
I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Building and Safety report with recommendations for reducing or eliminating the “change of use” fee when single family residences used as family child care homes or single family child care homes are converted to child care center facilities.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Kerkorian
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY: Mary M... ..

ORIGINAL

MAY 27 2020



Conditions for Streamlined Approval

Conditions of Approval – The City should streamline the approval process where a potential ECE facility meets the following standards. Further, these conditions should be shared with providers prior to the start of the permitting process to allow for greater transparency and assist potential operators in evaluating the appropriateness of their proposed location. These conditions are in addition to existing State, County, and City building and safety standards.

- *Hours of Operation* – A facility meets the conditions of approval for opening a child care center when the hours of operation fall between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- *Traffic and Circulation* – Drop-off hours are from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Pick-up hours are from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., during which the majority of drop-offs and pick-ups for the child care center will occur. If a site does not have a parking lot or driveway that can accommodate at least two cars simultaneously for drop-off and pick-up, centers that have curb space for drop-off and pick-up also satisfy this condition, so long as it does not obstruct a major intersection or bus lane/stop. Centers shall have the right to place “loading zone” signs along the curbside drop-off and pick-up areas. Additionally, the loading zone for drop-off and pick-up should allow for at least two but not more than three cars at a time to safely enter and exit the designated area and is to be monitored by a staff member of the facility during the hours of drop-off and pick-up.
- *Parking* – A center meets the standard for parking if it has at least one parking spot per staff member. Number of staff will vary depending on the number of children being served. Given that on-site parking in Los Angeles is extremely limited—particularly in denser areas of the city—the City will allow an exemption for this condition if:
 - Staff commute using public transit
 - Staff plan on carpooling
 - There is ample street parking within City parking limits
- *The use of the property as an authorized child care facility shall comply with all requirements of State Department of Social Services, Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, and the Fire Department.*
- *Approval of this permit will run with the land, and an operator has the right to continue to operate as a child care center under this permit for so long as the above conditions are followed.*