

## Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

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| <b>AGENDA ITEM:</b> Resolution of Intent to Enter into a Lease with Option to Purchase to Eliada Homes, Inc.   |   |
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b> April 4, 2017   |   |
| <b>REQUESTED BY:</b> Amanda L. Stone   |   |
| <p><b>Background information:</b><br/>           Early learning programs have a clear impact on the economic vitality and safety of our community. Ensuring that children have access to high quality and affordable early childhood programs can help children prepare for school and succeed in later life while strengthening parents' workforce access, advance their career, and increase their earning potential.</p> <p>Access to child care and pre-k is limited based on availability and affordability. At-risk families face additional barriers such as low income, educational attainment, complex behavioral and health care needs, individual/family/community trauma, and fragmented support systems.</p> <p>As a long-range strategy to address child care limitations, Buncombe County is engaged in the work of the Asheville-Buncombe Preschool Planning Collaborative, which seeks to ensure that every child age birth to five in Asheville and Buncombe County has access to high-quality, affordable early care and education.</p> <p>As a short-range strategy, Buncombe County issued a Request for Information seeking leveraging opportunities for pre-k in January 2017. One proposal was from Eliada Homes, requesting use of 32 Compton Drive for the purpose of increasing access to child care and pre-k services.</p> <p>The county-owned property, located adjacent to Eliada's campus is a currently vacant facility that previously housed child care operations. Eliada has proposed a long-term lease with option to purchase. The lease cost is \$1 per year, and Eliada will be responsible for all renovation, operational and maintenance costs.</p> <p>Eliada currently serves 152 children in child care, developmental day and NC PreK programming. This facility will allow Eliada to serve an additional 60 children, including 18 infants and toddlers, 14 2-year olds, and 28 pre-k children. Priority consideration will be given to children with disabilities and exceptional special needs, including those from low-income households and those facing other barriers to care such as neonatal abstinence syndrome. Services are anticipated to begin in August 2017.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Pro's</b><br/>           Increase access to child care and pre-k services</p>  | <p><b>Con's</b><br/>           None</p> |
| <p><b>Funds required in current budget:</b><br/>           None</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Funds required in future budgets:</b><br/>           None</p>  |   |
| <p><b>Alternatives</b></p>   |   |

**Action recommended:**

Adopt resolution of intent to enter into a lease with option to purchase 32 Compton Drive with Eliada Homes, Inc.