

## Goleta Zoning Ordinance Workshop

March 12, 2019

My name is Eileen Monahan. I am an early care and education consultant, formerly with First 5 Santa Barbara, a Board member of the Isla Vista Youth Projects, and a Goleta resident for over 35 years. Today I am here as a resident but bring my knowledge of child care facility development with me to comment on the Draft New Zoning Ordinance. I unfortunately missed Workshops 1 and 2, and some of my comments relate to the topics addressed in those meetings.

High quality licensed child care provides a strong foundation for children, and allows their parents to find work, and be productive at their jobs. In this area, there is just 1 licensed space for every 2 children ages 0-5 who need care (parents working or going to school), and just 1 for every 5 babies. We desperately need more spaces for infants and toddlers, as well as for older children. The federal and state budgets are dramatically expanding opportunities for child care service and facilities, and in order to take advantage of those opportunities for Goleta residents and employees, it is critical that you adopt the least restrictive requirements and processes, and limit or eliminate cost, to allow for the development of child care needed by people who live and work here.

The adventure of starting or expanding a child care program is herculean, but critical for the city, and fortunately, there are heroes willing to do the work. The state regulates child care centers and family child care homes – the environment, staffing, ratios, age groupings of children, etc. It is quite thorough, so the operation of the program is not something you need to consider. Through your zoning ordinance as well as through other opportunities, though, such as the permitting process and fee schedule, as well as the General Plan, you can directly affect the child care supply in a positive way. When this project was in its infancy, I met with planning staff and provided some input to them directly, and during the hearings. The city is fortunate to have the planning staff they have, because they really listened and adopted some important changes, as reflected in this current draft. There are still some things, which are perhaps bolder but more impactful, that can be done to expand child care in the city.

Here are my recommendations

### 1. Family Child Care

- a. Allow Large Family Child Care by right, as with Small – this simple and efficient change can dramatically expand capacity and save the City and providers a lot of time and money. The Land Use application and Permitting process is a challenge for providers – it is complex, takes time and can be expensive. As the State limits conditions that can be applied locally, providers are able to comply with the ordinance requirements. Many California cities, such as San Diego, San Francisco and San Jose, as well as our own Santa Maria and Lompoc, allow large family child care homes by right and do not find this creates problems, but rather has encouraged the development of many new spaces.
- b. Ensure all staff know that family child care is not affected by Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions of a neighborhood association.

### 2. Centers

- a. Allow all centers by right, or with a Ministerial or Minor Conditional Use Permit

- b. Allow child care centers in the General Commercial zone.
  - c. Require a CUP in Intersection Commercial with CUP, if necessary.
  - d. Consider an ordinance that allows small child care centers by right when they have met specific criteria, including the number of children who may attend.
  - e. Parking for centers –There is a constant battle for space between cars and children. During the development process, space that should be available for children – the facility and/or the playground, is required for parking of cars, and other regulations such as setbacks and parking lot design. Consider parking in this light and create the smallest footprint possible. Allow for modification plans from the applicant such as parking based on drop off/pick up schedules, age ranges of children, and number of siblings, that are specific to the program. Encourage the use of loading/unloading zones and temporary parking places in lieu of permanent spaces, as well as off-site parking for staff within a specified number of feet from the facility.
3. General
- a. Streamline the process and reduce or eliminate costs for anyone who is willing to do what it takes to start or expand a child care center or family child care home in Goleta.
  - b. Offer incentives or encouragement to all child care applicants, as well as to developers to include child care space in their nonresidential or residential projects.
  - c. Use the terms Family Child Care and Child Care Facility instead of Day Care – this distinguishes child care from adult day care and pet day care and is the more common and up to date term.
  - d. Designate a City staff person to be the child care expert, to be knowledgeable about child care development, the City’s policies, and the process.
  - e. Plan for child care – study it and include it in discussions throughout the City government, and specifically in the Planning department. At this point, it is in the hands of individual child care providers to see the need and respond, navigating through all the processes and regulations. The City can support its citizens by taking the leadership on this process and creating a plan for child care for Goleta.

Thank you for this thoughtful process, and for considering my recommendations.

Sincerely,

Eileen Monahan

**CHAPTER 12-29A. LARGE FAMILY DAY CARE HOMES IN SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCES**

**Section 12-29A.01. Intent.**

This chapter is intended to provide for large family day care homes when located on property occupied by a single-family residence and which are clearly incidental to the use of the dwelling and do not change the character thereof or adversely affect the uses permitted in the zone of which it is a part. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.02. Permitted.**

Large family day care homes, in accordance with the regulations contained herein, are permitted on property occupied by a single-family residence within the City. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.03. Applicability of requirements.**

The requirements set out in this chapter apply to all large family day care homes within the City. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.04. Statement acknowledging requirements.**

Each large family day care home provider in the City shall sign and file a statement indicating his or her awareness of City regulations applicable to the operation of large family day care homes. The provider shall file with the Community Development Department a copy of his or her current state license to operate a large family day care home. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.05. Parking requirements.**

Parking spaces are to be provided as set forth in Chapter 12.32 of this title for single-family residences. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.06. Operators and employees.**

The provider operating the large family day care home must live in the home. Additional caregivers, required under the State [Health and Safety Code](#), need not live in the home. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.07. Noise.**

Activities in the home must comply with the noise regulations contained in Chapter 5-5 of this Code. All play areas shall be located behind a solid wall or fence separating the area from neighboring residences. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

**Section 12-29A.08. Code compliance.**

The provider shall comply with all other provisions of this title applicable to single-family dwellings, including without limitation those related to signs and landscaping. (Ord. 91-23 § 2, eff. 10/31/91)

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