



CITY OF NOVI CITY COUNCIL APRIL 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval of the **FIRST READING** of a Text Amendment allowing increased capacity in day care centers per conditions stated in the amendment.

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT: Community Development, Planning

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Following discussions with a day care owner who expressed interest in expanding capacity within an existing facility, Staff prepared ordinance amendments to address the concerns.
- The draft ordinance proposes new parameters to allow up to 75 children in day care centers on residential parcels at least 1.5 acres in size, located at the intersection of two streets, subject to minimum building setback requirements, and subject to Special Land Use consideration by the Planning Commission.
- If approved, the ordinance will apply to all eligible properties in Novi. The attached map shows 14 potential properties that may benefit from the additional capacity permitted of up to 75 children.
- The Planning Commission considered the proposed ordinance amendment at two meetings. Following the first meeting, Staff provided ordinance amendments based on the Commission's initial discussion. On March 12, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and made a motion to the City Council for approval of the ordinance amendments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Planning staff met with the Little Seeds Day Care owner, Angie Altaii, who has expressed an interest in increasing the number of children cared for in the existing facility at the northeast corner of Ten Mile Road and Wixom Road. She indicated that there is a great demand for day care services in the region and that her day care business has space available within the existing building to expand enrollment. The **attached** narrative was provided by Ms. Altaii to the City to further explain the need for day care facilities in Novi.

Ms. Altaii wishes to increase the enrollment of the Little Seeds Day Care up to 75 children, while the current ordinance allows a maximum of 50 children in similarly

situated day care centers (where the property fronts on a major thoroughfare and is located within and is surrounded by single family residential zoning districts).

Staff explained that the ordinance provides limitations on the number of children to be cared for in day care businesses in residential districts and that the standards of the ordinance cover properties throughout the City. The best means to address the property owner's request would be to draft an ordinance amendment to allow an increase in the number of children served at new or existing facilities throughout the city. The intent of this proposed amendment is to allow greater flexibility for childcare providers to meet the growing demand for early childhood development programs by expanding their enrollment, under specific conditions.

Existing Ordinance Standards

Ordinance Sections 4.12.1.B and 4.12.1.C allow day care centers and adult day care centers in single-family residential zoning districts, under certain conditions. Day care centers are subject to Special Land Use approval by the Planning Commission for locations in the Single-Family Residential Districts, including the RA, R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 Districts.

Section 4.12.1.B currently allows commercial day care centers and adult day care centers (those not located in a single-family home) on single family residential parcels at least 1 acre in size, and when abutting a major thoroughfare. The ordinance provides limitations on the number of people being cared for – no more than 50 children in a day care center, and no more than 25 adults in an adult day care center.

Section 4.12.1.C currently allows a greater number of people being cared for in day care centers when the single-family parcel abuts non-residential uses: up to 120 children, and no more than 50 adults. This section of the ordinance limits those residential parcels eligible for consideration for a new day care center to parcels that abut certain non-residential districts. The intent of this ordinance provision is to allow for the larger day care facilities on residential parcels that abut non-residential uses, because the day care facility can provide a transitional use between single family residential properties and commercial properties.

Proposed Ordinance Amendment

The suggested ordinance amendment proposes a third option that would allow up to 75 children in day care centers on residential parcels:

- At least 1.5 acres in size with at least 200 feet of frontage on a major thoroughfare,
- Located at the intersection of a major thoroughfare and another street, and
- Subject to minimum building setbacks to the property lines to ensure adequate setback from other residential uses.

To further ensure that any adjacent existing single family residential properties are adequately separated from the proposed daycare, any buildings shall be setback from the property lines a distance that is equal to what is required in the zoning district,

but in no case, less than 25 feet from any property line. Special Land Use consideration by the Planning Commission and the required public hearing would be required for this option, as it applies to all commercial day care facilities proposed in residential districts. These changes are found in the attached new Section C.

An amendment recommended by the Planning Commission following review of the first draft includes a reduction in the number of adults cared for in adult day care centers in residential districts where property abuts certain non-residential districts. The recommendation includes reducing the number of people cared for from a maximum of 60 adults as the ordinance currently permits to a maximum 25 adults. This change can be found in Section D of the draft ordinance.

Other minor changes and streamlining of the text are proposed for the relevant sections, as well as minor update to the day care standards in the NCC District.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on the Daycare Text Amendment 18.305 on March 12, 2025 and recommended approval to the City Council, subject to the changes noted above. The Planning Commission meeting minutes are attached.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of Text Amendment 18.305 to amend various sections of the Zoning Ordinance to allow increased accommodation in day care centers subject to certain standards and conditions, including recommendations made by the Planning Commission, along with other minor changes, subject to further modifications as determined necessary by the city manager's office or city attorney's office. **FIRST READING**

This motion is made because the ordinance amendment allows greater flexibility for childcare providers to meet the growing demand for early childhood development programs by expanding their enrollment, subject to certain conditions, and because the amendment further streamlines and clarifies the ordinance standards.