



Austin Public Health



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Stephanie Hayden, LMSW, Director 

DATE: January 28, 2019

SUBJECT: City Council Agenda Items #16 and #17 on January 31, 2019

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background on the Recommendations for Actions (Agenda items #16 and #17) to eliminate the Austin Public Health's fee requirements for general environment/licensing inspections and food establishment permits for qualified high quality child care centers.

In September 2017, Council approved Resolution No. 20170928-057 directing staff to identify strategies that encourage affordable, high quality child care centers. Through the work of this resolution, Austin Public Health staff began evaluating the current fee schedules and potential fee waivers that may be applied for food service establishment permits and inspections.

In May 2018, Austin Public Health presented to Council's Health and Human Services Committee. The Committee expressed support for a proposal to exempt certain social service providers, including high quality child care centers that accept subsidies from having to pay food establishment permit fees.

In October 2018, Council approved Resolution No. 20181004-036, directing staff to identify potential fee waivers that may be applied to expenses associated with operating high quality child care centers across City departments. Since this work was already underway in Austin Public Health, staff decided to continue moving the proposals forward for full Council consideration in January 2019.

Austin Public Health continues to work with other departments on additional strategies to encourage affordable, high quality child care centers, and staff will bring these recommendations to Council by March 2019.

Cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Donna Sundstrom, Assistant Director