



**City Council Meeting**  
**Public Comments**  
**August 9, 2023**

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [angie.gonzalez526@outlook.org](mailto:angie.gonzalez526@outlook.org)

Council Meeting Date 08/09/2023

Item # Public Comment

Subject Trash Cans

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Angie Gonzalez

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Hello Mayor White and Honorable City Council Memembers. This is my formal request to ask if you could consider placing permanent trash cans along the bike trail adjacent to the canal. Even with the efforts currently in action to maintain this area, trash seems to find itself all over the trail. Your consideration is much appreciated, thank you all for your time.

Item 11

Dear Councilmembers,

As a dedicated working mother of two young children, I am delighted to express my support for the Council's proactive efforts to address the pressing issue of affordable, high-quality child care. It brings me great joy to witness the Council's commitment to investing in programs and services that will significantly ease the challenges faced by working parents in accessing safe and reliable care for their beloved children. This forward-thinking approach will undoubtedly enhance the well-being of families like mine and contribute to the overall prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Mary Brown

Item 11

Honorable Members of City Council,

On behalf of my family, I'd like to share my heartfelt appreciation to you all for your commitment to enhancing the lives of families in Escondido. I've raised 3 children here, and while I love most things about the community, my family's biggest struggle was always finding quality child care. We are thrilled and grateful for your consideration of the WeeCare BOOST program. Escondido faces a severe child care shortage, and your support would make a significant positive impact on our community.

Thank you,  
Jim Rodriguez

Item 11

Hello Escondido City Council -

I am a recently retired childcare, early education advocate! Since the start of the pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult for parents to find care options. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of childcare as an essential service to support working families and the local economy. Many families struggle to balance work and caregiving responsibilities due to various childcare centers closing as a direct result of COVID. We need to ensure that families have access to the resources and support they need to be successful and avoid homelessness. I urge the City Council to prioritize investments in childcare services to support the health and wellbeing of our community. This could include initiatives such as increasing funding for childcare providers, exploring subsidy programs and partnerships, expanding access to high-quality early childhood education programs, and partnering with businesses to provide childcare benefits for working parents.

**I urge the City Council to consider the following initiatives:**

- 1. Increasing Funding:** Allocating additional funds to support childcare providers can help ensure their sustainability and improve the availability of affordable options for parents.
- 2. Subsidy Programs and Partnerships:** Exploring subsidy programs and partnerships with community organizations can help lower the financial burden on families and increase access to quality childcare.
- 3. Early Childhood Education Programs:** Expanding access to high-quality early childhood education programs can provide children with a strong foundation for their future development and academic success, ending generational poverty.
- 4. Business Partnerships:** Collaborating with local businesses to provide childcare benefits for working parents can promote a better work-life balance and attract and retain a talented workforce.

By prioritizing these investments and initiatives, the City Council can take action to improve access to affordable and quality childcare services in Escondido. [Various service providers already offer these services throughout the U.S. in partnership with government entities.](#)

I hope that the Council recognizes the importance of supporting working families and the positive impact that accessible childcare can have on our community's overall well-being. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jones

Item 11

Hi there,

I am writing to express my gratitude for the support coming from the city. As a child care provider, I have witnessed firsthand the struggles that families go through in order to find quality child care that fits their needs and budget. It is essential that our city recognize the importance of providing safe and nurturing environments for children to grow and thrive. Access to high-quality early childhood education and care not only benefits children but also supports working families by allowing parents to pursue their careers. The struggle to find child care was one of the main reasons I started my daycare, which is now the main source of income for my family. I am so proud of my City taking initiative to support child care workers! I have not heard of cities offering this kind of support... Go Escondido!!

All the best,

Linda Davis

Item 11

Hi City Council,

As a single mother, I want to express my deep appreciation for the consideration of funding initiatives and programs to address the crucial issue of affordable and accessible child care in Escondido. I understand the challenges faced by working parents like myself, and I firmly believe that investing in these initiatives will bring significant positive changes to our community.

By allocating resources towards improving child care services, the Council has the opportunity to empower families and create a more supportive environment for parents who strive to balance their work and parenting responsibilities. I am confident that these efforts will alleviate the immense stress and overwhelming burden that many of us face on a daily basis.

I am grateful to the Council for recognizing the importance of addressing this pressing issue and taking steps to make a positive difference in the lives of families like mine. Your commitment to investing in affordable and accessible child care will undoubtedly lead to a brighter future for our community.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication and time devoted to this matter.

With gratitude,  
Daniella Miller

Item 11

To whom it may concern,

My name is Christina Garcia and I call Escondido home, the place where I live with my husband Christopher and two children, 5-year old and 8-year-old. I am also the owner of a home daycare business. I have been in the field for 15 years and in my recent location for over 2 years. I am currently licensed and care for 5 children.

Being a family child care provider is very rewarding because I get to see the impact of the work that I do within my community. I get to see families and their children grow-up and be part of their lives. Last year I was invited to the high school graduation of one of the children that I used to take care of when they were little. Knowing that I have contributed to this family in a positive way is what keeps me motivated to stay open. As a mother, being able to impact my community and take care of my own family, as well as being able to financially contribute to my household is important for me. Being able to raise my children and be here for my family is the best part.

One of the biggest challenges I face, and many other of my fellow childcare providers, are low wages and compensations. I currently have one family, and I would like to take more families, but the rates are so low and it does not allow me to operate my business efficiently. If my husband did not work, I would not be able to keep my doors open.

If the wages were higher, I would be able to invest in myself, my education, and professional development. I would also be able to provide a better learning environment for the children I care for. As the children grow up, their needs expand and I would love to be in a position to help foster their growth and development.

Another thing that would be helpful for me is to make the licensing process easier to navigate, provide more resources for us, and make it easier to expand our license to care for more children. I have 15 years in the field, and because I moved to a new location, I had to start all over again. My previous 12-years experience as a provider did not count towards the new license and I've had to wait two years to increase my capacity! I could be caring for more children right now.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I would like to ask that you consider us, the home family child care providers in your future budget planning. This will not only increase the quality of life for me and my family, but also my colleagues, all the families we care for and our community. Please invest in child care!!

Sincerely,

Christina Garcia



Item 11

To whom it may concern,

My name is David, and I am a resident and proud father in our wonderful city. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for approving funding that supports our local child care providers.

As a father of two, I understand the immense value and importance of quality child care services in our community. Working parents like myself heavily rely on child care providers to ensure our children receive the best care and nurturing when we are away for work or other responsibilities. However, I have also witnessed firsthand the challenges and struggles that child care providers face in providing affordable and high-quality services to families like ours.

Your support for this initiative means a brighter future for our community's children and working families. Thank you for your dedication to our city's well-being.

Sincerely,

David Williams

Item 11

Hello,

As a new mother, I am thrilled to see that childcare is being considered and prioritized in Escondido. Finding quality care for my child has been a stressful and overwhelming experience, and I know that I am not alone in this. I urge the Council to continue investing in resources and support to help new parents navigate the complex child care system and find the best care for their children.

Thank you for considering the needs of new parents like myself, and for your commitment to supporting families and children in our city.

-- Mary Johnson

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [Lbrinig@yahoo.com](mailto:Lbrinig@yahoo.com)

Council Meeting Date 8/9/23

Item # 11

Subject ANNUAL ACTION PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ("HUD") FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVEL

Position No Position

First and Last Name Lisa Brinig

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am proud to serve on the board of directors of Interfaith Community Services, an organization that provides a wide range of valuable services to Escondido's residents.

Interfaith is the only provider of services to the general homeless population in Escondido. While the City does not have funds to meet its priorities of basic needs and homeless services, Interfaith continues to do so. This includes basic needs, rental assistance, employment assistance, health care and more.

Interfaith helps prevent homelessness in many cases by providing basic needs like food, school supplies, gas vouchers and more.

Low barrier services work because they reduce obstacles between people and shelter. It is a dignity first approach. Low barrier is case managed, meaning shelter provides a stable platform for rebuilding lives. With its many programs Interfaith is uniquely positioned to bring people out of homelessness.

Homelessness is caused by a variety of factors, not just substance abuse. At Haven House we have serviced 233 individuals this fiscal year. Of those individuals 101 were Seniors, 170 identified as disabled, 84 as having mental health issues, and 61 as having had substance use at one point in their lives. Other factors include a lack of affordable housing, rising rents and low income. Poverty is the biggest cause of homelessness.

Providing services does not enable people to remain homeless, but offers hope and the opportunity to rebuild by securing income, housing, mental health resources, substance abuse treatment. Programs change lives.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [monicac Thornton@gmail.com](mailto:monicac Thornton@gmail.com)

Council Meeting Date 8/9/23

Item # 11

Subject Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Position No Position

First and Last Name Monica Thornton

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am a resident of the City of Escondido who strongly supports Interfaith Community Services ("ICS") and the City's partnership and continuing efforts to address and alleviate our local needs with regard to homeless services, basic needs and public safety. ICS is the sole provider of supportive services to the general homeless population here in Escondido. ICS continues to provide basic services such as food, hygiene and school supplies as well as rental assistance, employment assistance and health care, among other services and programs available to our local underserved population. In addition, ICS provides low barrier services in order to make critical support such as shelter and individualized case management available to those who need a hand up in order to get out of vulnerability and into stability. ICS has helped people get off the streets and into a more supportive and dignified situation, giving hope to those in need. Haven House, operated by ICS, has helped many individuals off the streets and into stable housing, while providing supportive and skill building services, along the way. ICS and the City of Escondido can and should continue to work in tandem as a partnership to make a difference for the better.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [hello@balloonguru.com](mailto:hello@balloonguru.com)

Council Meeting Date 08/09/2023

Item # 11

Subject Partnership with Interfaith

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Robert Costantino

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Interfaith Community Services is working daily to help those who are most in need. We are an organization who relies on the partnership we have with the City of Escondido. We provide a vast array of services for the elderly, those in need of recuperative care, the impoverished, those with substance abuse issues, and the homeless members within the city of Escondido. These are just some of the many programs and services we continue to provide-many of which the City itself is unable to provide. We are enthusiastic about the strength in a continuing partnership with the City and the hope it affords so many. Please consider the importance of our work and the value in working together.

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [johnpbyers9@gmail.com](mailto:johnpbyers9@gmail.com)

Council Meeting Date 8/9/2023

Item # 11

Subject Community Development Block Grants

Position No Position

First and Last Name John Byers

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

Hello,

My name is John Byers and I am on the Board of Directors for Interfaith Community Services. I would like to thank the city of Escondido for all of the support provided to Interfaith in the past. I am disappointed, though, that for the first time in 15 years, Interfaith will not be receiving funds from Community Development Block Grants for the Haven House Shelter. If the city's priorities are homeless services, basic needs, and public safety; Haven House should continue to be near the top of the list for funding.

When a client enters Haven House (temporarily ending their homelessness), Interfaith's priority is to provide wrap-around services (including many basic needs). The goal is to determine the root cause of their homelessness with an outcome of permanent housing. Interfaith is uniquely positioned to address many of the causes of homelessness; mental illness, physical disabilities, substance abuse, poverty, seniors with limited income and the lack of affordable housing.

As homeless counts indicate, there continues to be a greater need for shelters. So why wouldn't the City of Escondido continue to partner with Interfaith to help solve that problem.

Thanks in advance for your reconsideration of Haven House funding.

Sincerely,  
John Byers

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email [amanda@alabasterjarproject.org](mailto:amanda@alabasterjarproject.org)

Council Meeting Date 2023-08-09

Item # 11

Subject HUD Housing - Alabaster Jar Project Recommended

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Amanda Long

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

I am a former resident of Escondido and a survivor of trafficking. I recommend that the HUD Funding be designated for Alabaster Jar Project to expand their services. Without the housing that Alabaster Jar Project once provided me, I would not have been able to successfully leave a life of exploitation nor become a financially independent adult. Because of Alabaster Jar Project, I am no longer a victim of trafficking and homelessness but a survivor. Please consider them for this funding. Thank you.