

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING AN EARLY LEARNING CITY BY THE YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, development of human capital through high-quality learning and K-12 education is critical to the long-term vibrancy of the City of Pasadena, and key City priorities such as economic development, public safety, civic engagement and the stability of families and neighborhoods all hinge on whether children enter kindergarten ready to succeed, develop to their full capacity during the school years and graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary education and a career;

WHEREAS, social researchers and sociologists are identifying babies born between 2010 and 2025 as 'Generation Alpha', and are claiming this generation will be the most formally educated generation in history, beginning school earlier and studying longer than those of previous generations;

WHEREAS, Generation Alpha members will be second only to the Baby Boomer generation in population numbers, consisting of more than 70 million children aged between birth to 15 in the year 2025;

WHEREAS, scientific research clearly shows positive parenting and caregiving in early childhood, starting at birth, is a key contributor to lifelong health and productivity;

WHEREAS, high quality early learning in the critical years from birth to five has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, reduce violent crime, juvenile delinquency and incarceration, and increase odds of long-term employment;

WHEREAS, early childhood learning has risen in priority and prominence at the National level with President Obama's stress on early learning and preschool for all and the National League of Cities' platform to emphasize a unified direction and prioritization of early learning across the nation through their Institute for Youth, Education and Families. Local agencies, such as the County of Los Angeles, are also turning their attention to this important area. Pasadena's own School/City/Community Work Plan, known now as Collaborate PASadena, combined with the City's Quality of Life Index, Policy on children, Youth and Families and the Revised Early Child Development Policy, collectively exists to align resources to ensure all children in Pasadena attain educational success, are healthy and live in a safe and stable community, by meeting persons ages 0 to 5, where they are at developmentally; and

WHEREAS, researchers from UCLA teamed up with PUSD and the City to administer the 2013 Early Development Instrument (EDI), a population measure of school readiness, and is based on information about kindergarten age children for the

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purpose of creating a snapshot of their development progress, to measure social competence and physical health and well-being, and a significant portion scored as “developmentally vulnerable.”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Pasadena that it:

1. Supports a movement committed to engaging the community, particularly parents, teachers and caregivers in brain-development industries, in a meaningful way; and
2. Supports designating the decade of 2015-2025 as an era of community focus in building an Early Learning City so, in turn, the children of Generation Alpha emerge equipped and prepared to resolve issues, assume leadership positions, while generating innovative and long-term solutions for previously intractable and seemingly unsolvable challenges.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MARK JOMSKY, City Clerk

Approved as to form:



Javan Rad
Chief Assistant City Attorney