

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 03/11/25

M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0226

LOG NAME: 22DAY CARE CENTERS ORDINANCE REVISION

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Amending Article XVII "Day Care Centers" of Chapter 16 "Health and Sanitation" to Rename Article XVII to "Child-Care Centers", Add and Remove Definitions, Assign the Environmental Service Department as the Regulatory Authority for Child-Care Centers, Update the City's Standards and Regulations Governing Child-Care Centers, and Adopt the Texas Health and Human Services Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance amending Article XVII "Day Care Centers" of Chapter 16 "Health and Sanitation" to rename Article XVII to "Child-Care Centers", add and remove definitions, assign the Environmental Services Department as the regulatory authority, update the City's standards and regulations governing child care centers, and adopt the Texas Health and Human Services Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this Mayor and Council Communication is for the City Council to consider adopting the attached ordinance which amends Article XVII "Day Care Centers" of Chapter 16 "Health and Sanitation" to rename Article XVII to "Child-Care Centers", add and remove definitions, assign Environmental Services Department as the regulatory authority, update city standards and regulations governing child-care centers, and adopt the state minimum standards for child-care centers.

On November 24, 1992, the City Council approved Ordinance Number 11209 to supplement state statutes and regulations governing day care centers.

As recently as August 2024, the Texas Department of Health and Human Services (TXHHS) Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers was revised. The existing Article XVII "Day Care Centers" does not meet the standards set by the current state statutes and regulations governing day care centers, now referred to as child-care centers. Adoption of the revised Article XVII "Child-Care Centers" will align the ordinance with state statutes and regulations and allow for seamless adoption of future revisions to meet the state minimum standards.

In adopting TXHHS Minimum Standards for Child-Care Centers by reference, the City is retaining higher regulatory standards implemented in 1992 which maintain 1) all child-care workers attend health, safety, and sanitation training every two years; 2) separate gender restrooms; 3) commercial grade kitchen equipment at child-care centers that prepare food.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

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