

From: [Eileen Monahan](#)
To: [City Clerk Group](#)
Subject: Letter for Nov 5 Council meeting
Date: Monday, November 04, 2019 10:23:22 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[Nov 4.19LetterEMonahan.docx](#)

Good morning – please find attached a letter for the November 5, 2019 City Council meeting.

Thank you
Eileen Monahan



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To: Goleta City Council
RE: Child Care Ordinance
Date: November 4, 2019
From: Eileen Monahan

Honorable Paula Perotte and Goleta City Council Members,

I would like to commend you, the Goleta City Council, the Goleta Planning Commission and the amazing Planning Department Staff for creating the model child care policies that the Council will vote on November 5.

I have witnessed the process from the very beginning, starting with the former iteration of child care policies for the City through the development of these policies - the result of a very thorough ordinance revision process. Throughout, I have observed the Board, Commission and Staff listen to constituents, research best practices and community need, and respond quickly and positively to those of us who have provided input.

The results of these ordinance changes will be immediate. As a child care advocate and consultant, I have worked with a number of child care operators who have explored various properties in the City of Goleta for child care sites over the years. Not one has been successful, mostly because the long and costly land use process made the acquisition of the properties and the securing of financing too arduous. To be clear, this challenge is true for many of the other cities and counties across the state. But Goleta has risen to the challenge by creating policies geared towards developing child care and removing barriers, rather than allowing the burden of development to rest on the shoulders of child care operators. At least 3 current operators will be actively renewing their search, knowing that these policies will help them create more spaces for Goleta. Soon, children and their parents will have access to more high quality child care that they so desperately need.

Looking forward, please consider:

1. A child care plan for the city, starting with mapping of existing facilities and need, then developing strategies to ensure that there is sufficient child care for all who need it in the city.
2. An in-lieu fee program for development projects – many examples exist.
3. Other ways to encourage child care, such as specific support at the front desk and on the website, walking through the new process with child care operators and identifying any remaining issues, and considering child care in any new development.
4. Ways to facilitate church and business partnerships with child care.
5. An additional Element in the General Plan, specific to child care.
6. Sharing your model policies with other local cities and the county and offer support as they amend their policies.

Thank you for your diligence, your concern for Goleta's children and families, and your interest in community input. I am proud to be a Goleta resident.

Best,
Eileen Monahan
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