COMMITTEE: 7/25 D.P. 7-0
FINAL: 8/1 9-0

RESOLUTION 90-23

TO ADOPT A CHILD CARE POLICY FOR THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Child Care Advisory Council was commissioned by Mayor Tomilea Allison on September 29, 1989, to develop a child care policy for the community; and

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Child Care Advisory Council has gathered information through a process emphasizing broad public input, including distributing questionnaires, holding three public forums, and actively involving numerous representatives of community organizations, employees, child care providers and parents; and

WHEREAS, the median age in Monroe County is the lowest in the state at 25.3, making the need for more child care services even more urgent; and

WHEREAS, women make up 53 percent of the Monroe County workforce causing the number of children needing day care to increase; and

WHEREAS, there is a direct correlation between unsupervised children, juvenile delinquency, truancy, remedial education costs and teenage pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, more than one in ten of the babies born in Monroe County are born to teenage mothers, and few programs exist to assist them with child care while they finish school and become trained to join the workforce; and

WHEREAS, quality child care is expensive, costing the average Bloomington family $3,536 per year per child, and the median family income is $12,000; and

WHEREAS, in Monroe County, the number of families living below the poverty level has increased to 638, which includes 1,095 children; and

WHEREAS, in Monroe County, 348 children remain on the Title XX waiting list for subsidized child care, while only 202 children are currently being served by the Title XX program; and

WHEREAS, child care is an economic issue; and

WHEREAS, employers will not become involved until there are incentives by governing agencies or employee groups for employers to participate in finding child care solutions. Without the participation of the private sector, the child care industry cannot keep pace with the need; and

WHEREAS, child care requires a diversity of choice for parents; and

WHEREAS, some types of child care will never be affordable without subsidy -- specifically, evening, night and weekend care; infant care; child care for teen parents; child care for low income children; care for children with special needs; care for children who are ill; child care in or near the workplace where commercial space is too expensive; and child care for parents with rotating shifts; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana funds child care programs through dwindling federal dollars which must be stretched further and further each year, placing an increasing burden on our city and county;

WHEREAS, the number of licensed child care slots available in Monroe County meets less than half of the demonstrated need for child care services, leaving more than two thousand children without adequate care; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

1. The Common Council adopts the Bloomington Child Care Advisory Council Report, attached hereto and made a part hereof, as the Child Care Policy Statement of the City of Bloomington.

2. The Common Council endorses the efforts of the Child Care Advisory Council to implement the recommendations within the Child Care Policy Statement.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 1st day of August, 1990.

Iris Kiesling

IRIS KIESLING, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this 2nd day of August, 1990.

Tomilea Allison

TOMILEA ALLISON, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

Patricia Williams

PATRICIA WILLIAMS, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This Resolution, sponsored by Councilmember Fernandez, adopts the Bloomington Child Care Advisory Council Report as the Child Care Policy Statement of the City of Bloomington and endorses the efforts of the Child Care Advisory Council to implement the recommendations contained therein.

Signed copies to:
Human Resources Dept
Mayor
Controller
State Legislators (Kruzan, Simpson, Balls
7 x McCloskey
Lee Hamilton

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The City of Bloomington should continue to support and expand child care programs by the Day Care Resources Office.**

   Recommended actions:

   * Coordinate training and continuing education programs promoting the care of children in Monroe County.

   * The Day Care Resources Office should provide the "20 Hour Child Care Training Class" at a minimum of once a year.

   * The Day Care Resources Office should continue to provide the one-day training program on recruitment of family day care homes.

   * The Day Care Resources Office should commission a new Child Care Needs Assessment.

   * The Day Care Resources Director should be up-graded to full-time status.

   * Encourage unlicensed, yet legal, facilities to voluntarily register with the Day Care Resource Office and include these facilities in the Monroe County Child Care Guide.

   * The City should continue to support and promote the Child Care Advisory Council.

   * Implementation of the City of Bloomington Child Care Policy Statement should be coordinated by the Child Care Advisory Council.

2. **The City of Bloomington should coordinate an effort to assist potential child care providers' efforts to get through the regulatory processes.**

   Recommended action:

   * Building, Zoning, Fire and Health regulations should be reprinted in a new format and combined with other codes to create a single guide to starting and operating child care facilities in our community.

3. **The City should encourage the development of new facilities necessary to meet community's critical child care needs. Critical needs include infant care, sick care, special care, and 24 hour care.**

Recommended actions:

* Establish an incentive loan fund to help finance start up costs for facilities designed to meet the community's critical needs. The City of Bloomington should appropriate $100,000 for the purpose of establishing this incentive loan program by designating a portion of the Industrial Incentive Loan Fund.

* Provide incentives for licensed care givers integrating children with special needs into their facility.

4. **Employers need to be encouraged to take a leadership role in addressing the community's child care needs.**

Recommended actions:

* The City should actively promote the development of employer consortiums for the purpose of providing child care facilities.

* Economic development professionals should be briefed on the child care issues existing in the community; and, their assistance sought for helping new and existing industries meet the child care services needs of their employees.

* Educate employers regarding child care issues affecting the community's workforce.

* Investigate incentives for industrial and commercial developments which include child care facilities.

5. **Additional city and county resources should be allocated for child care services.**

Recommended actions:

* Research the feasibility of establishing a child care funding system to assist low income families. The City of Bloomington should budget $100,000 for FY 1991 to implement such a program.

* Fees collected through the Day Care Resources Office should not be placed in the general fund. A separate account should be created for the purpose of receiving these fees. Fee revenue should be utilized for child care services exclusively.

* Encourage cooperation and coordination of efforts by SCCAP, Head Start, JTPA, and Township officials addressing child care needs of low income citizens.

6. **The City of Bloomington should maintain a leadership position on child care issues in the community and the State of Indiana.**

Recommended actions:

* Lobby local representatives to the Indiana General Assembly and the United States Congress to support the Family Leave Act and other legislation supporting children, and to provide incentives to employers for employee child care benefits.

* Develop and maintain an information network for issues at the State and Federal levels affecting families and children.

* Child care professionals should be encouraged to participate on local boards and commissions.

7. **The City of Bloomington should develop a progressive set of zoning policies regarding child care in order that the child care industry be able to respond to the growing need for facilities throughout the community.**

Recommended actions:

* Zoning and building codes which make it problematic to develop programs in pre-existing buildings should be reviewed to encourage the development of child care programs downtown.

* To promote child care programs in or near the workplace, policies should encourage placement of child care facilities in office buildings, commercial and industrial areas.

* The zoning ordinance should be reviewed and modified as necessary to encourage placement of child care facilities throughout the community, particularly in and/or near residential areas.