

RESOLUTION NO. 20161103-047

WHEREAS, inclusive public participation and community engagement is a vital component in the creation of plans and processes that inform and influence the development of the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2008 Families and Children Taskforce Report, “for Austin to succeed in attracting and retaining families, the City will have to make this goal a central focus of its planning efforts and develop specific procedures to ensure that the interests of families with children are considered in every major planning decision;” and

WHEREAS, many caregivers experience barriers to participating in planning processes and civic informational meetings due to a lack of affordable or reliable childcare options; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin, particularly the Parks and Recreation Department, has provided on-site free supervision and activities for children during community engagement efforts, however, it is not a formalized or standardized policy;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Council directs the City Manager to:

- (1) Propose policy recommendations for a program that would provide free, on-site supervision and activities for children to be offered during community meetings, if requested by a caregiver.

- (2) Identify potential City of Austin departments, local partners, non-profits, and volunteer-based organizations that would be interested in contributing to the creation and implementation of free, on-site supervision and activities for children during community meetings.
- (3) Identify any potential national or state funding mechanisms, as well as grants, that can be used to fund such a program. If sufficient funding mechanisms cannot be identified, the City Manager is directed to create a budget item for Council consideration during the FY 2018-2019 budget cycle.
- (4) Explore the feasibility of requiring consultants who contract with the City and engage with the public to include the cost of on-site supervision and activities for children in their budget proposals.
- (5) Research national best practices when composing policy recommendations for such a program. Recommendations should include the following considerations, in addition to other considerations deemed necessary:
 - The types of community meetings that would be appropriate for free, on-site supervision and children activities to be provided when requested by a caregiver, as well as a list of community meetings in which such a policy may not be feasible;
 - Logistical recommendations for how on-site supervision and activities for children of all ages could be provided;
 - A system in which caregivers could request supervised children activities, potentially similar to that of existing city services that are available upon request, such as interpretation services and accessibility services;

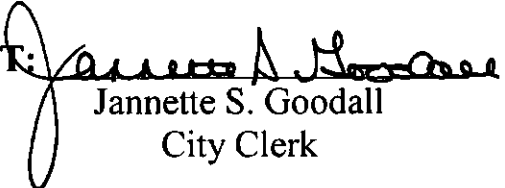
- Recommendations for safety and screening criteria policies, such as the standards and protocol used by the Austin Independent School District and Texas Childcare Licensing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council directs the City Manager to present all recommendations for consideration to the Early Childhood Council and to the Task Force for Community Engagement, which shall reconvene for this purpose, and return the City Manager's policy recommendations to Council for consideration no later than 180 days after adoption of this Resolution.

ADOPTED: November 3, 2016

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk