

Planning Commission Meeting  
January 8, 2014  
Verbatim Excerpt

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (HOME CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR OCCASIONAL CARE)

After Close of the Public Hearing

Chairman Murphy: Public hearing is closed; recognize Mr. Hart.

Commissioner Hart: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First let me thank staff, particularly Cathy Belgin and Lorrie Kirst, for their fine work on this case. Last year, the Commission made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding a Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Home Childcare Facilities, which included several follow-on motions. As the Commission may recall, due to some procedural changes in Richmond regarding state licenses for child care providers, staff determined that we had as many as several hundred child care providers operating without zoning approval or with state licenses allowing more children than the Zoning Ordinance would allow by Special Permit or Special Exception. After public hearing and extensive outreach by staff to the community, we recommended some changes to harmonize the Ordinance with these state procedures to allow the BZA some additional flexibility in approvals and reduce the filing fees for the applicants. The Board adopted most but not all of the Commission's recommendations and, in its wisdom, decided to retain a Special Exception process for home child care applications in some but not all P-Districts, creating an anomaly in the filing fees. Tonight's Amendment, among other things, addresses the filing fee discrepancy and allows the filing fee in those P-Districts to be brought in line with the fee in R Districts and the other P-Districts. The Amendment was advertised with a range of fees. I believe that \$435, which is the corresponding filing fee in the other districts, and is the low end of the advertised range, would be appropriate under the circumstances. The Amendment also would allow occasional child care facilities in regional or super-regional shopping centers as an accessory use, which seems entirely reasonable and probably was what was intended when the 1992 amendment was adopted. The Amendment has staff's favorable recommendation with which I concur. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT REGARDING HOME CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND CHILD CARE CENTERS FOR OCCASIONAL CARE AS ADVERTISED WITH A SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATION FEE FOR HOME CHILD CARE FACILITIES OF \$435 WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF 12:01 A.M. ON THE DAY FOLLOWING ADOPTION.

Commissioners Hall and Sargeant: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Ms. Hall and Mr. Sargeant. Is there a discussion of that motion? All those in favor of the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it adopt the Zoning Ordinance Amendment on Home Child Care Facilities and Child Care Centers for Occasional Care, as articulated by Mr. Hart, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 10-0. Commissioners Hedetniemi and Hurley were absent from the meeting.)

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