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WHEREAS, according to the 2016 Austin Area Sustainability Indicators-Education and Children report, there is not enough space available in affordable, high-quality child care facilities. Specifically, the “child population 6 years and under with all available parents in the labor force has consistently surpassed the available capacity of child care facilities;” and

WHEREAS, a report by the think tank The Center for American Progress, mapped child care deserts across the country and brought national attention to child care deserts in Austin, including in some areas of our city where the largest populations of children from low income families live; and

Page 1 of 4

26 **WHEREAS**, the process to build a new child care center, or any new
27 facility within the City of Austin can be very costly and the application and
28 permitting process can take a significant amount of time to navigate; and

29 **WHEREAS**, in response to Council Resolution No. 20170928-057 the
30 Child Care Working Group, which included significant stakeholder input,
31 identified associated permitting fees from various City departments and limited
32 zoning categories where day care services are allowed City-wide as one of the
33 major barriers to opening, expanding, and/or operating high-quality child care
34 centers in the City of Austin; and

35 **WHEREAS**, in the current Land Development Code, the way child care
36 facilities are categorized is over complicated. They can fall into one of three
37 categories under Civic Uses: Day Care Services (Commercial), Day Care Services
38 (General), and Day Care Services (Limited), depending on the number of persons
39 it serves; and

40 **WHEREAS**, a child care facility is considered a permitted use only with a
41 Conditional Use Permit, or not considered a permitted use depending on the
42 category of child care facility and the zoning category; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the Child Care Working Group report identified the
44 Conditional Use Permit as a costly and burdensome barrier and the limited zoning
45 categories where child care facilities are allowed as a restriction to access to
46 affordable high-quality child care for Austin families; and

47 **WHEREAS**, the report also identifies “Child Care Services” as the accepted
48 and widely used term in community plans and best practices for quality rating and
49 certification processes; **NOW THEREFORE**,

50

51 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

52 Council directs the City Manager to work with departments across the City,
53 including, but not limited to, Development Services, Planning and Zoning, Austin
54 Fire, Austin Water, and Austin Public Health and community partners, such as the
55 United Way, to do the following:

- 56 1. identify the current fee schedule and potential fee waivers that may be
57 applied to expenses associated with opening, expanding, and/or operating
58 high-quality child care centers;
- 59 2. develop options for Council consideration on how fees such as annual fees
60 for food service establishment permits, environmental inspections, or fire
61 inspections could be fully or partially waived to reduce some of the
62 operational burden after centers receive a quality rating through the National
63 Association for the Education of Young Children, and/or obtain a 4-star
64 rating through Texas Rising Star; and
- 65 3. develop options for Council consideration on how the City may be
66 reimbursed for waived fees for centers that do not maintain or receive one of
67 the above-mentioned quality ratings after a mutually agreed upon period of
68 time.

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

70 The Council further directs the City Manager to review the Land
71 Development Code and provide recommendations to Council on how to:

- 72 1. increase the zoning categories where child care is a permitted use or
73 consider implementing a waiver for the conditional use permit process

74 and/or a fee waiver for conditional use permit fees for high-quality child
75 care centers. The process should include gathering input from high-quality
76 child care providers to determine what barriers they have faced when
77 working with the City to open and/or expand child care centers.

- 78 2. Replace all references to “Day Care Services” with “Child Care Services”
79 and identify the different scales to determine the different child care services
80 categories depending on the number of children the facility will serve.

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

82 The Council directs the City Manager to present a preliminary proposal at a
83 Council work session no later than March 5, 2019, with any recommendations on
84 the above topics for full Council consideration on March 21, 2019.

85
86 **ADOPTED:** _____, 2018

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk