

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: November 14, 2017 **ITEM NUMBER:** 11.A.
SECOND READING: N/A
TYPE OF ITEM: General Business
PRESENTED BY: Brien Schumacher, Principal Planner, 303-651-8764

SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE: Amendments to the Land Development Code to Update Child Care Facilities Uses to be Consistent with State Regulations

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The group living and child care definitions and use categories in the Land Development Code have not been substantially amended since the last major update in 2001 and some of the definitions, such as residential rehabilitation or treatment facilities, predate the 2001 update. State licensing for child care facilities has changed over time and some of the state licenses are not consistent with City definitions and use categories.

The City is planning to update the group living and child care definitions and use categories. Most of the changes will occur with the Land Development Code update that is currently underway. One change that is proposed sooner is to add a residential child care facility definition and use category. Staff has received a request from a company that is applying for a state license for a residential child care facility.

Residential child care facility means a facility licensed by the state of Colorado to provide twenty-four hour group care and treatment for five or more children operated under private, public, or nonprofit sponsorship. Residential child care facility includes community-based residential child care facilities, therapeutic residential child care facilities, and psychiatric residential treatment facilities.

The Land Development Code currently does not have a definition or use category that accurately fits this type of child care licensing. Under the current zoning districts, this use is proposed in the business-light industrial (BLI) zoning district. If Council is okay proceeding with this amendment, staff will introduce an ordinance for consideration.

- COUNCIL OPTIONS:**
1. Direct staff to introduce an ordinance to amend the code to add the residential child care facilities definition and use category.
 2. Take no action at this time.

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS: Option 1

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION: NA



BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS: A company is proposing to locate a residential child care facility in Longmont that will operate under the umbrella of the family help and wellness centers. It is a 24-hour residential care facility, licensed by the state of Colorado, for teenage boys with a history of substance abuse. The average stay is approximately three to six months. The program includes individual and group therapy, an academic school-based curriculum approved by the State of Colorado, field trips, and equine therapy. The program is structured and the children are never left unsupervised. The staff includes licensed counselors and teachers. Participation in the program is voluntary and arranged through the child's parents or caregivers. The facility will not be run from a residence, but rather from a commercial building with a commercial kitchen and the capacity to accommodate a larger number of children.

ATTACHMENTS: NA