



Liz Keating
Councilmember

Motion

WE MOVE that the administration provide a report detailing all childcare programs facilitated by the Cincinnati Recreation Commission, including, but not limited to day camps, mini camps, and CRC-led before and after school care at Cincinnati Public Schools. These reports should include how many students are currently enrolled, how many were waitlisted and/or denied, which locations and age groups have the highest demand, and how many could be potentially accepted given certain investments such as increased staffing and supplies.

WE FURTHER MOVE that this report includes detailed costs to expand CRC-led childcare programs, on-going operating costs, recruitment and retention bonuses to meet staffing requirements, and other costs related to maintaining capacity levels to meet the existing and anticipated future demand.

WE FURTHER MOVE that this report is released at the same time as the report requested in Motion 202302108 and the funding appropriated for the Financial Freedom program is used as the source for expanding access to CRC-led childcare programs. Childcare is one of the most vulnerable industries and is the gateway to employment for Cincinnati families while supporting financial stability and revenue generation for the City.

****In addition, the report should include the following: fees for CRC's childcare programs and services, and the income levels of the families served in each program, and barriers to participation, including but not limited to transportation.**

COMMITTEES

Member: Budget & Finance • Equitable Growth & Housing • Public Safety & Governance

Statement

Many Cincinnati parents and caregivers - and particularly women - are unable to enter or re-enter the workforce due to a lack of childcare. According to the Office of Performance and Data Analytics research, 1 in 10 Cincinnati residents consider a lack of childcare as a barrier to job mobility, with the largest concern being access to childcare for second and third shift workers. Many Cincinnati childcare centers are not operating at full capacity due to staffing shortages and consistent turnover. Several of Cincinnati's largest employers face labor shortages because their employees and potential employees lack access to childcare.

The childcare programs by Cincinnati Recreation Commission (CRC) provide a safe, structured, healthy, and fun environment for kids before and after school and during the summer break. The need for a safe place for kids outside of school is critical as the City experiences a rise in youth gun violence.

With the change of the bussing logistics for CPS schools, some CPS schools start as late as 9:30 and others dismiss as early as 2:10. These school schedules are not conducive to working parents and caregivers. In order to alleviate the stress and demand of managing a full-time job and lack of childcare, the City must expand CRC before and after care programs at Cincinnati Public Schools to accommodate all families who request the service.

Childcare is a key component to combating poverty and setting our children up for future success. For parents and caregivers, childcare is the biggest barrier to landing, maintaining, and succeeding in a job. It opens the door for paychecks to come home to families. Without stable childcare, maintaining a job is virtually impossible.

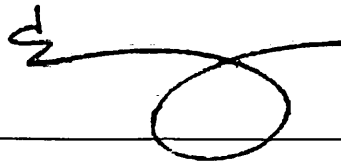
Society still functions as if every family has two parents - one who is the breadwinner and one who stays home to raise the children. This is not reality for the vast majority of Cincinnatians and the City must operate with a different mentality and expand its childcare programs to meet demand. The City has the ability to have a positive impact on the childcare industry through CRC-led programs and help parents and caregivers maintain employment.

The childcare services provided by CRC create revenue for the City of Cincinnati, maximizing the benefit to the City when the programs are operating at full capacity. Revenue-generating programs are critical for the financial health of the City.

When barriers to childcare are removed, more parents and caregivers can go to work, which means more paychecks going home to build financial stability for families. An increase in the Cincinnati workforce will grow Cincinnati's tax base without an additional tax burden on Cincinnati families.

Childcare workers are underpaid in an industry with extremely thin margins. This investment could provide much needed supplemental income to childcare professionals, helping these workers in an economy with inflation and rising cost of living. Supporting childcare workers helps provide working parents the flexibility to be active contributors to the economy.

With an anticipated budget deficit in the next fiscal year, Council should focus on immediate revenue-generating programs, economic growth, and tax base expansion. This program would impact all three, creating a larger positive impact on the City's financial health.



Councilmember Liz Keating

BF

GC

CAV