



## EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20161109-005

Date: November 9, 2016

Subject: Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights Recommendation

Motioned By: Commissioner Monica Sanchez

Seconded By: Commissioner Kyle Holder

### **Recommendation**

*The Early Childhood Council endorses the adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.*

### **Description of Recommendation to Council**

*The Austin City Council will consider adoption of the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights at one of the first Council meetings in 2017, and the Early Childhood Council desires to relay their formal support of this proposal in advance of that meeting.*

### **Rationale:**

*The Early Childhood Council heard a presentation from the Austin Parks and Recreation Department at the November ECC meeting regarding the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights proposal. The average child spends 90% of their time indoors, childhood obesity is on the rise, and children are increasingly on antidepressants. Studies have shown that kids who regularly interact with nature perform better on standardized tests, show increased enthusiasm for learning, and have lower levels of stress. The Early Childhood Council supports the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights and believes that the City of Austin should play an active role in ensuring that children have opportunities to play and interact with natural environments.*

### **Vote**

For: Chair Lawrence Elsner, Vice-Chair Monica Sanchez, and Commissioners Garry Brown, Kyle Holder, Aletha Huston, Roscoe Overton, Sr., Rhonda Paver, Jacqueline Porter, Brook Son, and Sebastian Wren

Against: N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

Attest: [Staff or board member can sign]