

I am writing regarding the Council's potential action on a Resolution approving Executive Order No. 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order. It is my understanding that the City Council is considering reducing capacity at childcare centers to 50%, while allowing opening of escape rooms/game rooms and ice rinks and expanded attendance at outdoor sports events.

It is unconscionable to consider expanding opening of leisure facilities and activities while reducing childcare center capacity. Not only does a policy of reducing childcare disproportionately impact women, it hurts the entire economy by forcing parents (usually mothers) out of the workforce. It also does not make good public health sense: childcare centers have been operating throughout the pandemic here and in many places in the country. We have good data that childcare centers are not an important source of spread of COVID-19. Indoor leisure activities, bars, and restaurants are much higher risk in this regard, and expanding their opening will prolong this pandemic for our entire community. Please do not enact this ill-advised and harmful executive order.