

March 20th, 2015

Dear Honorable City Council Members:

I am writing today to urge your support for the proposed Early Child Development Policy. I have been a resident of the City of Pasadena for the past 24 years. During that time I have served our community as a teacher, family therapist, and active church member. I am married and have two children, ages 5 and 11, who attend Pasadena public schools.

One thing I love about Pasadena is that we have a lot of resources. We have a beautiful city full of libraries, parks, theaters, and caring and concerned people. My children have a great public school, and there is plenty for families to do. But, my one long term concern, something which saddens my heart, is the great divide we have in our city between those who have and those who do not have. The report presented to you outlining a new Early Child Development Policy highlights this divide, stating that half of our children 0-5 are living in poverty. This has been the situation for the past quarter century that I have lived in this community, and it doesn't seem to be improving.

I could complain to you about the over \$12,000 a year that I pay personally in child care and preschool services for my young son. But, I really cannot complain when I know that I have a quality child care and early education situation. My son has grown and developed tremendously in the past three years, having gone from needing Speech Therapy to now talking up a storm and starting to read. But, I am one of the haves. I can afford quality services.

I worry about my community where so many do not have the same opportunities as I do. I urge you to support this proposed policy which brings an increased focus on the early childhood years, recognizing that they are critical to a child's future success. Many communities across the country are now realizing the importance of the early years, and an increasing number have implemented universal preschool. They have recognized, as we now must, that we will never address the tremendous achievement gaps in our schools and the resulting unemployment rates of our young adults, until we first focus on the first critical 5 years when the gap begins.

Perhaps our communities does not yet have the funds or the will to support universal preschool, but we can better address the early childhood need in an effective and efficient way by establishing an Office for the Young Child and especially an Early Childhood Coordinator. Having worked in nonprofits I know that collaboration and tracking of results is the key to success in programs. Currently we do not have a body or point person to organize this collaboration. This is a missed opportunity, as the early childhood field is currently receiving increased attention and there are new grants and systems initiatives popping up. Coordination and collaboration could be a key to bringing new monies to the city for early childhood services, for example. And could bring leadership to push for increased outcomes among children.

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We need to be a forward thinking community, on the cutting edge of new research and important trends. Please support this policy in full. Thank you for listening.

Tara Henriquez
Resident
573 Elizabeth Street
Pasadena, CA 91104
tara_henriquez@yahoo.com

Iraheta, Alba

From: cityclerk
Subject: FW: Early Child Development Policy for City of Pasadena

From: Ruth Anne Hammond [<mailto:ruthannehammond@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:55 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: Early Child Development Policy for City of Pasadena

Dear Mr. Jomsky and the Pasadena City Council,

I am writing to you and the members of the Council (please forward this to them) as a resident of Pasadena as well as an Infant/Family professional who works on the national and international level to improve the lives of infants. I want to urge you to support the City of Pasadena in providing excellent care and education to the infants and young children in our city. Overwhelmingly, research shows that the experiences children have in the birth-to-three stage (and even in the prenatal stage) will have a disproportionately strong influence on their brains and their health, both physical and mental, for the rest of their lives.

The City of Pasadena will thrive in the future only as well as its children are supported to reach their potential as productive and happy adults. I urge the Council to support the reinstatement of the position of City Child Care Coordinator. Our children deserve to have someone whose job it is to look out for their interests.

I will be in attendance at the City Council meeting on March 23rd. Thank you for your attention to these very important issues.

Very truly yours,
Ruth Anne Hammond, M.A.
Board of Directors
Resources for Infant Educators®
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March 20, 2015

Honorable Mayor and City Council
Pasadena City Hall
100 N. Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I appreciate this opportunity to write in support of the adoption of the Early Child Development Policy and the reinstatement and funding of the Early Child Development Coordinator position.

As President Obama said in his State of the Union address, "In today's economy, when having both parents in the workforce is an economic necessity for many families, we need affordable, high-quality childcare more than ever. It's not a nice-to-have -- it's a must-have. So it's time we stop treating childcare as a side issue, or as a women's issue, and treat it like the national economic priority that it is for all of us."

It is not only an economic issue for parents it is an economic issue for cities. Child care providers, many of whom work out of their homes as small business operators, contribute to the local economy. Local child care centers and family child care providers also enable Pasadena parents to work and therefore both support and contribute to the local economy.

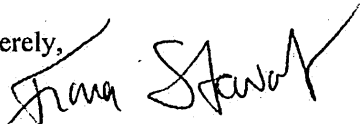
High quality early learning programs and services are also vital for the health and well-being of children and communities. Research continuously shows that high quality programs for children are especially critical to long-term brain development and future success of our city's youngest citizens.

You have a tremendous opportunity before you. You have a wonderfully crafted Early Child Development Policy to adopt, the reinstatement of the Early Child Development Coordinator position to approve and continue to fund, and the Early Child Development Policy to ratify.

As Warner and Morken (2013) state, "City managers can help bring long-term economic stability to their communities by encouraging family-friendly policies in physical design, promoting service integration across age groups, and broadening the net of public participation. In this way, cities can create vibrant, resilient communities for residents across the life cycle."

This is the right thing to do and Pasadena could lead the way as a child and family-friendly Early Learning community. I urge the City Council to support this vision for our City and its youngest children and their families.

Sincerely,



Fiona Stewart, M.A.
Pasadena, CA
Program Director, Child Care Alliance of Los Angeles
Adjunct Faculty, Pacific Oaks College

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www.laup.net

March 20, 2015

Dear City Council Members,

On behalf of LAUP, I am writing in support of the City of Pasadena's revised Child Care Policy. We applaud the city for prioritizing early care and education and for seeking to create a cohesive, family-centered system that supports the healthy development of the young child.

As a non-profit organization that has helped over 100,000 children receive a quality early childhood education, we know the importance of investing in early learning. Since 2005, LAUP has provided over 600 preschools with a combination of funding, coaching, quality assessments, fiscal advice and parent engagement assistance. After one year in an LAUP preschool, research shows children surpass the national average in math, literacy, attention and social skills.

We know that quality early care and education is not only key to kindergarten readiness, but that it yields important long-term benefits. For example, children who participate in quality preschool programs are more likely to earn a college degree, less likely to require special education classes and less likely to be involved in criminal activity. These results translate into economic returns to society from savings on criminal justice and social services.

Finally, prioritizing early care and education pays dividends for parents as well as for children. When parents have quality care for their children, they are more able to work or attend school, which in turn generates higher earnings and benefits the local economy.

The City of Pasadena's revised Child Care Policy represents an important step toward improving child outcomes and generating important societal benefits, and we urge the City Council to support this effort.

Sincerely,

Celia C. Ayala, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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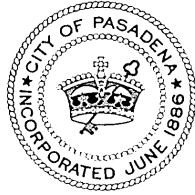
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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dear City Council Members,

We, as Pasadena residents and parents of young children, fully support the Early Child Development Policy. The health, safety, and well-being of our children is of utmost importance. All of Pasadena's children deserve preschool settings that serve healthy food and beverages and offer them a safe place to be physically active and healthy. We commend the City for making our children a priority and urge the City Council to pass this important policy.

Sincerely,

Pasadena Parents

Choose Health LA Kids Parent Action Group

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Jomsky, Mark

From: Doctordyno <doctordyno@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 4:37 PM
To: Jomsky, Mark
Subject: City Council Agenda Item #14, March 23,2015 Adoption of Proposed Revised Child Care Policy

Please distribute this email to members of the City Council. Thank you.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I urge you to:

1. Adopt the Early Child Development Policy in its entirety as written.
2. Adopt the resolution in support of developing an Early Learning City by the Year 2025.
3. Approve the reinstatement of the Early Childhood Development Coordinator Position and direct City staff to move forward on this immediately in consultation with a newly established Early Childhood Sub-Committee of the Human Services Commission, and ensure that the interview panel includes experts in early childhood from Pasadena and that those experts provide input into the development of the position opening announcement.
4. Direct City staff to establish an independent Office of the Young Child, with the understanding that this does not require additional fiscal resources beyond the position of the Early Childhood Development Coordinator. Additionally, the reporting line for that position is to be directly to the City Manager or Assistant City Manager and not through another City department. It is essential that the Coordinator serve as an integrator of early childhood issues throughout the various City departments in implementing the master plan and work in an independent manner without carrying the agenda of any single City department.

As Pasadena faces daunting challenges in crime, seeks to improve school performance of all children in the City, and desires a strong economy and enlightened citizenry, it is critical that the City address early childhood issues in a planned, coordinated, and coherent manner which will ultimately achieve reduced crime, children entering schools ready to learn, a strengthened economy from cost savings and improved real estate values, and a citizenry supportive of all families and children in the City because it is the right thing to do.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of these issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D.

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