



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20180509-6.b.

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Council of the City of Austin is charged with making recommendations to the City Council that support optimal development of young children and their families, continued development of a system of high-quality early care and education, and cooperative arrangements to support quality early care and education; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing, critical shortage of affordable, family-friendly housing in Central Austin; and

WHEREAS, there is also a critical shortage of high-quality early child care and learning centers in Central Austin; and

WHEREAS, a shortage of family-friendly housing, an increase in cost-of-living, and a scarcity of family-friendly amenities such as child care facilities and stimulating, healthy, educational destinations are driving families out of Central Austin to surrounding suburbs and exurbs; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan clearly itemizes and prioritizes a host of initiatives intended to improve quality of life for families with young children, including to: "Improve access to quality child care services near homes and workplaces;" and "Increase dense, compact family-friendly housing in the urban core by creating standards and guidelines that encourage private interests to create more family-friendly development;" and

WHEREAS, the Bond Advisory Task Force was directed to develop bond recommendations that align with the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Bond Advisory Task Force was established to identify and prioritize bond funding for projects that will address infrastructure needs, including but not limited to needs related to flooding, libraries, housing, mobility, transit, parks, fire stations and other planned, unfunded capital improvement needs; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of the affordable housing that has been created recently or that has been funded through prior bond initiatives has not been family-friendly, being predominantly 1- or 2-bedroom apartments in dense development concentrated along high-volume urban transport corridors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council recommends that the Bond Advisory Task Force and the Austin City Council consider including a provision for "family-friendly housing" in the part of the 2018 Bond that supports the development of affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that "family-friendly housing" be defined as "3 or 4 bedroom units with proximity to child care and transportation" and that a goal of 30% of the housing units built with affordable housing bonds approved as part of the 2018 bond election be set aside for housing units that are "family-friendly"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the above-mentioned provision for "family-friendly housing" include a requirement that "family-friendly units" serve families from a range of incomes.

Date of Approval: May 9, 2018

Record of the vote: 7-1 vote with Member Hill voting no.

Attest: Laurence G. Usner, Chair, Early Childhood Council