



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20180411-6c2

Date: April 11, 2018

Subject: Recommendation regarding inclusion of affordable housing for families in the 2018 City of Austin Bond referendum

Motioned By: Member Mary Jane Burson-Polston

Seconded By: Member Anna Lisa Conlin

Recommendation

The Early Childhood Council recommends that the City Council use the previous feedback provided in Recommendations 20170510-6bi and 20170510-6cii to help inform decisions regarding the types of affordable housing investments in the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum.

Description of Recommendation to Council

The Early Childhood Council previously passed Recommendations 20170510-6bi and 20170510-6cii related to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development 2017-18 Action Plan and CodeNEXT, both of which outline priorities around approaches to affordable housing that will benefit and serve families with young children. These recommendations include, but are not limited to prioritizing 3 and 4 bedroom units, as well as locating affordable housing projects in close proximity to child care and transportation options. The ECC recommends that the City Council review the policies and priorities outlined in each of these recommendations, and use that information to help guide the investments in the affordable housing portion of the 2018 City of Austin Bond Referendum.

Rationale:

The priorities regarding affordable housing for families with young children outlined in the Early Childhood Council's Recommendations 20170510-6bi and 20170510-6cii are still a pressing need in the community today, and the Early Childhood Council voted to resend both recommendations to the City Council so that the parameters in each can serve as a guide for how to shape affordable housing bond investments for the 2018 Bond Referendum.

Vote

For: Chair Elsner, Members Alvarez, Burson-Polston, Conlin, Harrison, Hill, Huston, and Wren

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: Vice Chair Sanchez and Members Garcia, Paver, and Semple

Attest: *[Staff or board member can sign]* *Laurenne Elsner, Chair, Early Childhood Council*



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION 20170510-6bi

Date: May 10, 2017

Subject: Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Recommendation

Motioned By: Aletha Huston

Seconded By: Jacquie Porter

Recommendation

The Early Childhood Council recommends that the following items be included in the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) 2017-2018 Action Plan:

- 1. Any new development for Affordable Housing should be built in proximity to quality child care centers or include on-site quality child care as part of the development where appropriate;*
- 2. The NHCD 2017-2018 Action Plan should align with the 2015-2018 School Readiness Action Plan where appropriate;*
- 3. NHCD should recognize that the Early Childhood Council has made engagement with Affordable Housing stakeholders a priority in their work. Therefore, the Early Childhood Council should be invited to participate in community stakeholder discussions;*
- 4. The Early Childhood Council supports, at minimum, the maintenance of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$650,000 for child care services related to:
 - a. Early Head Start Child Care*
 - b. Teen Parent Services*
 - c. Teen Parent Child Care*
 - d. Child Care Bridge Program; and**
- 5. Target early childhood educators for Community Land Trust housing opportunities to preserve stable, affordable housing for this critical workforce.*

Description of Recommendation to Council

The City of Austin Neighborhood Housing and Community Development (NHCD) Office has released their Draft Austin Housing Plan, a comprehensive approach to address Austin's most pressing housing challenges informed by input from the citizens of Austin. The Early Childhood Council is submitting the above recommendations to be included in the NHCD 2017-2018 Action Plan.

Rationale:

Families need access to quality child care centers in close proximity to their home. It not only helps a child's development but it also helps support parents who are struggling to balance work and family obligations. The location and availability of child care can affect other community development goals and activities including smart growth and sustainability planning initiatives. Furthermore, the City of Austin should align community plans where appropriate to strengthen the City's comprehensive

Imagine Austin plan. Lastly, the child care services currently funded by the CDBG grant are vital to teen parents, very low income families, and families facing homelessness. Maintenance of these dollars is critical to supporting families by removing barriers for accessing affordable, high-quality child care as families work towards establishing self-sufficiency.

Vote: 10-0-0

For: Chair Elsner, Members Alvarez, Burson-Polston, Harrison, Huston, Overton, Porter, Semple, Son, and Wren, with Member Sanchez off the dais

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Member Paver

Attest:





BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20170510-6cii- CodeNEXT

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 childcare 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 childcare 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: "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 Austin Early Childhood Council has made recommendations to the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Action Plan regarding affordable housing and child care availability as well as alignment with the School Readiness Action Plan (ECC Recommendation 20160608-5bi); and

WHEREAS, CodeNEXT is intended to codify the vision outlined in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, creating incentives to address gaps that exist between current conditions and the ideals outlined in Austin's Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, There is very little evidence in current drafts of CodeNEXT that the ideals outlined in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan (subsection "Children, Families, and Educational Policies, p. 148) have been elevated, addressed or supported in any way; and

WHEREAS, Nearly all of the affordable housing that has been created recently or is incentivized through CodeNEXT is not family-friendly, being predominantly 1- or 2- bedroom apartments in dense development concentrated along high-volume urban transportation corridors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The Early Childhood Council recommends that the CodeNEXT Advisory Group and Opticos Design revisit the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan — specifically subsection “Children, Families, and Educational Policies, p. 148 — and itemize the ways that the family-friendly ideals outlined in that plan have been codified in CodeNEXT.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The CodeNEXT plan incentive construction of family-friendly units (for example, 3- and 4- bedroom units with proximity to child care and proximity to transportation) and construction of child care facilities that would serve families from a range of incomes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Early Childhood Council will continue to provide input throughout the process of finalizing CodeNEXT.

Date of Approval: May 10, 2017

Record of the vote: Motioned by Member Son and Seconded by Member Sanchez; Unanimous on an 11-0-0 vote

Vote: For: Members Alvarez, Burson-Polston, Elsner, Harrison, Huston, Overton, Porter, Sanchez, Semple, Son, and Wren

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Member Paver

Attest: _____

