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May 20, 2016

Chairman Crawford and Members
Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council
224 West Winton, #111
Hayward, CA 94544

Dear Chair Crawford and Honorable Members of the Municipal Advisory Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Early Care and Education Planning Council regarding approval for a large family child care home at 25330 North Gold Ridge Drive, Castro Valley, Public Hearing Item 1 on the Monday, May 23rd Municipal Advisory Council agenda. The mission of the Planning Council is to advise and make recommendations to policymakers to ensure that all children and families have access to quality child care that educates children and enriches their lives.

We do not support or oppose individual providers, however, we provide background on the need for a variety of child care options and child care and land use permitting.

Family child care homes are a critical resource for Castro Valley parents. They often provide low caregiver to child ratios, care for younger children, and offer more flexible scheduling than many centers.

Experience shows that typical initial neighbor concerns regarding parking and noise rarely materialize. Parents may be walking to child care programs, and they have naturally staggered drop off and pick up times. Often, siblings attend the program and are driven in one car. The average drop off and pick up time has been measured to average 5-6 minutes. Children also may have staggered playtimes outside and may not be outside at the same time.

Child care is essential to our working families, employers, and community because it supports employment and child development and generates local revenue. A recent Bay Area Council report estimates the return on investment for child care programs is 17 to 1.

We look forward to future work with you on policies and projects to help Castro Valley and other unincorporated areas build and retain a high quality and diverse child care supply. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Ellen Dektar

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