

RESOLUTION NO. 20190619-093

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to advance gender equity and celebrates the diversity of family structures within the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin prohibits discrimination based on gender in employment, housing, and public accommodation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin strives to be a leader on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) issues; and

WHEREAS, gender norms have changed, and fathers and other male caregivers frequently now share in the full range of joys and responsibilities associated with parenthood; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2013 CDC study, 90% of fathers that live with children under age five diaper, dress, or bathe their children daily or several times a week; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Families and Children Task Force developed a vision for a family-friendly city in which “public spaces contain amenities. . . that serve as gathering places for children and families” and in which “recreational activities, events, restaurants, and stores that cater to families with children are found throughout the city”; and

WHEREAS; all parents and caregivers should have access to safe, sanitary, and convenient facilities for changing the diapers of their babies and toddlers when away from

home; and

WHEREAS, the absence of diaper changing stations in publicly accessible buildings and facilities can pose a health and safety hazard to young children and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Imagine Austin states that development should occur across the city in a manner friendly to families with children; and

WHEREAS, in Austin Strategic Direction 2023 (SD 23), Council adopted “Percentage of residents and employees who are satisfied with the condition of City-owned facilities (e.g. cleanliness, safety, accessibility)” as a metric to gauge progress towards a Top 10 SD23 indicator; and

WHEREAS, Council unanimously approved Resolution No. 20190606-041 to identify areas in which the City of Austin could improve to become a more family-friendly employer; and

WHEREAS, Council created Chapter 4-16 of City Code requiring commercial facilities to install gender-neutral signage for single user restrooms; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, President Obama signed the bipartisan Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation (BABIES) Act into law to require “safe, sanitary, and appropriate” baby changing facilities in both men’s and women’s restrooms in federal buildings that are open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Baltimore, Dallas, Miami, New York City, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco are peer cities that have recently adopted policies to expand gender-neutral access to changing stations; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The Council directs the City Manager to work with community and business stakeholders and departments throughout the City including, but not limited to, Development Services, Building Services, Austin Public Health, and Austin Code to make the following advancements towards the goal of ensuring universal, gender-neutral access to at least one safe, sanitary, and convenient diaper changing station on each of a building's floor levels containing a public restroom:

1. For all public-serving City facilities, such as parks, libraries, recreation centers, and administrative buildings serving the public, the City Manager shall develop an estimate of the timeline and funding needed to install changing stations (as described above).
2. For non-City facilities with mercantile and assembly uses, as defined in City Code:
 - a) The City Manager shall draft an ordinance amending City Code to require the provision of changing stations (as described above) at the time of new construction or major renovation. Major renovation means reconstruction, alteration, or renovation of a main structure that involves reconfiguration of a publicly available restroom. If there are necessary and appropriate exceptions

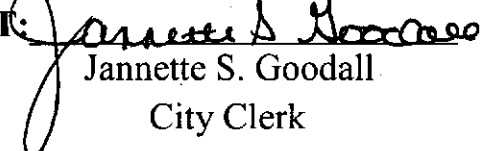
to this requirement, such as to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, they shall be included in this draft ordinance.

- b) The City Manager shall prepare a feasibility report with options and potential exceptions for extending the requirement for the provision of changing stations (as described above), where not excessively burdensome, to all existing facilities with mercantile and assembly uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Council directs the City Manager to present for full Council consideration the time-and-cost estimate for City facilities no later than August 1, 2019, and the draft ordinance and feasibility report for non-City facilities no later than November 1, 2019.

ADOPTED: June 19, 2019

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk