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26 house a significant number of employees, such as the spaces for the Development  
27 Services Department on the Highland Mall campus, the future headquarters for  
28 Austin Energy, and the Austin Police Department main headquarters; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the August 2019 Memo stated that the Office of Real Estate  
30 Services was working with the Strategic Facilities Governance Team to update  
31 departmental forms to reflect this new process and to update the Facilities Request  
32 Form which departments are required to complete when requesting to renovate  
33 space or seeking additional space; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the August 2019 Memo confirmed that “on any new Request  
35 for Information (RFI)/Request for Proposal (RFP) for real estate needs, the  
36 solicitation will include a requested option for a high-quality child care facility,  
37 when applicable. Real Estate is working with APH on developing criteria for when  
38 this option would be required”; and

39 **WHEREAS**, in the July 2019 report prepared by the City of Austin’s  
40 consultant, TXP, entitled “Childcare & Economic Development in Austin,”  
41 researchers identified the high cost of rent and mortgages as key cost drivers for  
42 affordable child care and noted that these costs result in many child care facilities  
43 locating far away from working families or closing entirely; and

44 **WHEREAS**, child care programs generally operate on slim margins, and  
45 increasing the availability of affordable high-quality child care in Austin/Travis  
46 County will likely require funding to build spaces for new programs in multi-use  
47 developments and to support operating expenses such as offering low- or no-cost  
48 leases; and

50           **WHEREAS**, the Office of Real Estate Services' current practice is to  
51 consider the Austin Public Health recommendations alongside the appropriateness  
52 of having a child care facility as part of a public-private partnership (P3), lease,  
53 acquisition, or redevelopment project; and

54           **WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Department manages some  
55 redevelopment projects, and its current process for each City tract is to provide  
56 opportunities for the community to identify relevant needs, such as affordable child  
57 care, as well as to include any applicable Council priorities established through  
58 resolution; and

59           **WHEREAS**, the Early Childhood Council's March 10, 2021,  
60 recommendation and the March 8, 2021, letter from Early Matters Greater Austin  
61 to City Council, both urge the City to include affordable, high-quality child care in  
62 its redevelopment projects, citing that the pandemic has further exacerbated our  
63 community's shortage of affordable, high-quality child care facilities; and

64           **WHEREAS**, these advocates noted that Travis County lost nearly 15% of  
65 its quality-rated child care centers serving families with low incomes between  
66 March 2020 and September 2020 alone; and

67           **WHEREAS**, Success By 6 Austin / Travis County Coalition has  
68 recommended strategies for transforming Austin's Early Childhood System, which  
69 include co-locating space for affordable, high-quality child care in City and County  
70 facilities with low- or no- cost leases and prioritizing the selection of development  
71 / re-development proposals that incorporate dedicated space for child care  
72 facilities; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

75       The Council affirms the policy adopted in Resolution No. 20120301-051  
76 that all new City facilities and City-sponsored projects oriented to the public  
77 include family-friendly features, such as creative play spaces, nature-based play  
78 areas, and interactive art spaces. This policy shall apply to City-sponsored projects  
79 such as third-party development agreements and public-private partnerships  
80 oriented to public use. Any deviation from this policy for new City facilities or  
81 City-sponsored projects shall require Council approval.

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

83       The Council affirms the Office of Real Estate Services current process that  
84 staff include a high-quality child care facility, especially child care facilities that  
85 serve infants and toddlers as a requested use in requests for proposals, requests for  
86 applications, and other competitive processes associated with public-private  
87 partnerships, and in the lease, acquisition, or redevelopment of any City property --  
88 especially in child care deserts and on safe sites, such as those that do not require  
89 environmental remediation. The City Manager shall apply this policy to the  
90 redevelopment of City-owned land. Should the inclusion of an affordable, high-  
91 quality child care facility in these project types be deemed infeasible, the City  
92 Manager shall provide a written notice to the Council detailing the barrier or  
93 challenges associated with this use as soon as that determination is made and prior  
94 to the Council's consideration of the project.

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

96       In alignment with the recommendation in the August 2019 memo, any future  
97 City projects that will house a significant number of City of Austin employees

should include a cost estimate and option for including an onsite affordable, high-quality child care facility for the Council to consider as part of each project.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2021    **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Jannette S. Goodall  
City Clerk