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Contact: Crane Friedman | cfriedman@sandiego.gov | 619-629-7342

Councilmember Campillo Brings Child Care Leaders Together at City Hall for Key Hearing on Cost, Access, and Future of Care in San Diego

[LINK TO PHOTOS AND B-ROLL](#)

SAN DIEGO — At today's City Council Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting, Councilmember Raul Campillo convened leaders from across the childcare sector. Together, they presented on the true cost of care, access challenges for families, and strategies to strengthen San Diego's childcare system.

Experts highlighted the heavy financial strain families face, [with childcare in the City of San Diego costing as much as \\$572 per week](#), and called for urgent action to expand access and affordability. Presenters also shared updates on the region's *Child Care Blueprint*, a countywide plan to support families, providers, and young children.

"In no world should childcare cost more than a college tuition," said Councilmember Raul Campillo. "I'm grateful to our partners for helping us lay out both the challenges and the opportunities ahead for childcare in San Diego. Childcare is a necessity for working families and for the future of our city's economy; it should be treated like a community amenity, not a luxury."

Led by the Children First Collective, a coalition of many organizations advocating for child care in San Diego, the panel of presenters included:

- **Alicia Jurek, PhD**, Economist, Policy & Innovation Center – on the economic impacts of childcare.
- **Tara Ryan**, Director, City of San Diego Office of Child and Youth Success – introduction of the *Child Care Blueprint*.
- **Sarina Lynn**, Educational Enrichment Systems, Inc. – workforce development progress.

- **Julia Loman**, Neighborhood House Association – improving family access.
- **Courtney Baltiyskyy**, Children First Collective San Diego – recommendations for the City of San Diego’s next steps.

“Today’s conversation underscored what families already know: our economy cannot function when families are forced to choose between work and caring for their children,” said Courtney Baltiyskyy, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy for YMCA of San Diego County.

“Too many San Diego parents are paying thousands per month to keep their kids in safe, quality care. Others are unable to find childcare slots at all. Because child care is a public good that’s not publicly funded, the high price parents pay doesn’t even begin to cover what child care providers should earn for this essential work. We need to keep working together at every level of government to expand access and make childcare affordable.”

“The Child Care Blueprint gives us a roadmap, but implementation will take courage and collaboration,” said Erin Hogeboom, Director of San Diego for Every Child. “Families, providers, and advocates are all aligned: we cannot afford to treat child care as an afterthought. By investing in quality early care and education, we’re investing in San Diego’s future — healthier kids, stronger families, and a more equitable economy.”

The discussion underscored several key strategies already underway, including new workforce investment programs, permitting reforms to streamline childcare facility development, and expanded resources for families seeking care. Moving forward, Campillo emphasized that the City must continue to partner with the County, providers, and advocates to make high-quality child care affordable and accessible to all San Diegans.

About Councilmember Raul Campillo

Councilmember Raul Campillo proudly represents the Seventh Council District of the City of San Diego and serves as the Chair of the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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