

Communication from Public

Name: Jessica Lall
Date Submitted: 06/25/2020 04:44 PM
Council File No: 20-0652
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter.



June 25, 2020

Councilmember Paul Krekorian
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Early Childhood Education Motion

Dear Councilmember Krekorian,

Established in 1924, Central City Association (CCA) is committed to advancing policies and projects that enhance Downtown Los Angeles' vibrancy and increase investment in the region. CCA is proud of Downtown's transformation from an office district into a dynamic mixed-use 24/7 urban environment, but we recognize that Downtown's long-term success can only be sustained if it grows into a complete community with fundamental neighborhood infrastructure like child care facilities and schools. Additionally, we know there is a great need for child care across our city and the COVID-19 pandemic has only further exacerbated this need. Supporting child care can also be a path to economic opportunity for historically disadvantaged residents and communities, as child care owners, operators and workers are disproportionately women, particularly women of color. **For these reasons, we are pleased to express our strong support for your motion to streamline approval processes for Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities and offer additional ideas for expanding opportunities for ECE.**

In May of this year, we published a white paper titled "[Expanding Opportunities for Childcare and Schools in DTLA.](#)" In our white paper, we provide recommendations to foster the inclusion of ECE and school facilities in new developments and existing buildings, as well as the partnerships needed to advance these goals. Your motion would implement two of our recommendations: creating a pilot program with the California Department of Social Services (DSS) that would allow child care providers to meet their outdoor space requirements by using nearby public parks, and allowing child care as a by-right use instead of requiring a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). We are excited to see these recommendations moving forward and believe they will lower the barrier to entry for ECE providers in Los Angeles.

Building on these important steps, we would like to offer additional ideas to help foster more ECE facilities and schools in the spirit of your motion. These ideas are informed by our robust engagement with a wide range of partners on this critical issue. We request your consideration of the following:

- Create by-right processes for elementary or K-12 schools (especially in Community Plan areas where they have been identified as public benefits like the DTLA 2040 Community Plan) as these are also often inhibited by CUP and other regulatory requirements
- Explore the use of City-run libraries as ECE facilities as Los Angeles County is currently considering for County-run libraries



- Enhance the incentives currently offered for the inclusion of child care facilities on-site in private development projects through the City's Affordable Housing Density Bonus program, and expanding these incentives to the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) program
- Enable more flexible land uses for buildings to be converted to ECE and school facilities, potentially via the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance

We believe these additional actions would further reduce barriers and expand opportunities for ECE and school facilities. We are committed and ready partners on this effort, and we're grateful for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J Lall", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Jessica Lall
President & CEO,
Central City Association of Los Angeles