

MOTION ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, PARKS, AND RIVER

Diaper changing stations in all restrooms in public facilities are necessary to enable parents or legal guardians to safely care for their child.

This year, the Los Angeles City Council adopted a motion directing the Department of General Services to report back on the feasibility of installing changing tables in all restrooms in City facilities, regardless of gender. The Department of Recreation and Parks should be included in these efforts.

The Bathrooms Accessible in Every Situation Act, which requires diaper-changing facilities in male and female restrooms in public federal buildings, was enacted in 2016. Cities throughout the nation followed suit, such as New York's law that new or renovated public buildings provide diaper changing stations in every restroom.

The absence of proper diaper changing stations is a pressing health and safety concern. Changing diapers by utilizing surfaces like toilet seats or the floor can expose children to bacteria and viruses that may cause serious health issues, such as E. coli, shigella, and norovirus. The risk of children falling or otherwise injuring themselves also increases without proper changing tables.

As parenting responsibilities are becoming more equally distributed between men and women, it is also important that the City move away from a gendered view of child-care by ensuring everyone has access to diaper changing stations in all public facilities.

The Department of Recreation and Parks maintains and operates more the 400 sites meant to bring people together to celebrate, compete, and relax with family and friends. The installation of changing stations in both women and men's restrooms will create a more friendly and welcoming environment for visitors, encouraging increased foot traffic to these sites.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Recreation and Parks be DIRECTED to report back with an audit of existing diaper changing stations in men's and women's restrooms on their sites and the feasibility of providing diaper-changing stations in each of their restrooms, regardless of gender.

PRESENTED BY: Joe Buscaino
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

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