



COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT

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CONTACT: Ansermio Jake Estrada
(619) 227-0421 | EstradaAJ@SanDiego.Gov

COUNCILMEMBER WARD AND CONCERNED GROUPS IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO CHILD CARE

SAN DIEGO, CA – Councilmember Chris Ward (District Three) issued the following statement after leading a roundtable discussion with policy makers, service providers, funders, and researchers to identify opportunities to improve access to affordable, quality child care in San Diego.

“Today was focused on how we can make San Diego a more inclusive environment for working families by supporting and improving access to child care systems in our city. There are several barriers that families face when looking for affordable, quality child care services for their children. The pressure this creates is detrimental for families already struggling with high housing costs,” said Councilmember Ward.

A 2018 University of San Diego child care study found San Diego County lacks enough licensed child care services to meet the need of working families. In 2017, 44% of working families had access to a licensed child care facility. Meaning approximately 150,000 kids aged 0-5 were in need of child care, with only 83,000 spots available – about half of what is needed.

Working families in San Diego County pay more for child care than the rest of California with the average cost reaching \$18, 518 for infant care and \$12,647 for pre-school care. The cost of providing this care is even higher, reaching up to \$31,000 a year to provide quality child care.

“We have an obligation to address the lack of child care services city-wide and develop economic opportunity for all our communities. The City of San Diego must lead on this issue, working toward solutions that include identifying adequate space that can handle child care programs, entering into creative partnerships with the US Navy and other stakeholders, and pursuing policy that will increase access to child care.

“Numerous challenges were raised in today’s discussion, but I intend to explore policy solutions and introduce them at the Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations committee as specific policy actions.”

For more information or to interview Councilmember Ward, contact Ansermio Jake Estrada at (619) 227-0421 or EstradaAJ@sandiego.gov.

Councilmember Chris Ward represents San Diego’s Third Council District including communities of Downtown, Little Italy, Bankers Hill, Mission Hills, Middletown, Hillcrest, University Heights, North Park, Normal Heights, Old Town, South Park, and Golden Hill; while also serving as Chair of the Regional Task Force on the Homeless.

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