

(Executive Order 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order)

I am writing regarding the Council's potential action on a Resolution approving Executive Order No. 122-20, COVID-19 Local Order on 11/05/2020. It is my understanding that the City Council is considering continuing to follow the phase two guidelines for capacity limits that are currently in effect for all child care providers in Montgomery County.

Our daycare has been successfully operating at the capacities specified by the county and keeping our children safe during this COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are having a hard time managing the business with the limited capacities.

Parents continue working and contributing to the economy, while our children (i.e., the next generation) are thriving and developing to their potential within safe environments. Reducing/limiting daycare capacity could force working parents to quit their jobs or take unpaid leaves of absences. Such policies of limiting childcare also affects working parents, which hurts the economy and families, for generations to come.

Daycare is essential for children, parents, families – societies. Childcare and Early Childhood Educators are essential workers, and the services they provide maximize chances for economy recovery and progression both short-term and long-term. Reopening non-essential businesses such as escape rooms, while simultaneously reducing the capacity of essential businesses such as daycare is unacceptable. Please consider keeping daycare at 100% capacity.

Thank you.