



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of San Diego Explores Potential Use of City-Owned Properties for Child Care Facilities

CITY SEEKING INPUT FROM PROVIDERS, AIMS TO USE INFORMATION FOR FUTURE SOLICITATION

SAN DIEGO – In an effort to address the shortage of affordable child care facilities, today the City of San Diego issued a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to child care providers asking for their input on how it can potentially establish child care facilities on City-owned properties.

“Affordable, quality child care has declined rapidly throughout the pandemic and has yet to fully recover. Through my Chairmanship of the City Council’s Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, I requested that staff look at all City-owned properties to see which one or ones could be used or transformed into a space for child care so that the City can be part of the solution to add more child care slots for families,” said City Councilmember Raul A. Campillo. **“I am thrilled to see us taking this next step to bring a knowledgeable partner on board to help narrow down which spaces are suitable for a daycare.”**

Last May, the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations Committee asked the City to identify properties owned by the City that could be turned into or made available for the construction of child care centers. The facilities assessment identified a list of 72 sites, consisting of 18 libraries, 12 office buildings and 42 Parks and Recreation facilities.

Information gathered from the RFI will assist the City in determining the requirements necessary to potentially establish viable child care facilities and help inform a future Request for Proposals (RFP). The RFI is expected to close on Friday, Sept. 16, and an RFP is expected to be issued next year. Anyone interested in submitting a response to the RFI is required to register on the City’s website by visiting sandiego.gov/purchasing/bids-contracts/vendorreg.

“San Diegans are in dire need of child care and, since the City has the ability to house these services, we believe it’s important we get involved” said Lucy Contreras, Deputy Director in the City’s Department of Real Estate and Airport Management. **“This Request for Information is**

essential in making sure we understand what is needed to ensure potential future child care operators will create practical and safe facilities.”

Since the San Diego Municipal Code does not allow child care facilities on Parks and Recreation land, on Monday, July 25, the City Council is expected to consider a potential ballot measure initiated by Councilmember Chris Cate that would allow voters to determine if they want that changed. If passed, residents would vote on it in this year’s November election.

“The need for child care has been well documented through various studies at both the state and local levels and the City of San Diego is committed to bringing more accessibility for child care to the community and to City employees,” said Andrea O’Hara, Executive Director for the City’s Office of Child and Youth Success. “That is why the City is providing, to City employees, an internal child care needs assessment that will compliment this imperative RFI released today. This RFI and the child care needs assessment will ultimately cultivate a care-friendly culture and support with the expansion of child care supply in the community.”

According to a report by the San Diego Workforce Partnership, 70% of San Diego families with children have all parents in the household working. The report also found that a San Diego family with two children and living on a median income can spend up to 40% of their monthly budget on child care.

The San Diego County YMCA reports, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, 522 of San Diego County’s providers have closed (approximately 12%.) As of March 2022, a number of those child care centers and providers had not yet reopened.

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