



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-3269, **Agenda Item #:** 8.

11/14/2019

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 4-16 (Commercial Facilities) to add regulations for diaper changing stations.

Lead Department

Development Services Department.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

June 19, 2019 - Council approved a resolution directing staff to draft an ordinance to require diaper changing stations at the time of new construction or major renovation on consent on a 10-0 vote with Council Member Harper-Madison absent.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The Development Services Department (DSD) recommends adding Article 2 to section 4-16 of the City Code to provide diaper changing stations for new construction and major renovations of non-City facilities containing mercantile and assembly uses.

The City of Austin strives to advance gender equality and provide family-friendly amenities. The absence of diaper changing stations in publicly accessible buildings can pose a health and safety hazard to young children and their caregivers. DSD recommends that diaper changing stations be provided for new construction and major renovation of non-City facilities with mercantile and assembly uses. Major renovation includes relocation of any plumbing fixture or expansion of the restroom area. DSD recommends that a diaper changing station be required in each gender-specific public restroom per floor or in one gender-neutral restroom per floor. The diaper changing station would need to comply with federal, state, and local accessibility standards.

DSD evaluated the feasibility of extending the diaper changing station requirement to all existing non-City facilities with mercantile and assembly uses. Ultimately, staff determined that it would be burdensome to administer and enforce such an extension of the requirement because of the difficulty in determining applicability and the potential hardship to building owners. Staff recommends limiting the requirement to new construction and major renovation as defined in the ordinance.