

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY17-11**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA ESTABLISHING A
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE GUSTAVUS CHILDREN'S
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (GCEP)**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska requires private preschool and child care services be licensed and administered under an approved and continuously rigorous licensing process which includes background checks, CPR/First aid, and early childhood education for caregivers; a minimum level of early childhood education for all administrators; annual scheduled and unscheduled inspections for overall compliance with AS 47.32.010 - AS 47.32.900 Centralized Licensing and Related Administrative Procedures, 7 AAC 57.010 - 7 AAC 57.990 Child Care Facilities Licensing, and 7 AAC 10.010 - 7 AAC 10.9990 Licensing Certification and Approvals, to include complete first aid and disaster kits, regularly-updated employee's and children's files, and adequate health and safety standards both inside and outside the facility.

WHEREAS, the GCEP has maintained said professional license since 2015 and met all the State standards referenced above; and

WHEREAS, the GCEP is the sole provider of both preschool and child care services for the community of Gustavus, both of which are in high demand; and

WHEREAS, research regarding societal benefits of early childhood education is well established and demonstrates that children who participate in high-quality early education programs have better overall literacy, better decision-making and social skills, require fewer remedial or special education services, and have a higher likelihood of economic productivity and social stability in adulthood; and

WHEREAS, research also indicates that high-quality early learning programs help young children achieve school readiness, help ensure that disadvantaged children are not left behind and aids in reducing the achievement gap. This has been shown to help decrease both teen pregnancy and crime rates and significantly increase the odds of holding a job over the long term; and

WHEREAS, GCEP enables parents to seek and retain employment by providing quality, professional, safe and reliable care, which creates self-sustainability for our residents and also for our businesses, the local economy in general, and is an attractive element to potential new residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, without viable preschool and child care services, working parents in Gustavus could have to choose between putting their children at risk in substandard child care or foregoing employment altogether for public assistance; and

WHEREAS, the increased administrative requirements of operating a licensed facility have proved to be unsustainable and unrealistic at a volunteer level and adequate grants for operational funding are not available; and

WHEREAS, preschool and child care revenues vary due to natural fluctuation in annual enrollment; and

WHEREAS, increasing tuition and/or hourly child care rates commensurate with balancing the budget would be cost prohibitive to almost all Gustavus families; and

WHEREAS, GCEP has demonstrated success with fundraising efforts that cover materials, supplies and facility expenses, but not with raising funds that cover overhead or general operating expenses, without which these services are not viable; and

WHEREAS, the community of Gustavus recognizes that the availability of preschool and child care services is a vital and necessary component of the quality of life and social well-being of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus benefits from affordable, accessible, quality preschool and child care services which are critical components of the economic sustainability of the community; and

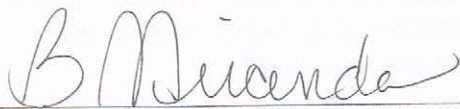
WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus has the opportunity and responsibility to assume a unique role in providing foundational support in meeting the need for these services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus recognizes that this role provides maximum impact with minimal financial commitment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Gustavus shall be committed to partnering with the GCEP to advocate for the sustainability of affordable, quality preschool and child care services in the City of Gustavus; and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Gustavus City Council intends to authorize by ordinance a partnership between the GCEP and the City which may include a means to provide funding as a benefit to the community of Gustavus as a whole.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 9th day of October 2017, and effective upon its adoption.



Barbara Miranda, Mayor



Attest: Karen Platt, City Clerk