



**WHEREAS,** *The first years of a child's life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning. Children's cognitive, physical, social, and emotional, and language and literacy development are built on a foundation of children's positive interactions with adults, peers, and their environment. This period of development is when neurological pathways are established that are accessed for skills such as creativity, memory, knowledge retention, decision making, executive function, self regulation, and cooperation. Investing in children, during their early years, will increase academic success, develop productive adults, and grow a stronger Sun Prairie community; and*

**WHEREAS,** *in our community, there are approximately 2,200 children under the age of five. Sun Prairie Area School District's Four Year Old Kindergarten program (SP4K) enrolls an average of 500 students per year, with roughly 25% of students receiving special education services and 6% identified as living in poverty's; and*

**WHEREAS,** *high quality early care and education can help ameliorate the effects of poverty, detect and remediate developmental delays, identify, and help prevent child neglect, and lead to positive outcomes for individual children, helping them be better prepared for school and more likely to succeed in life; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the average wage for childcare providers is less than \$13 per hour, with Black and Latina childcare workers make even less. Tuition and subsidies are typically insufficient to afford highly-qualified and consistent early childhood educators that ensure the health and safety of children; and*

**WHEREAS,** *the lack of sufficient public investment in early childhood education has forced childcare programs, educators, and families into a series of impossible choices with devastating consequences.*

**NOW, THEREFORE,** *that the City of Sun Prairie urges all members of our community to support efforts that increase children and families' access to high-quality early childhood education and supports community partners who provide childcare and early learning so this essential workforce can continue to support children, families, and our economy*

**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF,** *I have set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Sun Prairie to be affixed on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2023.*

*Paul Esser, Mayor*