BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Early Childhood Council

Recommendation Number: 20200311-3a:
Early Childhood Council Representative on the Joint Inclusion Committee

WHEREAS, only 39% of children from households with low income begin kindergarten ready to learn and succeed; and

WHEREAS, only 34% of children under the age of four from households with low income are receiving any early learning services at all; and

WHEREAS, 90% of children under age six from households experiencing poverty are children of color; and

WHEREAS, socioeconomic and racial disparities affect access to affordable, high-quality early care and education, which is a key support both for healthy child development and for working parents in need of child care; and

WHEREAS, early care and education teachers, most of whom are women of color, earn relatively low wages and have often have limited or no benefits, despite the critical role these professionals play in supporting children's early learning from birth to age five when 90% of brain development occurs; and

WHEREAS, having a representative from the Early Childhood Council on the Joint Inclusion Committee would allow the City to more effectively work to increase equitable access and outcomes for young children, their families, and the early childhood workforce in Austin;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Early Childhood Council encourages the Austin City Council to include representation from the Early Childhood Council on the Joint Inclusion Committee.

Date of Approval: March 11, 2020

Record of the vote: Unanimous on a 9 – 0 vote

Attest: Rachel Farley